

NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

19th September 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND NORTH – PROGRESS REVIEW Work Plan 2011/12: Activities for Young People

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan, **Annex 1**.

2. Holiday Provision

- 2.1 North Area Committee agreed recommendations to allocate £27,000 from SIB to match fund £27,000 Children's Services funding to provide activities for young people during holiday periods. Holiday provision for the 6 weeks summer holidays was agreed and funded.
- 2.2 The Task and Finish group discussed the need for holiday activities to be arranged for the remainder of the financial year as well as holiday activities up to June 2012 in the new financial year. The balance of Children's Services funding and the SIB match funding would be used.
- 2.3 The holiday provision for future periods will be arranged through the Youth Development Group and will take into account the best practice and success of the holiday provision throughout the 6 week holiday period and consultation with young people to inform future arrangements.
- 2.3 An SIB application has been completed by the Youth Development Group to access the SIB funding allocated for holiday provision and a synopsis is contained within the financial report in item 2.

3 Accommodation

- 3.1 The Task and Finish group discussed the ongoing issues with accommodation for the provision of activities for young people. It was acknowledged that there was adequate accessible accommodation in the Castle and Redhill wards, although increased use of the Redhouse Academy Youth Centre could be made.
- 3.2 Currently there were accommodation issues in the Fulwell, Southwick and St Peter's wards with some of these wards having outreach youth provision only.
- 3.3 During the summer holiday period some new venues had been explored for use with varying degrees of success. It was agreed that consultation needs to be completed with young people to establish

what the barriers were for attending certain venues and how these could be overcome.

- 3.4 A number of venues in the wards affected were suggested by the group and it was agreed these would be investigated for suitability of delivery, accessibility and cost and whether young people would access these venues.
- 3.5 The Task and Finish group discussed the potential of using school sites and the varying availability and cost of schools for community use. An audit had been commenced and partially completed by Children's Services on the community use of sites; the group agreed this audit needed to be fully completed in order to inform discussions with Children's Services and individual schools for community use.
- 3.7 It was also agreed that the issue would be raised within the Voluntary and Community Sector Network to establish availability of accommodation within the network for use to provide activities for young people.

4. Hard to Reach Groups

- 4.1 The Task and Finish group discussed the hard to reach groups of young people and where the gaps for these young people existed due to changes in funding arrangements.
- 4.2 The Youth Development Group confirmed there were gaps in provision covering work that had previously been targeted at particular groups including but not limited to NEET's and Young People with Disabilities in both standard and holiday provision.
- 4.3 The Task and Finish group agreed that the Youth Development Group would work with the voluntary sector to develop provision that would consider these gaps in service and how they could be met and supported through funding from SIB.

5 Responsive Youth Services

- 5.1 The Task and Finish group discussed the links between youth disorder and anti social behaviour in the North area and those young people who were not engaging in activities and how this may be addressed.
- 5.2 It was acknowledged that significant successes had been seen in the North Area of Sunderland regarding the reduction in youth disorder and anti social behaviour and the next steps would be to maintain the reductions and build on previous successes.
- 5.3 Currently within the North there are reoccurring and seasonal hotspots of youth disorder and anti social behaviour that may not be addressed entirely by current mechanisms in place.

- 5.4 The Task and Finish group agreed the development of a responsive youth service; this youth service would be in addition to the commissioned sessions in each ward per month. The responsive youth service would be a mobile team who would track and respond to peaks and hotspots of youth disorder and anti social behaviour across the North area.
- 5.5 Information obtained from the Police, Gentoo, the Council, local residents and elected members would be used to establish hotspots or reoccurring disorder. This information would be used to deploy the responsive youth service to the area to work alongside partners to engage young people in the area and divert them into existing provision.

Recommendations

- Note the contents of the report.
- Agree the SIB funding of £27,000 for the provision of holiday activities for young people as described in the summary application at Annex 4
- Agree the completion of a full audit of community use of schools within the North area.
- Agree the development of targeted activities for young people and hard to reach groups.
- Agree the development of a responsive youth service in the North area given additional funding.

Contact Officer: Julie Lynn, Sunderland North Area Officer
Tel: 0191 5611932, Email: Julie.lynn@sunderland.gov.uk