

Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Youth Services:

Working Group Meeting: 16th December 2011

Present **Members**
Cllr Judith Chapman(JC) - Chair
Cllr Asghar Khan (AK)
Cllr Pat Latty (PL)
Taira Kayani (co-opted member) (TK)

Officers and Representatives

Paul Brennan – (PB)Deputy Director, Learning, Skills and Universal
Ken Morton – (KM) Head of Service Young People and Skills (wef Jan 12)
Sandra Newbould – (SN) Principal Scrutiny Advisor

Apologies Cllr Alan Lamb

No.	Item	Action
1	Attendance The attendance and apologies as above were noted. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Minutes of previous Meetings None	
3	Matters Arising None	
4	Introduction The Chair (JC) provided the background relating to the Scrutiny Boards interest in Youth Services. The Chair referred to the Executive Board report dated the 14 Dec 2011 which provided an overview for what could be a coherent and integrated service which everyone would welcome. JC added that the report details what is going to be done, but when and how is less defined and suggested that the working group should seek assurance of the drive and commitment to achieving what has been pledged, within a reasonable time scale. The working group agreed that their aim for this session would be to seek clarity on the strategy, plan, and timetable to meeting the objectives and provide their view on whether this is fair and reasonable to the young people of the City. Paragraph 7.2 of the report referred to a delivery model for 2013. The working group were advised that the aim is to have the necessary changes in place and functioning with effect from April 2013. The working group agreed that this is a reasonable time scale.	

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Questions, Statements and Outcomes

Is there a delivery model, strategy or plan in place?

- Jan to March – Ideas, vision and principals to be brought together to set direction. Engagement and consultation to be undertaken with service users, Councillors and partners.
- March – Summer – Look at the changes required across the City considering the requirements of localities. In depth work to take place at a local level involving local stakeholders and Councillors. Approach market to identify what they can offer the City by way of investment and services. A further report will be presented to the Executive Board.

The working group made the following observations:

- The importance of finding the best way to engage with elected members, considering that local elections will take place in May and therefore new Councillors will hold seats and will need to be included.
- Issues affecting the whole City should be explored as well as looking at local requirements.
- Consultation should be robust not just a 'tick box' exercise
- The importance of including young people in defining the service
- The Working Group would continue to monitor progress against a development plan, which must incorporate clear timescales, on a quarterly basis.
- The proposals to be taken to Executive Board should be brought to the Scrutiny Board (Children's and Families) for consideration and comment prior to the Executive Board meeting.

The report states that there is no robust outcome management framework. JC asked when this will be done.

- KM advised that a range of managers from across the authority involved with youth work will come together from January onwards, when a range of projects will commence in order to put the framework together.

The working group recognises that early intervention and involvement of the youth service with children from a young age is key, and consider that the main focus of work should extend to 11 and 12 year olds (currently 13 -19).

- KM advised the working group that the service will be integrated with many different strands of services across the authority and with partners. There is also a commitment to set up a 0 -11 years partnership group via the Children's Trust Board.

Recognising reducing income streams the working group recognises that there is going to be greater emphasis on the 3rd sector, and therefore asked if there is sufficient 3rd sector capacity

	<p>in the City to accommodate this? Has any consultation taken place or likely to take place? Have Children's Services anticipated any service gaps and how is this going to be rectified?</p> <p>KM advised that a number of organisations have expressed an interest to get involved, but could not clarify if there is sufficient 3rd sector capacity.</p> <p>TK added from a 3rd sector perspective that they too are facing heavy cuts in funding which prevents long term service planning. There is no guarantee that services which exist today will still be available in 2013, or some organisations may downsize and the service offer may be reduced. It would therefore be helpful for the 3rd sector to know what the Local Authority youth offer would be and if this would be provided by few major providers or many local providers so that they can prepare.</p> <p>The working group made the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of engaging with the 3rd sector to understand the market and the potential service offer in the short medium and long term. • Ascertain the capacity of the 3rd sector to support the Youth Service as anticipated. • Understand what is being provided across the City by organisations and identify if there are any local or city wide gaps. <p>The figure of £57,358 is quoted in the report in paragraph 2.2, this was clarified as the average per child per year.</p> <p>KM confirmed that he started his new role in January when he would be considering the budget provision in greater detail. In addition further analysis will be done to facilitate an integrated approach to non-sensitive data sharing via the Children's Social Care System or a compatible facility.</p>	
6	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly progress monitoring meetings of the Working Group • Future Executive Board reports to be scheduled into the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) work programme for discussion and comment in advance of the Executive Board meeting. 	
7	<p>Further Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update work programme • schedule quarterly working group meetings • Incorporate working group feedback into Scrutiny Board meetings. 	SN

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• advise Executive Board member of outcomes.	
8	Future Meeting Dates To be confirmed	

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