



Report of Youth Service

Report to Outer West Area Committee

Date: 25th March 2011

Subject: Youth Service Delivery

Electoral Wards Affected:

Calverley & Farsley
Farnley & Wortley
Pudsey

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

The report outlines youth work delivery in the three outer wards, highlights some specific sessions of work and discusses significant changes made to the programmes. The report provides details of the use of the Mobile Unit. The report also details proposed communication opportunities with members.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

To inform members about the current ward programmes and explain the reasons why some changes have been made.

To give an account of the use of the Mobile Unit

To propose a future communication strategy.

2.0 Background Information

Each ward area is allocated a budget for the delivery of youth work, this is split between universal youth work and targeted youth work. In some wards e.g. Farnley & Wortley part of the budget is allocated to a voluntary sector partner in this ward to Armley Juniors.

The type of youth work delivered can vary depending on the needs of young people and any issues in the area. The programmes in the outer west area include, mobile/detached youth work, centre based youth work, group work, information and advice work, this can be related to health and relationships or education, employment and training. Copies of the March Ward programmes are attached to the report.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 **Farnley & Wortley Ward** – The majority of the provision in the ward is open to all young people, with the exception of the Gypsy Roma and Traveler session. Although the sessions are mainly open the needs of young people in the ward are complex and therefore most of the work is considered to be targeted youth work.
- 3.2 The attached programme details 14 youth service sessions and three Armley Juniors sessions. Two of the Armley Junior sessions are supported by a youth worker delivering an extra provision to support individual young people alongside the youth club. The two GRT sessions are at present on hold whilst discussions take place with Leeds Gate regarding staffing and future programmes.
- 3.3 The programmes also detail seven mobile sessions. Whilst we would prefer all mobile sessions to start as late as possible in order to get the mobile used as much as possible it is necessary to have ‘back to back’ sessions, therefore some sessions have to start at 5pm with a second session starting at 7pm. The location of the mobile is shown but it needs to be noted that this is often a starting point and the mobile will move to where young people are meeting. For this work and the detached youth work, we go to young people rather than them coming to us. It needs to be noted that we are struggling to find staff that can drive the mobile we are therefore looking at hiring in a driver through either existing funding or seeking new funding. A breakdown of the mobile use is shown later in the report and it highlights the unfortunate damage done through vandalism and the long period of time it has been off the road, and measure taken to reduce future risks.
- 3.4 It needs to be noted that both the LAZER Centre and Bramley Community Centre are for use by all young people in the West area as a Youth HUB for West. Young people are encouraged to make use of both centres, hence the sessions titled Farnley & Bramley Link. Young people in the Farnley & Wortley Ward are encouraged to come to BCC on a Tuesday night to have access to the resources in the building, in particular the music equipment. The future venue for the session will be determined by the young people themselves, they may continue coming to BCC or they may seek a venue local to them. Of course if they find another venue then they would have to raise funds to purchase equipment, at present they are using equipment in BCC and benefiting from the funding other young people using BCC raised.
- 3.5 The Hillside Youth Group has been a particularly difficult group. A number of the young people do not display a level of acceptable behaviour needed to enter the building, so a mobile session runs alongside the youth club session to provide an opportunity to work with this group of young people, to address their behaviour. The intention is to achieve an acceptable level of behaviour with the group inside the centre then to allow more young people in, who have had the opportunity to look at their unacceptable behaviour.
- 3.6 **Calverley & Farsley Ward** The majority of the work in Calverley is universal work and in Farsley mainly targeted youth work.
- 3.7 The attached programme details seven sessions out of the eight we would hope to deliver, this is due to the fact that two sessions have presently got three members of staff rather than two.
- 3.8 The programme has currently got three mobile sessions and one detached youth work session. The Farsley Youth Club session has been a mobile session but this has turned into a centre based youth club provision in St John’s Hall.

- 3.9 It is anticipated in the spring/summer to have more mobile sessions in the ward. It needs to be noted that we are struggling to find staff that can drive the mobile we are therefore looking at hiring in a driver through either existing funding or seeking new funding. A breakdown of the mobile use is shown later in the report and it highlights the unfortunate damage done through vandalism and the long period of time it has been off the road, and measures taken to reduce future risks.
- 3.10 Young people taking part in the Serious Fun Night Challenge was a highlight in the ward. This was a partnership with the Safer Schools police officers at Priesthorpe and of course Serious Fun. The group from the ward came second, and enjoyed an exciting night.
- 3.11 The youth club at Calverley Mechanics Institute had been a struggle to establish but by changing nights after consulting the local young people this is now beginning to grow. The pre Christmas evening, 'X Factor style', was enjoyed by all, including the panel!
- 3.12 **Pudsey Ward** The delivery in this ward is very mixed, some areas such as Owlcotes and Tyersal have quite challenging young people and therefore we deliver mostly targeted work. The other areas are a mixture of targeted and universal youth work.
- 3.13 We currently have 8 sessions out of the eleven we would like to run; this is due to the difficult behaviour in some sessions and the need for three staff to be present. Also the special needs group needs a third member of staff.
- 3.14 Tyersal area has been a challenge and needed support from the PCSO's. The behaviour of the young people in general is now at an acceptable level, two youth clubs are running offering a range of activities.
- 3.15 At present there is three weekly mobile sessions on a Monday and Tuesday and a third on a Friday linked to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Session. It is anticipated that there will be an additional mobile session in the spring/summer. It needs to be noted that we are struggling to find staff that can drive the mobile we are therefore looking at hiring in a driver through either existing funding or seeking new funding. A breakdown of the mobile use is shown later in the report and it highlights the unfortunate damage done through vandalism and the long period of time it has been off the road, and measures taken to reduce future risks.
- 3.16 Duke of Edinburgh Award session now runs once a month at Pudsey Leisure Centre, (the fourth Friday in each month), in order to support the expeditions one session a month is 'banked'. The remaining sessions are delivered as mobile/detached sessions using the same staff team. This is to maximize the use of the staff in the area and to ensure we have a DofE open access session in the area.
- 3.17 The Football session at Pudsey Leisure Centre has stopped. This decision was taken, with the Leisure Centre manager, as the reduced numbers of young people attending were quite able to set this type of session up themselves and to pay the small fee. The evaluation of the sessions showed that little skill development was taking place. The funding for Leisure Centre rent had also finished. The session had originally targeted young people who were a concern, over time their situation changed. We are presently looking at alternative provision for young people in the centre of Pudsey, the session on a Tuesday lunchtime is targeting young people, who are possibly NEET or at risk of causing ASB and the Pudsey Youth Project at the Library is another opportunity to look at the present needs of the young people in the area. The work in the centre of Pudsey is in the rebuilding stage, it may be that the young people identify that football is what will attract them to engage with us, if this is

so we will approach the Leisure Centre again or possibly look at a partnership with Crawshaw School.

- 3.18 Andy's Bar has been a great success in the past but for some time has not been a well attended piece of work. The young people complained about the dark access to the building and also felt restricted in what they could do. The behaviour of the young people had deteriorated and some damage was done in the building. It was difficult to justify the cost of the repairs and the rent when the venue was seen not to be fit for purpose to deliver the type of youth work that was needed. Things had changed and we needed to respond to what young people were saying and change too. Another venue in the centre of Pudsey is being looked at, (the Old fire Station); in the meantime through the Pudsey Youth Project we hope to engage young people in developing new provision where they can take a lead. If possible we would like to develop this work with young people working alongside ward members as well as youth workers.
- 3.19 Swinnow Sunshine Club is a very active group with young people with special needs experiencing a wide range of activities.
- 3.20 The Wateringcotes Project - contact with the young people has been maintained through the mobile and detached youth work, in the spring and summer we move into the second phase of the project.

3.21 Mobile Provision

- 3.22 This year the use of the mobile unit has been fraught with problems. From April to September the mobile was off the road due to two occasions when the unit was damaged due to vandalism. The mobile, at the time, was parked at the LAZER centre behind two fences and locked gates. This did not stop the vandals damaging the vehicle. The vehicle was only back one day when the second incident of vandalism took place. The vehicle is now parked at Pudsey Civic Hall and so far there have been no problems.
- 3.23 Repairs, MOT and Servicing of vehicle have taken a very long time, the length of time has been challenge but as the vehicle is leased we have no choice and have to use the one garage, Leeds Commercial. The garage has been very complacent and often booking in the vehicles has been at their convenience not ours. We are challenging the charges of the hire fee during this period, we do not know if we will be successful in getting a refund but we are pursuing the issue.
- 3.24 We would like to purchase the existing mobile unit, hopefully the cost, now, will not be much more than the yearly hire fee and we would be able to take any future repairs, servicing and MOT to a garage of choice. This is the preferred option for all the youth service existing leased mobile vehicles, now the purchase price has come down to a manageable cost.
- 3.25 It needs to be noted that the existing mobile unit was returned to Leeds Commercial in September and the Outer West took over the mobile unit that had been used in the Inner West, this was a newer vehicle, had less usage and was in much better condition. The Inner West had been successful in securing funding to purchase a new mobile unit.
- 3.26 New legislation for drivers of vehicles has also impacted on the service this year, existing drivers had to be retrained, new procedures put in place and further health & safety training was delivered to staff on the 4th November.
- 3.27 The present outer west staff team do not have many drivers this has also been a problem, however recruitment of volunteers has been successful, one volunteer is already fully trained and another in the process. We are also now hiring in drivers when necessary, this sometimes works to our advantage, in that some session's required three staff, one to supervise the vehicle and two

to deliver the youth work. Where this is necessary, to hire a driver is a cheaper option; use of volunteers is of course much cheaper.

- 3.28** Due to the problems the number of sessions the mobile has been used is very low, but please note that if the mobile has not been used then the majority of sessions become detached youth work sessions. The following outlines the number of mobile sessions only. Please also note that during the period the mobile was available we also experienced very difficult weather conditions and it was not safe to use the mobile.
- 3.29** Calverley/ Farsley/Pudsey - (Victoria Park, Hainsworth Park & Pudsey Owlcotes) 17 sessions, 56 young people attended.
- 3.30** Farnley & Wortley – (Hillside/Butterbowls, Western Flats, 15 mobile sessions, 73 young people attended.
- 3.31** The newer vehicle, the possible purchase of this vehicle, fully trained staff and volunteers, also new parking venue all create a much better proposition for the use of the mobile from now on. The problems we have experienced this year are unprecedented and not expected to be repeated. The mobile unit is still seen as a great asset for the youth service.
- 3.32 Sport & Holiday Programmes** – The links to Community Sport and development of holiday programmes are in conjunction with the relevant cluster in the area.
- 3.33 Communications with Members** – The youth service has endeavored to hold meetings with Ward Members and would like to establish regular three monthly meetings with members, the Senior Youth Officer, the Youth Work Manger, relevant partners and an Area Management Officer and one meeting per year to include the Principal Youth Officer. The priority in these meetings is for members to advise on the issues known to them in the wards and for them to influence the programmes that are to be delivered.
- 3.34** A quarterly report will be sent to members, the first one for quarter three has been sent out to members with a request for feedback. We will then adjust the reports to fit the needs of the members.
- 3.35** A copy of the ward programmes will be sent to each ward member monthly.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1** To involve young people in governance and decisions making processes where possible and to work with ward members. A member of staff is being identified as a 'Participation Champion' one for six hours across the three wards to support young people in becoming involved in governance.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

All the programmes will be reviewed once the budget position is clarified, and the impact of the Early Leavers Initiative is known. It is anticipated that some areas of the city will be affected more than others by ELI and therefore there may be a need to move staff in order to balance the teams across the city. 'Minimal disruptions' to programmes will be a priority.

6.0 Conclusions

The first half of this year has been a difficult period in the three outer west wards; measures have been put in place to improve the performance with the mobile. The

youth service staff in the area are grateful for the support ward members give and welcome the opportunity to communicate more regularly with members.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 The area committee accepts the report.
- 8.2 The area committee agrees to the new communication strategy.
- 8.3 The area committee notes the complex needs of young people in the area and the need to deliver a wide range of programmes.
- 8.4 The Area Committee continues to support the mobile provision and consider purchase of the existing mobile.