



## Report of the Director of Learning & Leisure

### Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006

### Subject: Youth Service

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

#### Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

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:

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.

Members are invited to review and comment upon the youth service programme including identifying any gaps in provision.

#### 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
- 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 Children’s Trusts

2.4 Of particular note in Leeds is the establishment, in 2005, of Leeds Youth Work Partnership (LYWP). LYWP’s membership consists of representatives from voluntary youth work organisation providers and 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 a 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 they can influence and help shape Youth Service provision. Some re-organisation 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. 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. The allocation for Inner North West is £458,320.

3.4 The setting of targets is necessarily linked to resource allocations. Details of ward targets are contained in Appendices B i and B ii.

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 The staffing resource budget determines the size of programme in each ward area. The youth work sessions are monitored on a weekly basis and any sessions not meeting the

needs of young people will be changed.

The changes could be;

- a change of time of the session
- a change of method. If young people are not coming into a centre an outreach programme will be implemented, youth workers will go out onto the streets encourage young people to attend the sessions in the centre and change the content of the programme to suit these young people.

4.2 Throughout the year information is received from a variety of sources including; Ward Members, the police and other agencies, requesting a youth service response to an issue, for example a group of young people causing problems in area. The Senior Area Youth Worker will investigate the situation and determine:

- Are these young people in the right age range?
- Is it safe and appropriate for youth workers to work with this group of young people?

In the event, which is unusual, it is deemed unsafe or inappropriate the situation will be referred to the relevant agency e.g. the police.

4.3 If possible the Senior Area Youth Worker will direct detach youth work towards that particular group of young people. The difficulty arises if there is no capacity to respond, i.e. no available staff because all the staffing resources are used in sessions that are needed and effective. In this instance the situation would be referred to a partner agency. If they are not able to respond a difficult decision has to be made as to closing another provision in order to respond. The other option is to seek additional funding.

4.4 There are four points in the year when there is an overall review of the programmes in the wards. This review looks at the changes that have taken place, changes in the needs of young people and at the information received from Members and other agencies, also at the geographical balance across the ward. The review also looks at the progress towards achieving the targets.

The four points in the year are-

- September
- January
- March/April
- July

4.5 Programmes and details of work of area based local authority Youth Service team.

- Members and Area Management will receive a copy of the proposed programme from September before the Area Committee meeting, creating an opportunity for them to question any aspect of the programme, raise any concerns, identify any gaps in the provision either directly to the Senior Youth Officer, Suzanne Wainwright or to the Senior Area Youth Worker prior to or during the meeting.
- Contact details will be provided with each programme.
- Members and Area Management will be contacted at each of the four points in the year, when existing programmes are being reviewed and new ones developed. Copies of the proposed programmes will be sent again with the opportunity to question any aspect of the programme, raise concerns, and to discuss any gaps in the provision.

4.6 Programmes and details of work of other local authority Youth Service teams.

Members will receive a copy of any programmes the following project teams are delivering

- Connexions Youth Project

- Health Education
- 4.7 Programmes and details of work of voluntary youth work organisations.
- Programmes from Burley Lodge, Hawksworth YMCA and Youthpoint will be forwarded to members as soon as these are available.
- 4.8 Resources and staffing.
- A major recruitment drive is taking place for both the Outer and Inner Areas. Advertisements were placed in the Evening and Yorkshire Post, as well as local publications and LCC Vacancy Bulletin and there has been a good response. Thirty nine applications were received for the youth worker '2A' posts and 20 applicants short-listed. The mobile detached youth work posts, were set at a 2B level requiring applicants to have detached youth work experience, 19 applications were received but only six were short-listed and the panel were not able to appoint. The posts have been re-advertised.
  - Hyde Park & Woodhouse and Weetwood wards continue to be fully staffed, although they have been affected by maternity and sick leave a full range of programmes have been delivered. Kirkstall and Headingley Ward's still have some vacant posts but have benefited significantly from the appointment of Senior Youth Workers, the number of sessions of work continue to increase.
- 4.9 Performance in area against targets.
- As outlined in 3.2, 50% of the Youth Service targets are related to population and 50% work with a targeted group of young people. The Government sets the overall target figure. In 06/07 the Reach target is 23% of the 13 to 19 population increasing to 25% in 07/08.
  - Using Kirkstall Ward as an example; 13 to 19 population is 1,925. The Government target is set at 23%, which is 443 young people. 50% budget spend has been calculated at a target figure of 223 young people. This is the minimum number of young people (MYG – Minimum Youth Guarantee) the youth service must work with in the Kirkstall Ward. In addition to this is the 50% budget spend on a number of targeted young people. For Kirkstall Ward this is calculated at 217. The overall target figure for the Kirkstall Ward is 440 young people. Appendices B (i) and B (ii) include full details of the targets for each of the wards.
  - The staff teams and voluntary sector partners continue to deliver against targets and the indications are that more young people are coming into contact with the youth service that have previously not been reached. There has been an increase in the number of young people interested in and achieving Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates.
  - A half yearly update will be forwarded to Members in early October.
- 4.10 Review of budget profiled spend and income generation.
- Indications are that the area will be within budget at the half-year point. The appointment of new staff in the second half of the year has been profiled into the budget. Each ward team has been allocated a pro-rata curriculum budget; the budget is used for the purchase of equipment, activities, hire of mini-buses, tutors. The % allocation of the curriculum budget in this way ensures the budget available corresponds to the targets set. A half-year analysis at 30th September will look at the effectiveness of the curriculum budget and inform financial needs for 2007/8. The needs will of course have to be met within a standstill budget.

#### 4.11 Review of area plan.

- **The Mobile Unit** has been in action for only a few weeks but it is already proving to be a great success. Interim staffing arrangements have been implemented until the dedicated team is appointed. Due to the difficulties outlined in 4.8 the short-term interim measures will be extended. These measures offer existing detached/outreach sessions the use of the mobile unit this does not give additional sessions but enhances existing provision. A report will be prepared for members in early October evaluating the effectiveness of the Mobile Unit to the 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- Providing a youth service to '**Looked After Children**' 11 years plus is going very well. A partnership project with Youthpoint is taking place in three of the Children's Homes in the area. The work in the Iveson Children's Home has been very positive as young people have benefited from some enjoyable youth work programmes, receiving help with a range of issues they felt unable to raise with other agencies and from integrating with young people in the area.
- **The number of potential volunteers** is gradually increasing in the area; we are presently waiting for references and Criminal Records Bureau clearance from four applicants and received enquiries from six people from the present recruitment drive.
- The area continues to support small voluntary organisations for example LS7 results, the Baptist Church youth provision at Meanwood.
- **The Summer Physical Activity Programme** has been very well received. The partnership with Community Sports has been a great success, enabling a wide range of agencies to come together and produce a very extensive programme of activities on offer in the North West Area. An evaluation of the programme is to take place in September to help inform the programmes in 2007 but to also consider implementing other holiday programmes and look at the practicalities of a term-time programme. The group is also to consider the merits of widening the curriculum area to take in other types of activities such as music, arts & craft, drama. The multi-agency group may become a sub-group of Children Leeds North West.

#### 4.12 The Youth Service continues to contribute to corporate agendas.

- The youth work in the area continues to contribute to the Anti Social Behaviour and community safety agenda. Specific 'closed' groups offer opportunities for young people with difficult behaviour and attitudes to develop their skills through music, drama and other methods in a small group environment. This very focused work with small numbers of young people and dedicated staff enable young people previously banned from provision to engage in a variety of activities. The work at Little London, Woodhouse and Meanwood all offer these types of programmes, the detached work sessions also aim to respond to these agendas.
- The Revisit programme partnership with YOS (Youth Offending Service) is to be developed in the area; this will build on the existing provision but will provide either an extension of provision or new opportunities to some young people not engaging in positive activities.
- The youth work in Children's Homes and individual support work with young people leaving care contributes to the 'Looked after Children agenda. The work supports these young people in dealing with issues such as bullying, low attainment, housing, access to work and training. These young people respond well to youth service intervention, often reluctant to continue building on the relationship they have with a social worker feeling they need to move on. In this respect the area is well placed to move into the CAF (Common Assessment Framework) agenda. Support is already delivered in partnership with other support agencies as is required under CAF.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has made a significant contribution to the Community Cohesion agenda in the area. Young people attended a 2-day expedition

course at the Sailing Activity Centre at Yeadon Tarn. Young people from Little London, Woodhouse and Woodsley Road provision worked alongside young people from across the city, which they would not normally have had the opportunity to meet. They all learnt a variety of skills including map reading, route planning, team work, using Trangia stoves. Working together cohesively, supporting each other and sharing experiences.

## **5.0 Future Developments and Area Committee Roles (Area SYO and Area Management)**

### **5.1 Present voluntary sector commissioning.**

- The Leeds Youth Work Partnership (LYWP) between the Youth Service and Voluntary Sector continues to develop, meetings so far have been well attended by a range of organisations and briefing sessions for a wider range of youth work partners are planned to take place in the autumn.
- The following partner organisations currently receive youth service funding to deliver programmes in the area, Burley Lodge, Youthpoint, Hawksworth YMCA and Leeds United Community Football.

### **5.2 Influencing the future commissioning processes.**

- Local partnership meetings between the youth service, key-list voluntary sector organisations with the Voluntary Community Youth Unit and area management; discuss Best Value; capacity building and partnership work in the area. Local ward member meetings include area management and key voluntary sector managers are to be invited to join the meetings. Voluntary sector organisations have also been invited to join the Youth Sub Group. All these meetings seek to identify local needs, to inform any commissioning arrangements and ensure area management and Ward Members have opportunities to influence commissioning.

### **5.3 Future plans.**

The following arrangements provide opportunities for Members and Area Management to influence and help shape the Youth Service provision in the area.

- Points 4.4 and 4.5 outline arrangements at key points in the year when the youth work programmes are developed.
- The Ward Member meetings with the Head of Youth Service, Senior Area Youth Officer, Senior Area Youth Worker and key voluntary sector partners.
- The Inner Area Children and Young People's Sub Group.

The Children and Young People's Sub Group has the remit to look at the needs of children and young people in the local area and promote responses to these needs and to support the Area Committee in influencing the commissioning process. The group has found it difficult to maintain a consistent attendance pattern, making it difficult to respond to area committee requests to look into issues more closely. It is important to have the support of Members for this group to work effectively.

Further plans are

- To develop youth forums, in particular the young people's INWYN (Inner North West Youth Network). Youthpoint with the support of partners are taking the lead on this development and following an unsuccessful bid to the Well Being Fund are applying to other funding streams to support this work.
- To develop further the Activities Programme in the area as outlined in 4.11.
- To look at more opportunities to further develop community cohesion in the area.
- To continue to develop the mobile provision, liaising with the Children's and Young People's and the Community Safety sub groups to identify areas of concern and plan responses with other agencies.

5.4 Any issues of concern which need Area Management or Area Committee help, support or involvement.

- In order to raise the profile of small voluntary children and young people's organisation and increase provision in the area in the area, to help with the capacity building of these organisations.
- The IT suite's at Little London, Woodhouse, Woodsley Road, Meanwood and lack of provision in Headingley and Kirkstall need to be addressed. Costs to keep the existing three suites updated and online are a concern. To provide funding to help keep the existing suite's in operation and updated and develop new sites.
- There is a need to attract additional funding into the area. The Youth Capital and Opportunity Funds create early opportunities via young people's applications but there is a need to look for other funding streams that may benefit the area over a longer period. This year the area has felt the loss of funding e.g. LRF. An opportunity to work with Area Management to look for new funding streams would be welcomed.

5.5 Additional specific issues with an emphasis on added value.

- The development of the 'Hub' centre is a youth service priority. The 'Hub' will need to provide an appropriately located area office and improve and increase the facilities for young people. It would be ideal to locate the 'Hub' in the Headingley area as it is a multi-cultural community with good transport links and does not have territorial boundaries that prohibit young people from visiting the area.
- The Youth Capital and Opportunity Funds create excellent opportunities but young people have to make the applications. It would therefore enhance the area opportunities to have a young people's forums and a worker to support this as outlined in 5.3.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 The Area Committee is requested to:-

- a) Note the information on Youth Services work, outcomes and achievements in the area, and
- b) Address specific points and issues highlighted in the report.