

Priority One: Provide a safe environment for young people with more play and youth services and encouragement to continue into further education

Key Issues/background

In addition to formal learning and training opportunities, many young people need a supportive and stimulating environment to maximise and develop their potential.

Current activities

- Completion of the Play Pathfinder programme will see an estimated 15,440 additional children and young people having access to high quality equipped sites in West Sunderland. The Play Pathfinder programme will realise an additional investment of over £773,000 into Play and Urban Games facilities in West Sunderland.
- Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a major priority across the whole community. A multi agency approach seeks to ensure they are protected from harm.
- 'Safe Place To Be' open 8-6pm at Farringdon School during term time and some holidays providing informal drop in for young people 11-16, Target young people at risk of social exclusion.
- Key themes to promote being healthy and safe are included in tutorial Schemes of Work at City of Sunderland College, which also impact on Connect learners at Franchise venues. Each tutor will select the appropriate themes and topics to be covered each term depending upon the needs of their tutorial group. Themes covered include, drugs, smoking, alcohol, sexual health, relationships, exercise and healthy diet, making choices etc. Students are also encouraged to participate in college wide initiatives e.g. "Check your bits" campaign.
- There are five commissioned youth projects operating in the area:
 - The Box Youth Project (St Chad's);
 - A690 Youth Project (Silksworth, Sandhill, Barnes);
 - Pennywell Youth Project (St Anne's, Pallion);
 - Lambton Street Fellowship (Citywide);
 - Young Asian Voices (Citywide).

All of this provision is based on the values of enabling young people to learn, grow and develop.

- The Youth Information Shop (City Council) engages with 13 -19
- There are a number of other providers: Youth Almighty; Pallion Action Group; South Hylton Tansy Centre; Pennywell CA.
- The Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund has provided funding for 11 projects.
- Farringdon Jubilee Centre has been awarded nearly £500,000 over three years to develop youth provision in the Farringdon area.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- South Hylton Tansy Centre – funding up until March 2010, ran by volunteers. Ad hoc approach because no core funding. Still significant gaps in addressing needs of key sectors of community.
- Pallion (4.2%), Sandhill (4.4%), and St Anne's (4.6%) have higher levels than the City average of Children in Need.
- SAFC Foundation could provide a project based on the Kickz model currently in operation in Sunderland North, East and Washington. Kickz works with 13-19 year olds and runs three evening sessions per week each lasting for approx 2.5hrs per session. This is diversionary project providing positive activities of which two are sport based drop-ins and one is a project night. A successful project in Sunderland North has helped to reduce ASB by 49%. Kickz is also used in the Concord area of Washington to address

ASB, whilst Kickz in Sunderland East is used to promote community cohesion and understanding by addressing racism. Through these models SAFC Foundation runs workshops based on the issues that effect young people i.e. alcohol, substance misuse, pregnancy etc.

- More youth integration sessions should be established;

Actions

- City Council is to develop and deliver a core offer which connects communities with sport and physical activity opportunities which includes wellness, swimming, play and sport;
- Area Committee to be updated on youth commissioning.

Proposal

- **Review:** Area Committee to receive a report from the Youth Development Group, in light of youth work commissioning, on the range of services and providers for children and young people to enable an integrated approach to meeting needs and the planning and delivery of services.

Priority Two: Provide more weekend and evening activities

Key issues/background

There can be a gap between people's needs and requirements and services provided. Youth provision is currently the subject of a commissioning process and the XL Youth Villages have extended provision to evenings and weekends. The council's Family, Adult and Community Learning Service are seeking to develop programmes to meet the needs of learners who cannot attend weekday programmes. (See Priority Three).

Current activities

- Many community venues deliver a number of activities outside of weekdays.
- Saturday morning out of School hours activity programme at Highfield Primary School. Highfield Children's Centre is open on Saturday mornings.
- Extensive out of school hours activities at Sandhill View and Farringdon Community Sports College.
- GO4IT (PAYP funding) - Delivery of a programme of positive activities with young people aged 11-19 during holidays and two sessions at weekends. Delivered through contract with Pennywell Young People's Project on behalf of the council. The Box Youth Project delivers these activities in the St. Chad's ward as part of a South area contract. Young Asian Voices delivers a citywide GO4IT contract;
- There are two XL Youth Villages once a week for 10 weeks, three times a year.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- There is limited weekend and evening learning provision available
- There may be scope for other agencies and venues across the West area to deliver additional positive activities for young people in other venues. GO4IT funding will cease in March 2011.
- Currently there is a disproportionate spread of youth provision across the West area. The YDG have purchased mobile youth provision to address this problem and are currently reviewing the commissioning of Youth work strategy which will take over from the old strategy in April 2010. There is a shortfall in funding for the mobile youth provision.
- Provision of youth sessions and resources for BME communities. YAV can deliver youth sessions for young people in the West area but due to lack of funding struggles to meet need.
- Work needs to be undertaken with providers to ensure that a range of opportunities are available on an evening and weekend
- Work with local organisations to develop provision based on the outcome of the analysis
- S/H Tansy Centre – modern multi purpose building including sports hall, training room and internet facilities capable of delivering wide range of community programmes.

Actions

- Investigate the opportunities for other agencies to deliver additional positive activities with young people during holidays and weekends.
- Analyse the kinds of learning provision that local people would like to see delivered.
- Investigate alternative funding to continue to deliver the GO4IT positive activities work with young people after March 2011.
- Review level of youth provision at weekends and evenings as commissioning progresses.

Proposal

- **Allocation of SIB/SIP:** Area Committee to consider receiving an application to enhance weekend and evening youth provision from the Youth Development Group of £30,000 capital and £38,000 revenue costs

Priority Three: Raise aspirations of children and young people and their families

Key issues/background

Due to a range of factors, including the demise of traditional industries, the West has families who are 2nd and 3rd generation unemployed. Lack of availability of local employment, and other economic issues, has resulted in low aspirations that can pass from parents to children and young people. There are 23 schools in the West (one Nursery, three infant, three junior, 11 primary and three secondary). There are also four Children's Centres in the area. The West's working age population isn't as well qualified as those in other parts of the city. 42.2% of residents have no qualifications compared to a city average of 36.9%.

Current activities

- Additional support is being given to pupils making the transition between KS2 and KS4 (primary to secondary school). It is acknowledged this is an important and often difficult time for young people.
- SAFC Foundation delivers family learning at St Anne's School.
- Education Business Connections (EBC) delivers various programmes designed to raise aspirations and build confidence in young people. The programmes are supported by local employers who provide an insight into 'working life'.
- Sunderland City Council's Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) service provides a range of courses through various providers to improve confidence and build skills and knowledge. A partnership approach to adult learning is being developed to encourage more adults into educational activities, including community based learning.
- The Extended Services 0-7 Partnership pilot is developing methods to support parents' understanding of their child's learning.
- The Extended Services Buddying project is showing good practice of parental engagement between Nursery School and Voluntary Childcare.
- Within the Children's Centres a volunteer gateway has been established to support recruitment and induction of volunteers. This offers an opportunity for adults to experience and explore their individual preferences and an early induction into further training, education or employment.
- Connexions Personal Advisers work with young people in schools and college centres to raise aspirations and build confidence. Staff work with an identified caseload of NEET young people to provide continuity of support. Connexions teams work on a neighbourhood basis throughout the City of Sunderland. Team leader for the West Area is Viv Scott.
- Sunderland Education Business Partnership (EBP), based in Connexions Sunderland, offer a range of activities to schools including confidence and team building and challenge events. They also offer a Business Ambassador Programme and BEC 500 programme aimed at helping young people better understand the world of work and future employment opportunities.
- Connexions deliver primary events to encourage younger pupils to consider staying in learning when they are older.
- City of Sunderland College deliver family learning programmes in 7 primary schools across the West area.
- The extended Job Linkage service provides support for individuals in relation to training and employability.
- By March 2010 a report will be produced by FACL to identify what learning opportunities carers would like to see available.
- The use of community venues by the college enhances access to learning opportunities and helps widens participation.

- Young people have citizenship activities included in their programmes of study at the college, which help develop a sense of community.
- Extended Services Subsidy for economically and socially disadvantaged Children and Young People to increase access to out of school hours' activity is being piloted with Sandhill cluster of schools.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- EBC - No core funding, ad hoc approach, lack of strategic approach.
- There is a shortage of providers who are able to deliver family Learning opportunities
- Limited core funding for this priority often results in ad hoc delivery and lack of a strategic approach to tackling the issue. The delivery is often dependent on the ability of individual organisations to raise funding and the clients' ability to pay for Family Adult and Community Learning (FACL) courses. Short term contracts can have a negative effect on the planning and stability of programmes.
- There is a shortage of providers who are able to deliver family learning opportunities for FACL.
- FACL provision is predominantly day time. There is limited evening and weekend provision in some venues. Programmes will be developed to meet the needs of adults who cannot attend during daytimes.

Actions

- Extended Services Subsidy will be rolled out to all schools from April 2010.
- A wide range of family learning programmes to be made available
- Identify and support the development of new providers
- Incorporate into the next round of contracts suitable performance indicators that will seek to raise the aspirations of the young people in the areas that Youth Projects are contracted to operate;
- Continue to engage young people in stimulating and challenging Youth Work programmes that will raise their aspirations and engagement them in the development of the programmes.

Proposal

- **Review:** Area Committee to receive a report on current Family, Adult and Community Learning provision including partners and learning providers, types of courses, community needs, gaps in provision, times and venues.

Priority Four: Reduce the number of young people Not in Employment, Education or Training

Key issues/background

Sunderland NEET Consortium provides a coordinated approach addressing the issues of Sunderland's young people Not in Education, Employment or Training.

Current activities

- Connexions – Personal Advisers work with young people in schools and college centres to raise aspirations and build confidence. Staff work with an identified caseload of NEET young people to provide continuity of support. Connexions teams work on a neighbourhood basis throughout the City of Sunderland.
- Each Personal Adviser has a caseload of NEET clients aged 16-19, sorted by postcode area. (SR4 0, SR4 9, SR4 8, SR4 7, SR4 6, SR3 3 and SR3 4). All Personal Advisers hold relevant Guidance Qualifications at Level 4 and above.
- YAV delivers a citywide GO4IT contract, supporting young people from BME community at risk of becoming NEET or referred by Connexions as being NEET.
- NEET clients are followed up on a weekly basis and appointments can be arranged in a setting convenient to the client.
- Personal Advisers work closely with and develop networks with other professionals and organisations, such as Training Providers, Sixth Forms/Colleges and Voluntary Sector Providers e. g. Pennywell Youth Project, Pallion Action Group and A690 Youth Initiative to ensure the best possible support for the client
- Clients in Year 11 identified as “at risk of becoming NEET” are informed about the Engagement Support and Prevention Project (ESP) and if keen are assigned an ESP Project Worker. Financial support can be offered re travel and equipment costs.
- NEET clients who fall into vulnerable groups (JSA recipients, Carers, Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller, Homeless, in receipt of income support, LDD, LAC, Refugees or Asylum Seekers, Substance misusers and supervised by YOT) and those who have been NEET for 26 weeks or over are referred to the Activity Agreement Project. Financial Support is available for those who sign up to the Project (up to £30 per week).
- One of the Team has specific responsibility for teenage mums living in the West area and is involved in organising and supporting two programmes: Family Nurturing Programme and an NVQ Level 1 in Enterprise Skills. One is on offer at Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre and the other is offered at Pallion Action Group. Both offer free crèche facilities. The aim being to improve the client's personal and social development.
- The Personal Advisor seconded to the Family and Parenting Team is responsible for the coordination, promotion and delivery of programmes to identified parents living in the South/West area.
- NEET clients identified in need of additional support and who would benefit from a multi agency approach can be referred via the South West TYS Panel
- GO4IT (PAYP funding) programme of work with young people identified by Connexions as being NEET to increase their skills in obtaining employment or training. Delivered through contract with Pennywell Young People's Project on behalf of the council – and by The Box Youth Project in the St. Chad's and Silksworth wards as part of a South area contract – both renewable annually until March 2011

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- Lack of progression opportunities for young people e.g. from Level 2 to Level 3 opportunities and in certain occupational areas such as construction and motor vehicle work.
- Lack of well paid, full time employment opportunities including Modern Apprenticeships

- There will be a need to find alternative funding to continue to deliver the GO4IT work with young people classed as being NEET after March 2011.

Actions

- EBC – links to include Access to College Education days, Attack Clubs, enterprise days and inter school competitions to re-engage reluctant learners.
- EBC – Connect to e-mentoring programme to gain qualifications.
- The Working Neighbourhood Strategy aims to address individual needs to support people into work and reduce worklessness.
- Sunderland's 14-19 Partnership hosts Apprenticeship Open Days to provide more information and advice about the vacancies and opportunities available with employers, trainers and education across the City.
- SAFC Foundation is working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus targeting people 18+ in Sunderland who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Starting in October 2009; the project is for an initial 18 months running five x 10 week courses with participants gaining accreditation, increasing employability skills and progressing into employment.
- A key demographic for this project are the 18-24 NEET young people. SAFC Foundation has a successful trainee scheme which targets young people 16+. Trainees are with the organisation for two years gaining qualifications, accreditation and employability skills whilst also receiving on the job training and coaching through experiential learning and staff mentoring. In the last 12 months, SAFC Foundation has recruited 5 out of 11 trainees onto full or part time permanent positions within the organisation.

Proposal

Escalate to LSP - Review apprenticeship opportunities, including the commitment of the public sector, to the creation of more full apprenticeships either by seeking to provide opportunities within statutory sector organisations or the possibility of providing financial incentives to other employers.