



Report of the Director of Learning and Leisure

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 4th September 2006

Subject: Youth Service

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities
Women
Disabled people
Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

x

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

Executive Summary

This report provides an opportunity for the area committee to explore in depth the objectives, delivery, and effectiveness of Youth Service provision in the area.

1.0 Purposes of the Report

- 1.1 To provide information on Youth Service work in the area.
- 1.2 To report on outcomes and achievements in 2006/07.
- 1.3 To highlight issues and developments for influence by Area Committee.

2.0 Strategic Context of Youth Services

- 2.1 Various clauses of the Education and Inspection Bill are designed to implement "Youth Matters".
- 2.2 "Youth Matters" as a strategy seeks to clarify and develop youth services for the 13 to 19 group within the wider context of "Every Child Matters" and Children's Trust arrangements.
- 2.3 Key aspects of "Youth Matters" include:-
 - preparation and publication of a youth offer. The local authority will have a responsibility for ensuring that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities
 - reshaping information, advice and guidance services, especially Connexions
 - increasing youth volunteering opportunities and schemes
 - introducing the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds for distribution by young people as decision makers
 - closer cooperation between service providers and increased partnership working
 - encouraging new commissioning models through Childrens Trusts
- 2.4 Of particular note in Leeds is the establishment in 2005 of Leeds Youth Work Partnership. LYWP's membership consists of representatives from voluntary youth work organisation providers and of officers from Leeds Youth Service as an in-house provider. Increasingly LYWP is providing a mechanism to ensure joint service planning, delivery by a rich variety of providers, a wider view of resources brought to the table by partners, a shared approach to quality assurance, shared accountability for achieving targets, and framework for current and future commissioning of youth work provision.

3.0 Area Function Schedule

- 3.1 For 2006/07 Executive Board has approved the delegation to Area Committees of £3,435,230 so that Area Committees can influence and help shape Youth Service provision. Some reorganisation of budgets, including the merging of budgets previously earmarked just for voluntary sector organisations, means that the original figure of 2006/07 has been revised to £3,699,700.
- 3.2 The breakdown of area related budgets has previously been agreed on the basis of 50% according to population and 50% according to social deprivation

factors. This split has been sanctioned by the Council Executive Board. The deprivation indicators used are the number of households in each ward with the number of young people in receipt of benefits. In previous years this has been presented in terms of available youth worker hours but it is more appropriate and practicable to present the ward breakdown in budget terms. The resultant flexibility and clarity of resources is more likely to facilitate commissioning to voluntary organisations when desirable and to encourage greater involvement from Area Committees in terms of influencing services.

- 3.3 The city wide budget of £3,699,700 is broken down into wards in *Appendix A*.
- 3.4 The setting of targets is necessarily linked to resource allocations. Details of ward targets are contained in *Appendix B*.
- 3.5 It should be noted that the budget of £3,699,700 represents that proportion of the Youth Service's budget which facilitates employment of staff and delivery of programmes in local areas. Other elements of the Youth Service budget are excluded from the area delegations because they cannot be attributed on an area or ward basis.

Examples are Herd Farm, the LAZER Centre, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, projects which target disadvantaged groups on a city wide basis, managers, administrative staff, and staffing and non staffing costs which provide an infrastructure for the Youth Service itself.

4.0 Youth Services work in the area

- 4.1 Programmes and details of work of area based local authority Youth Service team. Appendix C.
- 4.2 Programmes and details of work of other local authority Youth Service teams. Appendix D.
- 4.3 Programmes and details of work of voluntary youth work organisations. Both area based and also city wide ones where there is clear contribution to whole area picture. Appendix E.
- 4.4 The Youth Workers struggle to be able to deliver all the activities and programmes that the young people need and expect because of the relatively small non staffing budget at the disposal of the Senior Youth Officer. However, the Area Committee has helped to resource holiday activities over the summer through the Well Being Fund which has had a very positive impact.
- 4.5 Performance in area against targets. Includes 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3.

| | Accreditation | | Recorded Outcomes | | Participation | | Reach | | | |
|------|---------------|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|-------|-------------|
| Ward | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | 13-19 Target | Actual | 11-12 | Total 11-19 |
| C A | 106 | 45 | 223 | 75 | 438 | 220 | 671 | 494 | 55 | 549 |
| M | 52 | 23 | 111 | 41 | 218 | 109 | 334 | 157 | 16 | 173 |
| R | 71 | 21 | 130 | 36 | 254 | 138 | 390 | 206 | 15 | 221 |

CA = Chapel Allerton; M= Moortown; R= Roundhay

- 4.6 There are six new part time staff that are being appointed into the area. They should all be in post by October and they will be put on 9 or 12 hr contracts and deployed into all the inner wards to deliver late afternoon and evening programmes where they are most needed.

Connexions West Yorkshire have provided a grant to pay for the continuation of the broadband connection to the 3 Connexions Access Points at the Prince Philip, Palace and Mandela Community Centres. These are important facilities for delivering Personal Adviser work with 16-17 yr olds to get them reengaged in education, employment and training.

- 4.7 Refer to Appendix 2 of the Actions and Achievements report for detail of Youth Service progress against individual actions in the Area Delivery Plan.

The Youth Service delivered 59 different summer activities during the school holidays. The issue of non-attendance last year was not a problem this summer. Feedback from staff, young people and parents has been very positive.

One of the highlights was a north east wide Youth Forum residential at Herd Farm attended by 20 young people from Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Alwoodley, staffed by a joint team, in August. The young people took part in team building activities, high ropes, BMXing and group discussions. The group would like to visit London and the Houses of Parliament next !

On issues to address; there are weaknesses in the performance of some of the local managers that the Senior Youth Officer, with support from HR and Head of Service are tackling.

A greater focus on accredited youth work programmes (particularly non holiday activities), need to be delivered, the establishment of a youth volunteering initiative and continuation of the voluntary sector capacity building to ensure other organisations can deliver more and better youth work provision.

- 4.8 Several initiatives have contributed to the Community Cohesion agenda in recent months. A Talent Show will have taken place in mid August where many young peoples groups from across the city will have participated together in a MCing, Dancing and Singing competition. The north east area Breeze and mini Breeze events which the Youth Service supported enabled young people from different communities to be transported in to participate in these 'positive activities'. The Youth Forum residential at Herd Farm brought Afro Caribbean, Asian and White young people from different wards together for team building and other joint activities.

Senior Youth Workers have regularly contributed to the Anti Social Behavioural panel and have worked closely with Community Safety partners to prevent and divert young people from crime and nuisance behaviour, particularly on the Beckhill and Miles Hill (Meanwood) estates through the work at the FSU building and detached team.

5.0 Future Developments and Area Committee Roles

- 5.1 There has been limited voluntary sector commissioning to date through grant support (Yes Cyber), however, there are other examples of organisations that have received Youth Service staffing support (e.g. 2 Hills Project, Leeds

REACH and New World Steel Orchestra).

The Youth Development Worker is completing a mapping exercise of voluntary sector providers which will identify any duplication of services, plus gaps in provision and scope for further developments (refer to appendix E).

The Youth Service welcomes any commissioning by the Area Committee to deliver specific pieces of work or projects and as part of this the voluntary sector can be asked to help deliver particular elements.

- 5.2 To date, officers from the Youth Service and the Area Management Team have worked together to develop the children and young people's section of the Area Delivery Plan (Action Plan) so that Youth Service provision meets the priorities identified by the Area Committee. The Youth Issues working group meets every 6-8 weeks to monitor the progress of the Action Plan.

A separate report to the Area Committee proposes changing the focus of the Youth Issues group to take a more scrutinising role of the Youth Service and provision in inner north east. We are pleased to co-operate with this proposal.

- 5.3 In the process of jointly monitoring and reviewing the Area Delivery Plan consideration is given to future plans and ideas. The Youth Service staff regularly attend area meetings, such as the BIG, the District Partnership, Neighbourhood Tasking group and IMPACT. This provides opportunities for the Youth Service and partners to jointly review youth provision and identify new priorities on an ongoing basis.

- 5.4 The council buildings that are used for the delivery of youth work would really benefit from further investment to make them more modern, efficient running, accessible and appealing to young people. New furniture, redecoration and some new equipment is required.

The Prince Philip Centre is to be retained within Learning and Leisure as the key Youth Service 'hub' building for the North East area team for training, multi-agency working, wedge wide youth projects and delivery of ward youth work programmes.

Additional funding to help resource programme delivery throughout the year would ensure more frequent and higher quality activities, particularly residential, outdoor pursuits, special projects, and transport.

- 5.5 Feedback from Councillors following visits to youth work programmes commenting on the quality of work is constructive in helping managers and workers alike to improve practice. It also provides an opportunity for elected members to gain a better awareness and understanding of the benefits youth work.

The local 'intelligence' and guidance provided by elected members is useful in informing Youth Service staff on the specific needs of communities and the emergence of hotspot areas needing particular youth work interventions.

However, it is extremely difficult to be immediately responsive in moving staff quickly from delivering a programme to young people in one area to engaging new young people in other 'hotspot' areas. This can only be effectively done with medium to long term planning to reduce provision first before the

relocation of resources. Otherwise a gap is created in stopping delivering one programme to start a new one in another area.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 To note the information on Youth Services work, outcomes and achievements in the area.

6.2 Members are asked to note and comment on, as appropriate;

- the implications of 'Youth Matters' on the development of youth services, e.g. youth volunteering schemes, increased partnership working and the introduction of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds for distribution by young people as decision makers
- the successful delivery of a range of activities and events for young people across the area over the summer
- the suggested change of refocusing the Youth Issues group to take a more scrutinising role of the Youth Service and provision in inner north east.