

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Inner East Area Committee

Date: 5th February 2009

Subject: Youth Service

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Harehills & Gipton Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Seacroft & Killingbeck</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Executive Summary

This report contains the performance data, and commentary so far for 2008/09 for the Youth Service's delivery in the Inner East wards and prioritise for next year.

Purpose Of this Report

1. The chair of the Area Committee requested a report from the Youth Service focusing on the current financial year and plans for 2009/10.

Review of 2008/09

2. The Youth Service has delivered a range of youth work programmes during the year providing both 'universal' provision for 13 – 19 years olds and 'targeted' support for those most in need. This has included one to one work by the Youth Worker Personal Advisers who have reengaged young people back into Education, Training and Employment and provided guidance on health, benefits, relationship and other issues. The Connexions Open Access room has been reopened at Compton Library in Harehills to provide regular drop in sessions for young people to access urgent one to one support & information, as needed.
3. Additional activities have been provided during each school holiday including residential experiences at Herd Farm, sports competitions, caving, canoeing and climbing, as well as quad biking, circus skills and DJ sessions. Increasingly these holiday activities are being promoted in schools and through partner agencies to young people. For the summer holidays (and to a lesser extent Easter) there has

been a range of activities that young people have engaged with positively in each ward (refer to 20). The holiday activities throughout the Inner East have been largely funded by the Area Committee's wellbeing budget. £10,000 per ward has been spend to develop additional holiday and after school programmes.

4. The arrival of a new 'Mobile' vehicle towards the back end of 2008, fundraised by young people through the Youth Capital Fund, has enabled the Service to take programmes out to young people onto the estates in the Richmond Hill & Burmantofts. Increasingly this flexible provision will be used as part of a multi agency response through 'Tasking' to help prevent and divert young people from anti social behaviour and provide a positive alternative where dispersal zones are implemented, as one example. The mobile will also be used as part of holiday events and activities e.g. Breeze.
5. A new programme called Revizit has been delivered successfully in the Seacroft ward. The primary aim is to reduce offending behaviour and focuses on a 10 week programme of anger management, drugs and alcohol awareness, choices and consequences, self esteem and mental health. Feedback from young people and agencies has shown a reduction in offending/antisocial behaviour by those young people who have taken part. This programme is delivered in partnership with the Youth Offending Service. More Revizit programmes are planned for next year.
6. The Youth Service has commissioned Shantona to deliver a number of youth work sessions focusing on engaging Bangladeshi girls in the Harehills area who are unable or unwilling to access other youth provision in the area because of cultural reasons. This grant support has been provided to Shantona for several years. A process of evaluating the value of the grant support in relation to outcomes is taking place as part of the planning process for next year.
7. The Youth Service has successfully relaunched the East Leeds Youth Work Partnership which has an important role in increasing good quality youth work provision, particularly through the development of partnership working and the emerging commissioning process. More than 20 agencies regularly attend quarterly meetings and include voluntary sector groups, such as Shantona, the Bridge Street Project and Archway, and other agencies including the Youth Offending Service and Extended Services Managers. The group has been working on identifying gaps in youth work provision, reducing duplication and jointly planning how new programmes can fill the gaps.
8. One of the highlights was the REACT – Harehills youth festival held in December; organised by young people for young people. This, too, was co-funded through Area Management Tasking budget. It provided a huge range of dance, sporting, health, arts and cultural workshops that attracted more than 450 young people from across the city to come together on one evening, make new friends and to enjoy taking part with their peers. It was an excellent example of promoting community cohesion and city wide engagement of youth under one roof.

9. In early January, similar to the rest of the Service, all youth workers are participating in a East Leeds in - service training week. This will include essential training on weapons awareness, drugs work, sexual health, managing difficult behaviour, accreditation, the common assessment framework, group games & ice breakers and programme planning. This will enhance the skills for the local staff and enable them to better deliver accredited work, sexual health work contributing to lowering teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, targeted support and safeguarding for the most needy and vulnerable, programmes to prevent and divert young people away from crime and antisocial behaviour and higher quality programmes that are fun and participative.
10. With the use of Tasking funds the Service was able to resource the free access to the Fearnville Leisure Centre to over 350 young people from the Gipton and surrounding area who had been identified as being 'at risk'. From October – December they benefited from being able to participate in supervised activities such as swimming, soccer and fitness sessions with coaching from the leisure centre staff and support from youth workers.
11. Finally, the overall performance outcomes have increased compared to previous years both in terms of the number and regularity of working with young people and also the measured learning and accreditation that comes with young people participating and achieving in programmes.

Service prioritise for 2009/10

12. A new Duke of Edinburgh Open Award centre is to be established in the next month. Located at the Halton Moor Leisure Centre the Youth Service will be offering young people from the Inner East an opportunity to sign up to do a range of experiences, including volunteering, learning skills, sports and expeditions. This will lead to Bronze, Silver and Gold accredited awards. As part of this higher priority around D of E, each ward has a youth worker who has been trained to develop more D of E programmes in each key youth facility and to lead on taking young people out on expeditions during the spring and summer. It's anticipated that the Youth Services Herd Farm Centre will be used extensively for this purpose.
13. A number of the key youth facilities in the area are establishing young people's cyber suites as the result of successful bids by the young people to the cities Youth Opportunities Fund. This includes the Denis Healey Centre, Ebor Gardens and the Bangladeshi Centre. The cyber suites, which will have safe access to the internet will provide opportunities to do one to one work on jobs and training, as well as a tool for group work and afterschool and homework clubs, and so young people can use it for hobbies or simply to keep in contact with their friends.
14. As part of the drive towards a more Integrated Youth Support Service the Youth Work Managers and Senior Youth Officer will continue to work closely with the secondary schools, the Cluster and Extended Services Managers to ensure that pupils have access to targeted support and programmes the Youth Service can offer both in term time (during the day and after school) as well as activity programmes during the holidays.

15. Re'new has recently been awarded a grant of more than £2.1 million from the central government's Youth Development Fund to deliver targeted support to young people living in Seacroft and surrounding areas to ensure that the additional services will be provided to the most needy young people. The project will run for two years and the approach will be based on the Archway model located in Harehills. The first delivery phase of the work is not due to commence until June, however, recruitment has already commenced. No specific 'hub' base for its main location has been agreed yet. Use of number of satellite centres and outreach work is expected to be part of the project strategy. The IYSS has been supportive of the bid and the Senior Youth Officer has been invited to be on the Project Management group. The Youth Service will realign its programmes and provision along with other partner agencies to ensure the additional services are integrated effectively, that they target the most needy and provide measurable improved benefits to the young people. It is anticipated that as part of this the Youth Service will deliver some sessions jointly and provide access to buildings and vehicles.
16. The Senior Youth Officer is arranging the next round of ward based member meetings for the spring so that Councilors can inform and shape plans for the delivery of youth work in each ward. This provides members with details of current and planned youth work programmes in the ward, information on ward staffing issues, voluntary sector partnerships and any other relevant matters relating to the Youth Service or young people's work in the ward.
17. The members will continue to be invited to visit youth work programmes and provision, to attend celebration events and provide opportunities to meet and engage with young people. This often provides a useful insight to the role of youth work, opportunities to gain feedback from young people on local issues and an assessment of the quality of the youth work.
18. In a drive for more Friday night and weekend work (it has been identified locally and nationally that young people need and want more youth work then) the Service has agreed a policy of delivering equal programmes on Monday to Friday evenings and more weekend provision through residential, trips and other programmes locally determined. This fits in well with the government's Youth Task Force agenda. The team in Burmantofts & Richmond Hill have secured additional resources to provide more diversionary positive activities for young people during the period of the Dispersal Zone (Jan – March) particularly on Friday nights and weekends through the targeted deployment of Detached Youth Workers on one of the new Mobiles.
19. The involvement of young people in making decisions about resources and programme delivery will be progressed further. There are emerging youth groups and forums in the area that workers are developing and who are increasingly involved in discussions about when, where and how youth work provision is delivered. In East Leeds a young people's group has been established who make decisions on which bids to the Youth Capital Fund will be approved. The group members include young people from a variety of backgrounds, communities and supporting agencies in the area. It is planned that more young people will be recruited into this decision making role and that greater funds (through Youth Capital and Youth Opportunities

budgets) will be delegated to the East Leeds Youth Work Partnership group in 2009/10.

Performance outcomes 08/09

20. The performance figures below show that for the Inner East area the number of young people worked with (Reach) has already exceeded the whole year's targets for each ward. Similarly the level of regular attendance (Participation) had exceeded the annual targets by Christmas.

Leeds Youth Service (Inner East Area) Performance Report: April – December 2008				
	Reach		Participation	
	Target 08/09	Actual	Target 08/09	Actual
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	835	845	528	541
Gipton & Harehills	1274	1568	804	1105
Killingbeck & Seacroft	992	1103	627	705

21. Regarding the school holiday work, last summer's holiday activities and programmes, for example, engaged a total of 1,155 young people in nearly a 100 programmes across the Inner East area.

Budgets

22. Expenditure on staffing is expected to be just under the allocated budget by year end. There are a small number of vacant youth work posts in Harehills & Gipton and Burmantofts & Richmond Hill which would account for this. A rolling programme of city wide recruitment is in place every quarter.

Please refer to the budget and spend to date so far for 2008/09 below.

Youth Service area based staffing budgets 08/09 (Inner East)

Ward	Total population 13-19	Total targeted Hours	Budget	Spend April 08- Dec 09
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	2007	260.86	206,443	110,698
Gipton & Harehills	2742	411.78	313,466	185,254

Killingbeck & Seacroft	2541	331.01	244,335	208,615
Total	7290	1003.65	764,244	504,567

23. The budget for 2009/10 has not been set yet, however funding coming in from NRF or the Youth Worker PA's salaries will be lower so it is anticipated that there will be some budget pressures.
24. There has been a considerable amount of external funding secured by the Service in the Inner East area. This has included Tasking funds for targeted diversionary and prevention work in each ward, Wellbeing funds, particularly to support the range of activities provided during the school holidays, funds from the Positive Activities budget for the Revizit programmes and a significant amount from the Youth Capital Fund that the young people have applied for, that has resourced the establishment of the cyber suites, a new Mobile , DJing equipment and a lot more.

Summary

25. The Service has made good progress since April on a number of fronts. As a result of restructuring the number of managers has increased so that each of the three wards has a dedicated Youth Work Manager now with at least one Senior Youth Worker to lead the local teams. A number of challenging staffing issues have been dealt with and the overall motivation and quality of youth work delivery has improved. The team has become much more 'outward facing' with time and priority given by managers to attend multi-agency meetings, to develop partnerships and to jointly plan and deliver provision in conjunction with other services supporting the family and the Every Child Matter agenda.

Recommendations

26. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Papers were used in preparation of this report:

- Budgets
- Performance report – April – December 2008