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## Report of the Director of Children's Services

### Outer East Area Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### Subject: Youth Service

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

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

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## Executive Summary

This report contains the performance data and commentary so far for 2009/10 for the Youth Service's delivery in the Outer East wards and plans for the future.

### 1.0 Purpose Of this Report

1.1 The chair of the Area Committee requested a report from the Youth Service on the work delivered in the first half of the year and future plans for the area.

### 2.0 Area Youth Service achievements and developments in the first half of 2009/10

2.1 The Youth Service has delivered a range of youth work programmes providing both 'universal' provision for 13-19 year olds and 'targeted' support for those most in need. It has offered a diverse set of programmes including sports, arts, health, individual support, holiday activities, residential experiences, outdoor pursuits, mobile and generic youth club based work.

2.2 There has been a significant shift in realigning when programmes are delivered during the week. In response to national guidance (i.e. Youth Task Force agenda) and user surveys the Youth Service is now delivering many more programmes on Friday evenings, and weekends soon. This is already proving to be a popular move with young people and provides positive alternatives to young people who previously may have been causing anti social behaviour in their neighbourhoods or would simply prefer to access youth work programmes more over the weekend.

2.3 There has been increased priority given to participation in the Extended Services Cluster

meetings, Tasking groups and the Children Leeds East Leadership team. There remains an emphasis on young people gaining recorded and accredited learning. The Youth Service is now working more directly to the key Children Leeds East priorities, particularly contributing to the reduction in teenage pregnancies, reduction in NEET young people, lowering of persistent school absences, and the development of 'more places to go and things to do'.

- 2.4 The East Leeds Youth Work Partnership (ELYWP) is a group of youth work providers who regularly meet with the Youth Service Managers in the East. Its main aim is to work strategically, share practice and to deliver joint programmes and events in a collaborative way. The Youth Service takes a lead in these meetings. Over the last six months an 'East Leeds Youth Got Talent Event' and a Soccer Competition at Soccer World have successfully taken place involving hundreds of teenagers. Young people from across the Outer East area and a range of agencies participated. The Beck project (part of re'new) is a key provider in the area now working closely with other partners delivering targeted 1-1 outreach support for those most at risk and group work with the emphasis on early intervention and prevention.
- 2.5 The ELYWP has worked well to bring together a group of young people in the form of LS£ash to receive and make informed decisions on applications from agencies and young people in the East for financial support from the Youth Capital and Opportunity fund. This has resulted in many organisations receiving funds for new equipment, trips, residentials, building adaptations and much more, to help them resource the delivery of new youth lead projects.
- 2.6 Well Being funding has been used across the Inner East to support the school holiday activities and some one off projects. The focus of this work is on providing activities, trips and events during the Easter, Summer, and October/February half-term school holidays. It's also used to support targeted work in the local community partnerships, to provide opportunities for young people to do voluntary work and environmental projects. The programmes focus on young people learning new skills and to help with their personal and social development.
- 2.7 In Temple Newsam steps have been taken to achieve a greater geographical spread of youth provision. This has involved deployment of regular mobile provision around the area four evenings a week. In using the Colton Institute the team has delivered a youth club for teenagers on Friday nights, and the team has been able to offer a number of young people one to one Personal Adviser support as part of Common Assessment Referrals.
- 2.8 The majority of the youth work programmes in the Crossgates & Whinmoor ward are delivered from two buildings; St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre in the Swarcliffe and Fieldhead Youth and Community Centre in Whinmoor. There have been difficulties in securing usage of other premises in the Crossgates area, although the team is actively trying to find available space to deliver more provision. In the meantime young people are being worked with through the detached youth work programmes in the area.
- 2.9 The football skills programme as been particularly successful. This takes place every Monday evening at John Smeaton Leisure Centre. The programme aims to engage young people from the area who are socially excluded or involved in or at risk of anti

social behaviour. Football is the central focus of the programme; however the youth workers take the opportunity to introduce the young people to other programmes and services on offer in the ward.

- 2.10 A Young people's awards evening was recently held, attended by the local ward members from Crossgates & Whinmoor to celebrate the achievements of young people in gaining their accreditation certificates. The young people celebrated their achievements supported by their families and friends. The evening was a great success.
- 2.11 In the Kippax & Methley ward a key highlight has been the realisation of young people's vision to transform the overgrown grassed area beside the Kippax Kabin into a community garden. The team has been targeting a particularly challenging group of young men who were at risk of becoming disengaged with mainstream services. As a result of this interaction and support , 7 out of 8 young men completed a course and achieved OCN accreditation in basic motorcycle mechanics.
- 2.12 In Micklefield following a period of very unruly behaviour there is now a thriving youth club which has a very successful 5-a-side football team. The team has recently applied for funding for a kit and are planning to write an article for the parish magazine to promote the positive activities of young people. Work in Methley has been very successful in building relationships between young people and the wider community. A typical example of this was their attendance at resident association meetings and speaking publicly to allay concerns over their request for a Youth Shelter in Saville Road park.
- 2.13 Commissioned work with the School Partnership Trust (SPT) in Garforth has provided building based provision on 3 evenings a week whilst the Youth Service focuses its attention on mobile provision. The SPT have performed well for the half year having achieved the Reach and Participation targets and nearly achieved those for Recorded and Accredited outcomes. Monitoring visits by the Senior Youth Officer & Youth Work Manager have noted that they are working with good numbers of young people in a professional and safe environment.
- 2.14 The Youth Service continues to staff the Health bus that visits Garforth & Swillington every Tuesday. This valuable service provides information advice and guidance on a range of health issues as well as providing condoms and tests for STI's and pregnancy. The 'baby reality' parenting course has been a feature of our health work with 19 young people from Swillington completing the course and 16 achieving an accredited outcomes.
- 2.15 Table 1. (below) illustrates that for the half year all the wards have easily exceeded the targets set for the number of young people worked with ( Reach). In the case of Village wards this is nearly triple the target set, coming close to a total of 1,724 young people. On the learning side young people have gained significant recorded outcomes with all wards being on course to meet half year targets. The numbers of young people achieving accredited certificates e.g. D of E, have easily exceeded the half year targets for three out of the four wards, with a total of 66 to date.
- 2.16 Overall this demonstrates through the 4 key Performance Indicators that the Youth

Service is performing very well, working with high numbers of young people and providing a range of high quality programmes and activities leading to significant learning & accredited outcomes.

2.17 The Senior Youth Officer and appropriate Youth Work Manager for each ward meets every six – eight months with ward Councillors to discuss current programmes , plans for the future, performance, staffing and funding issues and partnership working. Officers have found these normally informative and constructive and providing critical feedback on the work and guidance for future prioritise. The next round of meetings is being organized. In between these meetings on going communications and updates are made between Officers and Councillors as required and visa versa.

**Table 1. Outer East Youth Service Performance targets v actuals  
April – Sept 09**

Wards	Reach		Participation		Recorded Outcomes		Accredited Outcomes	
	6mth target	Actual	6mth target	Actual	6mth target	Actual	6mth target	Actual
Temple Newsam	281	<b>345</b>	169	<b>335</b>	101	<b>100</b>	23	<b>11</b>
Crossgates & Whinmoor	264	<b>439</b>	159	<b>382</b>	95	<b>101</b>	21	<b>23</b>
Garforth & Swillington	156	<b>522</b>	94	<b>447</b>	56	<b>51</b>	13	<b>15</b>
Kippax & Methley	180	<b>418</b>	108	<b>415</b>	65	<b>93</b>	15	<b>17</b>

**Key**

**Reach** is the number of different young people worked with during the year.

**Participation** is where a young person has attended 4 or more sessions each year or participated in a focused piece of work such as a residential.

A **recorded outcome** is where a young person has shown progression as a result of youth work.

**Accreditation** is where a young person completes an activity that results accredited learning.

NB. The Youth Services performance targets are agreed with the Councils Performance team each year. This both takes into account the Councils prospective as well as being informed by the 'national' targets expected for Youth Services as provided by the DCSF.

### **3.0 Programmes in operation**

3.1 ***Please refer the appendix 1*** which provides a summary of all the Youth Work programmes currently being delivered in the Outer East wards of Temple Newsam, Crossgates & Whinmoor, Garforth & Swillington and Kippax & Methley.

### **4.0 Future plans for delivery of youth work in the area**

4.1 A review of the Temple Newsam programme is taking place with the recent arrival of a new Senior Youth Worker and taking into account a young peoples consultation report. It is expected, for example, that the ward programme will be extended to provide one extra evening of mobile provision, and more targeted support programmes to offer Corpus Christi college pupils. Similarly accredited work at Temple Newsam High school and Princes Trust projects will be prioritised.

4.2 The Temple Newsam team has embraced the need for a refocus on delivering Friday evening programmes. This is a big step forward as only last year there were no Friday or Saturdays programmes on offer in the ward. Youth work programmes will soon be available to young people six days a week.

4.3 In Crossgates & Whinmoor there will be a greater focus on citizenship & youth participation projects. Further enhancement of our work with John Smeaton school, targeting young people who are under achieving or who have low attendance. The reduction of teenage pregnancies will remain a priority for the team working in partnership to address the issue. The Service will support the development of voluntary youth work in the Crossgates area, particularly through the recent collaboration with the Crossgates Methodist Church (on Friday evenings) by working alongside and with other agencies that are seeking to set up local provision for young people.

4.4 The Youth Service has reached an agreement with the Kippax Leisure Centre to jointly provide training for the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification. This one week course will be targeted at NEET's aged 16 to 19 years and, if successfully completed, will provide participants with a qualification that can lead to work in local leisure centres. This project is to be offered to young people from Garforth & Swillington as well as Kippax & Methley wards.

4.5 Youth Forum work will become more intense with the group meeting every fortnight at Allerton Bywater. This is key to our future plans, as the centre is currently underused. This started mid September with a series of outreach sessions where youth workers will be meeting young people on the streets, in parks, etc, to ascertain what they want from their youth club.

4.6 In Garforth & Swillington, due to demand from young people and concerns around teenage conception, we are intending to run a rolling 'baby reality' programme working with up to 12 young people every 12 weeks. We will continue to target challenging

young people in Garforth & Swillington area, further developing programmes that will divert them away from anti-social behaviour & crime and provide outlets for the positive use of leisure time and opportunities to achieve accredited and recorded outcomes.

## **5.0 Highlights from summer activities and programmes**

5.1 In Temple Newsam the highlight of the summer holidays activities was a four week programme of fun challenges for the 13 plus age group. The challenges included working on the 'Bee Habitat' at Halton Moor, participating in outdoor pursuits activities i.e. climbing, caving and canoeing. The Crystal Maze Challenge involved 12 teams of six young people from across the area participating, with excellent feedback from young people. The 11 year plus programme delivered in partnership with extended services was very popular.

In total 167 young people participated in the wards summer holiday activities.

5.2 In Crossgates & Whinmoor the summer activities were well received by the young people, quite a few of whom had not attended youth service provision before. As a result of this new engagement we have recently set up a motor bike project which will run for 12 weeks and the young people will achieve an OCN accreditation ward on completion. A total of nearly 100 young people took part in the summer activities in the ward.

5.3 In Kippax & Methley the Youth Service held a total 22 separate trips & activities working with over 150 young people. Sessions included 'new' activities such as radio broadcasts & a talent competition as well as old favourites like Go-karting, climbing, sports sessions and visits to theme parks.

5.4 In Garforth & Swillington the Youth Service provided staffing for 15 trips & visits, working with over 120 young people. In addition, the mobile provision went out and 6 sports sessions were held in local parks. Sessions included activities such as a radio broadcast & a talent competition as well ice-skating, swimming, climbing, sports session. A major achievement for the service was to continue to provide the regular evening sessions across the ward in addition to daytime activities.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

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

## **Background Papers**

Executive Board Report 16 July 2008 – Area Committee Roles 2008/09