

At an extraordinary meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 2012 at 2:00p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, E. Gibson, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, T. Martin, Mordey, Price, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Charlotte Burnham | - Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Nonnie Crawford | - Director of Public Health, Sunderland TPCT |
| Joe Cummings | - Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Alan Duffy | - Head of Operations, Gentoo |
| Billy Hall | - Commissioning and Inspection Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Mick Hall | - Northumbria Police |
| Tracey Hassan | - Commissioning Lead, Sunderland City Council |
| Paula Hunt | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Matthew Jackson | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Keith Moore | - Area Lead Executive and Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Jamie Southwell | - Northumbria Police |
| Nicol Trueman | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Errington, Farr, Forbes and Maddison along with Bill Hodgson and Jen McKeivitt

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Marshall declared that she was a member of the Management Committee of the Box Youth Project.

Councillors Kay and Scanlan declared that they were members of the Management Committee of St Mark's CA

Councillor T. Martin declared that he was a Council appointed member of Hendon Young Peoples Project.

Review of Provision of Activities of Youth Services for Young People

Tracey Hassan introduced the presentation which provided the committee with the recommendations from the Place Board on the commissioning of youth services in the area. Consultation would be undertaken between June and September 2012 to seek views on youth provision and activities for young people in the city. The Area Committee's and their People Boards had been consulted on the provision within their area of the city. The People Boards had been asked a set of three questions and the draft service outcomes and draft service specifications had been given consideration by the board. A set of recommendations for the Area Committee had been developed and approval of these recommendations was being sought at this extraordinary meeting.

Billy Hall advised that youth provision had traditionally been targeted at 13-19 year olds and it was desirable for there to be an educational element such as key skills, citizenship or health education being provided on an informal, voluntary basis. Ms Hassan added that the provision would be extended to 11-19 and that there was provision for 8 – 10 year olds which was currently one session per week.

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, drew the Committees attention to the recommendations of the people board which had been developed following consideration of the following questions:-

1. Are there any additional outcomes to add to the draft outcomes framework?
2. Are there any specific needs within the area which have not been addressed in the draft Service Specification?
3. Are there any questions Members would wish to have included as part of the evaluation criteria to support the award of the youth contract?

The board had recommended that the following additional outcomes be added to the draft outcomes framework:-

- Young people to take part in physical wellbeing activities and teambuilding
- Work to get more young people into education, training or (paid or unpaid) employment
- Demonstration of an understanding of racism issues and the respect agenda
- Understanding domestic violence issues
- Young people to demonstrate a commitment to active citizenship

- Provide young people with an understanding of the progression routes into further education and what financial support was available

For question 2 the board had recommended that the following specific requirements of the area be included in the draft service specification:-

- There needed to be a minimum of 2 generic and 1 flexible session per week for a minimum of 48 weeks per year.
- Work should be done in partnership with uniformed groups, faith based provision, community centres and health based projects.
- Services should be provided in line with the outcomes framework specifically around the identified issues of active citizenship, racism awareness, domestic violence awareness and smoking cessation.
- Nominal charging for youth sessions to provide additional funding for the project could be introduced.
- The minimum requirements for staff qualifications needed to be agreed and the possibility of using seconded youth workers was to be looked into.

There were currently three sessions provided per ward per week and it was proposed to build in more flexibility to enable the provision to change to meet the changing needs of the area, for example by providing provision on a weekend.

The board had felt that there was a need for there to be work done across ward boundaries as young people who lived on the edge of a ward would often use facilities in the neighbouring ward.

It was also important to look at the reasons why young people were not interested in taking part in the activities and to find ways of engaging with them. Improving young people's knowledge of the provision within the area would help this as some young people do not take part simply because they do not know what provision exists within their area. Electronic sources of information such as Facebook or Twitter could be used for informing young people of activities.

Councillor T. Martin referred to the suggestion that charging could be introduced; he felt that youth workers would need to be able to exercise discretion as some young people would not be able to afford even a small nominal charge.

Billy Hall advised that generally some providers charged while some did not; youth workers had discretion over whether to charge individuals and if a young person could not afford to pay they would not be turned away.

Keith Moore referred to the forthcoming welfare reform proposals; it would be a major issue if the most vulnerable and needy young people were unable to access provision due to charging being imposed. Even if the charge was discretionary and able to be waived it was possible that young people who were unable to pay would be put off attending if there was a charge in place.

Councillor Mordey suggested that in addition to racism awareness there should also be disability discrimination and homophobia awareness.

Councillor Kay stated that it was important to work with vulnerable young people to tackle the reasons for their vulnerability as otherwise they would remain vulnerable into adult life. A small charge could be beneficial as people often perceived that the provision had a greater value if there was a charge in place. It was pleasing to see how much detail there was in the specifications. Within the area, especially in Millfield and Hendon, there was a link between Active Citizenship and Racism awareness which created an additional challenge for youth providers.

Mr Moore advised that at this stage there was no monetary value attached to the proposals. There had been regular changes to the funding provided by the government and it was likely that there would be changes to the localism funding. More was expected from the voluntary providers and there would be targeted provision through the XL project. There was a need to try to offer the right provision for all young people throughout the area.

Paula Hunt stated that a directory of the provision available in the area would be very welcome. There was a lack of emphasis on team sports for girls which had a detrimental effect on physical wellbeing. She felt that there needed to be mental health support provided including support and advice relating to substance misuse.

Ms Hassan stated that there was a directory being produced which listed all of the groups in the area which provided youth provision and this directory would be made available so that organisations could direct people to the available provision.

Councillor T. Martin asked how health and mental health issues would be addressed. Ms Hassan advised that when identifying new contractors health would be a key criteria. There would be information provided to those assessing the providers to identify what they would be doing in relation to improving health.

Councillor Kay suggested that the 8-10 provision could be delivered in partnership with groups operating in schools. Ms Hassan advised that there were plans to extend the level of provision for 8-10 year olds.

Councillor Kay then queried whether the monetary value of the project would be brought back to the Committee to be agreed. The Chairman advised that the Cabinet would be making the decision on how much funding would be assigned to the project. Mr Moore added that the funding would come from the Council's overall budget and that if there was to be a significant reduction in the amount of funding available then the Committee's views on what to do would be sought.

Councillor Wood queried whether each area would receive the same budget. Mr Moore stated that he believed this was the case and Ms Hassan agreed to find out and report back.

Councillor Mordey asked that when the amount of funding for the area had been approved that the decision for what to spend the funds on be delegated to the Area Committee so that Members would be able to spend the funds on provision which they felt would benefit the area most.

Councillor Emerson then put the People Board's recommendations to the committee and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The Draft Service Specification be amended to include the following additional outcomes:
 - Young People to take part in physical wellbeing activities and teambuilding
 - More young people in education; training; or paid or unpaid employment
 - Including demonstration of an understanding of racism issues and respect agenda
 - Including an understanding of domestic violence issues
 - Young people to demonstrate their commitment to active citizenship
 - Young people to be given an understanding of the progression routes into further education and what financial support is available
 - Provide an understanding of the 12 employability skills.
 - b. The following specific requirements of the area to be included in the Draft Service Specification for both 8-10 and 11-19 year olds provision:
 - A minimum of 2 generic/1 flexible session to be delivered each week for a minimum of 48 weeks per year
 - Partnership working with uniformed groups, faith based provision, community centres and health based projects to be considered
 - Services to be provided in line with the Outcomes Framework specifically around the issues of Active Citizenship, Racism Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness and Smoking Cessation.
 - Consideration be given to the introduction of nominal charges for youth sessions which would be used as additional funding for the project.
 - Minimum staff qualifications to be agreed and the possibility of using staff seconded from other projects to be examined
 - Promotion and marketing of the service

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Meeting.

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.