



Report of the South East Area Manager

Inner South Area Committee

Date: Tuesday 22 June 2010

Subject: A review of Mobile Youth Provision

Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck
City & Hunslet
Middleton Park

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

To support the achievement of the Every Child Matters strategic outcomes and to achieve the Area Committee's additional responsibility in the context of the Children and Young People's Plan for South Leeds, this report provides an evaluation of the mobile youth provision funded by the area committee and delivered by St Luke's Cares and asks that the area committee considers options for the future of this provision beyond September 2010 when the current funding ends.

Purpose of This Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the findings of a review of the mobile youth provision funded by the area committee and delivered by St Luke's Cares. The review highlights the need to explore greater linkages between this provision and that delivered by statutory youth services and asks the area committee to consider options for the future of this provision.

Methodology

2. Both St Luke's and LCC Youth Service have been involved in this review process and the discussions around improving the provision for young people in the area.

Background Information

3. In February 2006, the Area Committee approved the commissioning of a mobile youth provision scheme to operate across the inner south area. The original aim of the project was to provide an alternative way to engage with young people particularly in street based locations where young people tend to gather and in locations without centre based youth provision. At that time the vehicle was a leased transit van converted into a space where small groups of young people can engage in activities such as creative art, discussion, DVDs and receive advice from youth workers on a range of matters.
4. St Luke's Cares were the successful tender for the contract and began delivering the service from July 2006. A timetable was produced to outline where and when the vehicle would visit key locations across the area. This was advertised to local young people through schools, the Youth Service and local community organisations. Since then the timetable has been revised in line with the views of ward councillors and youth workers. In April 2008, the area committee agreed to fund the mobile youth provision for a further 12 months from July 2008 – 09, and then again in April 2009 for 12 months. Pending the outcome of this review, the area committee agreed a further 6 months funding in April 2010.
5. In 2009, St Luke's Cares secured funding from O2 to purchase a bus, resulting in a reduction in running costs. Since that time well-being funds have been used to cover staffing, fuel and insurance costs.

Evaluation of activity

6. The mobile provision has continued to target areas of need within the community, providing young people aged 8 - 18 years old with structured, purposeful activities while providing a hook for engaging those most at risk of anti-social behaviour. Youth workers and young people themselves have identified that taking part in constructive activities has a long-term beneficial effect on young people's lives. St Luke's Cares have provided a detailed summary of actions and achievements. This is available at Appendix 1
7. Members of the Area Committee are asked to consider the particular benefits of offering young people constructive activities as a diversion from involvement in anti-social behaviour from a very young age. The current area committee funded provision, delivered by St Luke's Cares, has always targeted children and young people from the age of 8 years old. Mobile provision delivered by the Youth Service

targets 13-19 year olds, addressing youth services priorities such as reducing teenage pregnancies, anti-social behaviour and NEETS.

8. Since September 2009, St Luke's have been funded by the Early Years service to deliver a mobile play ranger service to 5-12 year olds. St Luke's have achieved this by merging 4 existing sessions to create mixed provision for 5-18 year olds. The locations of the mixed sessions is based on research by the Early Years Service and are in Beeston & Holbeck and Middleton Park wards. St Luke's state that one of the benefits of the mobile play ranger service is that some young people are released of their "baby-sitting" ties due to their younger siblings being able to participate with them in the activity. It also creates opportunities to engage with families and parents who have then gone on to volunteer to work with the young people.
9. Appendix 2 highlights the timetable of service across the whole of the inner south, the mixed sessions are highlighted in blue and operate in Beeston & Holbeck and Middleton Park wards. There has been an increase in the 13+ age range accessing the service at the start of the mobile play ranger service in September 2009. Unfortunately however some sessions were cancelled in January and December due to exceptionally poor weather conditions resulting in lower figures compared to the same period in 2008-2009.
10. Should the area committee agree to continue funding the mobile youth provision, it is proposed that the costs are reduced to take account of Early Years funding for the 5-12 ages.
11. The following are current timetables highlighting both sets of provision; St Luke's and Youth Service provision

St Luke's currently operates in the following nine Inner South Neighbourhoods:

Day	Location	Time	Ward
Monday	Balmorals	4pm – 5.30pm	City & Hunslet
	Sissons	6pm – 7.30pm	Middleton Park
Tuesday	Cardinals / Millshaws	4pm – 5.30pm	Beeston & Holbeck
	Normantons	6pm – 7.30pm	Beeston & Holbeck
Wednesday	West Granges	4pm – 5.30pm	Middleton Park
	Arthingtons	6pm – 7.30pm	City & Hunslet
Thursday	Cottingley	6pm – 7.30pm	Beeston & Holbeck
	Brett Gardens	8pm – 9.30pm	City & Hunslet
Friday	Manor Farms	4pm – 5.30pm	Middleton Park

12. These areas are agreed on an annual basis as part of the development of the funding agreement and project delivery statement for the project. However, it is acknowledged that there will need to be some more flexibility around service provision to address key issues around Anti Social Behaviour which are being raised through monthly Police Tasking meetings.
13. The Youth Services timetable operates at the following times and locations (correct at time of writing this report):

Day	Location	Time	Ward
Monday	Gypsy Lane	4.30pm – 6.30pm	Beeston & Holbeck
	Grove Road	7pm – 9pm	City & Hunslet
	East Granges	7pm – 9pm	Middleton Park
Tuesday	South Leeds Academy	12.30pm – 2pm	Middleton Park
	Disraeli Terrace	4.30pm – 6.30pm	City & Hunslet
	Cottingley Heights	7pm – 9pm	Beeston & Holbeck
Wednesday	Westwood Primary	7pm – 9pm	Middleton Park
	South Leeds Academy	12.30pm – 2pm	Middleton Park
	Targeted areas of Middleton	4.30pm – 6.30pm	Middleton Park
Thursday	South Leeds Academy	12.30pm – 2pm	Middleton Park (but engaging with young people from across the inner south)
	Parkfield Avenue	4.30pm – 6.30pm	Beeston & Holbeck
	Westwoods / Throstles Acres	4.30pm – 6.30pm	Middleton Park
	Pepper Road	7pm – 9pm	City & Hunslet
Friday	Arthington Place	4.30pm – 6.30pm	City & Hunslet
	Cross Flatts Park	7pm – 9pm	Beeston & Holbeck

The Youth Service produces a monthly directory of their activities, allowing a degree of flexibility to where they can direct their service.

Partnership Working

14. The mobile youth provision is delivered by sessional youth workers and volunteers and in partnership with other organisations. It is suggested that the mobile youth provision scheme improves mutual understanding of issues and the challenges facing the voluntary and public sector in the delivery of effective youth services. St Luke's is a relatively small organisation, and like other voluntary, community and faith sector organisations tend to operate in a relatively informal and non - bureaucratic manner which young people find less intimidating to engage with. In addition, because they are embedded in the communities they serve, they have a knowledge and understanding of those communities and of the support that they require. This knowledge and understanding is built up over time creating confidence and trust from the community.
15. There have been incidences of duplication of service between St Luke's and the Youth Service and this has been highlighted in some area specific reports which St Luke's submitted to the area management team as part of this review, for example, when St Luke's were working in parts of Middleton and Belle Isle, there was overlap of services and St Luke's had to transfer their provision to another area within the ward. If the area committee agree to continue funding, it is proposed that the area management team work with both providers to develop an improved framework for all mobile youth provision. St Luke's also acknowledge in their review report the need to develop a closer working relationship with the Youth Service and it is suggested that one of the outcomes of this review is to facilitate the strengthening of the relationship between the two organisations.

Options for future youth provision in Inner South Leeds

16. The development of the South Leeds Youth Hub is integral to future youth provision for young people living in Inner South Leeds. St Luke's have indicated that they will be encouraging young people who access the mobile youth provision to visit and participate in activities which will be taking place at the Hub. This will be complimented by the two mini buses which the Youth Service have purchased to transport young people to and from the facility.
17. A strategic framework for the commissioning of youth services is being developed which will be a tool to build services around the needs of children and young people and to deliver their outcomes most efficiently and effectively. It is anticipated that this commissioning framework will be implemented in April 2011.
18. In this context and in view of the outcomes of this evaluation, the area committee is requested to consider the following options for the future of the mobile youth provision.

Option 1

The Area Committee continue to fund St Luke's Mobile Youth Provision from 1st October – 31st March 2011 at a reduced cost of £15,170 to reflect funding received from Early Years to engage with 5-12 year olds.

Option 2

The area committee ceases funding with effect from 30th September 2010 and provision is delivered by the Youth Service. This option has implications for the Play Ranger service that is currently delivered as a mixed session. In addition, mobile provision delivered by the Youth Service targets only 13-19 year olds.

19. Recommend Option 1 with the following additional recommendations;
 - the area management team, with the Youth Services, and through the network of partnerships, will work together to investigate opportunities to facilitate the future commissioning of this provision from 1st April 2011. In addition, it is recommended that a further report is submitted to the January 2011 meeting of the Inner South Area Committee to outline progress on this;
 - a robust performance management framework with baseline information and specific targets is put in place to accurately measure and monitor the activity;
 - more effective links are made to Tasking Meetings and an element of flexibility introduced to both sets of provision in order to be more responsive towards issues raised around Anti Social Behaviour and crime hotspots;
 - improved joint working to ensure a complimentary service between any mobile youth provision operating across the area;
 - explore new ways in which to publicise and promote the service to encourage greater participation.

Implications For Council Policy and Governance

20. There are no implications for Council Policy and Governance associated with this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

- 21 There are no direct legal implications. Funding implications will be covered within the funding agreement with St Luke's Cares.

Recommendations

22. The area committee is requested to:

- Note the contents of this report
- Indicate which of the following options they agree for future mobile provision;

Option 1; that the area committee continue to fund St Luke's Mobile Youth Provision from 1st October – 31st March 2011 at a reduced cost of £15,170 to reflect funding from Early Years Service. Funding split by ward is £5,878 City & Hunslet; £4,646 Beeston & Holbeck & Middleton Park wards. This option to include recommendations as outlined in paragraph 19.

Option 2; that the area committee cease funding to take effect from 30th September 2010 and future provision is delivered by the Youth Service.

Background Papers

- Inner South Area Committee: The Youth Bus and Priority Neighbourhood Development worker – next steps 8th April 2008.
- Inner South Area Committee: Mobile Youth Provision, April 2009