

## Washington Area Committee Proposals

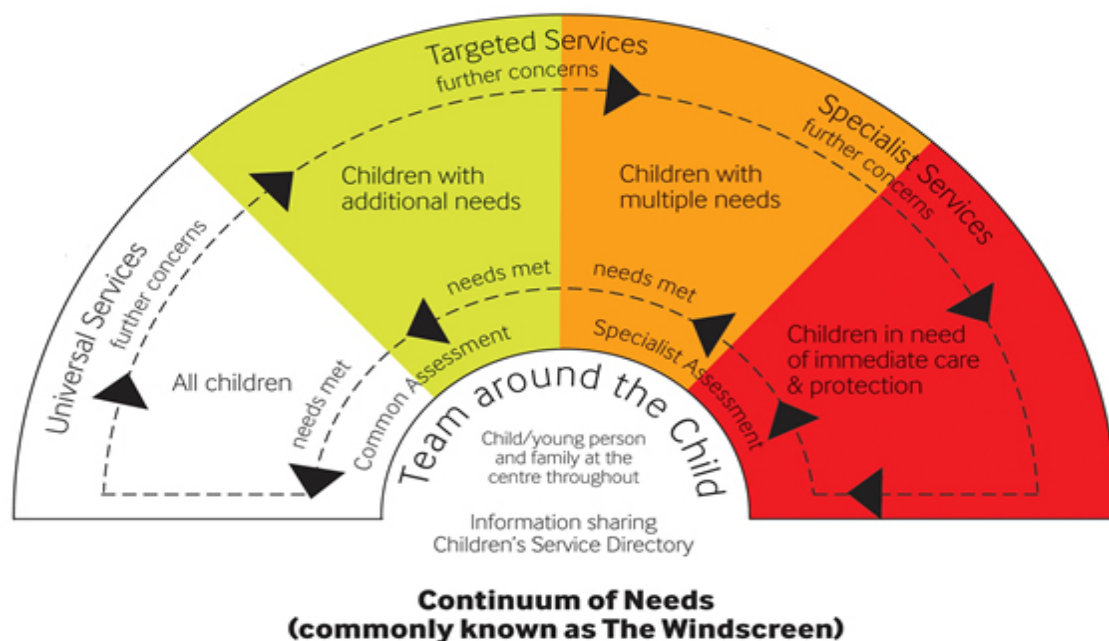
The request / action arising from the area framework was to:

"Investigate and feedback the Positive Futures social inclusion programme model used at Raich Carter, with a view of rolling it out in Washington (Children Services and CCS)"

Within the statement there appears to be some confusion between the Positive Futures Programme in Southwick, and the diversionary programme delivered from the Raich Carter Sports Centre.

The two programmes are distinctly different, one targeting a small number of individuals dealing with their personal needs and developing aspirations (Positive Futures), the second being a mass participation opportunity provided at a time when it is known that numbers of antisocial behaviour incidents are high. The continuum of needs, as illustrated below, identifies the difference between the two programmes. The Positive Futures Programme sits within the second segment, offering targeted services for young people, and the estates based/ participation/ diversionary provision sits in the universal services segment.

Positive Futures is a Home Office funded project with a cost per head generally exceeding that of a participation / diversionary programme because of the additional support required for each individual. Nonetheless, the outcomes and impacts are of course significant and life changing.



**The following explains the frameworks for the two programmes:**

## **1 Positive Futures Framework**

Positive Futures is a national social inclusion programme using sport and leisure activities to engage with disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people. Positive futures is a long term programme aiming to build positive relationships and steer young people towards education, training and employment, and not a diversionary programme.

The programme aims to have a positive influence on young people's lives by widening horizons and providing access to new opportunities within a culturally familiar environment. The programme uses sports, arts and leisure activities as a catalyst to encourage project participation.

The aims of the programme are set nationally and are as follows:

- Build young people's self esteem and confidence through participation
- Help build relationships of respect and trust
- Give young people access to positive role models
- Develop protective factors through peer mentoring, structured activities, supervised and ordered environments, intergenerational work, free or low cost activity in the prescribed locality, alternative places to go, alternative education and achievement, and protection from aggressive behaviour.

All projects are expected to contribute to the achievements of these aims and objectives using the following core components in their work

- A clear focus on 10-19 years olds showing signs of disengagement
- Providing solutions to preventing substance misuse, crime and antisocial behaviour before such behaviour becomes entrenched
- Bringing communities together by working with young people in their own settings
- Enabling young people to find progression pathways to better education, training and employment opportunities
- Using sport, arts and other activities as a way of helping young people develop socially and educationally
- Spearheading an approach of running open access projects in disadvantaged areas that goes beyond diversion and looks to develop strong relationships with young people to help reduce crime and safer communities
- Highlighting the excellent relationships which can be grown and developed by third sector organisations, local authorities, youth offending teams, police and other partners
- Ensuring effective links are developed and maintained with relevant and up to date local, regional and national strategies, plans and developments
- Support for young people in shaping, delivering and evaluating services on offer to young people

The programme works to tackle social deprivation and reduce health inequalities by enabling young people from deprived areas to access safe and positive activities. Sessions need to be delivered locally, at an accessible time, and designed to raise aspirations but at the same time be fun.

This is achieved through a menu of youth activities with emphasis on sport, leisure and physical activity, delivered via a range of methods including outreach work in community settings, centre based work where the young people are involved in the planning and design of the activities, and education based work providing skills and training opportunities to enable young people develop skills and confidence. Young people who don't require the additional support are signposted to the mainstream universal services. The annual costs for the Positive Futures scheme which attracts 100% external funding is circa £50,000 for a range of sessions per week.

### **2 Estate Based / Leisure (Diversionary Activities/ Positive Activities) Framework**

Estate based activities provide regular sporting activities for young people close to their homes, in locations which include crime hotspots, housing estates, leisure facilities and parks. Sessions are open to all young people but referral mechanisms can be put in place. Aims are to divert young people away from crime by providing an alternative, positive activity. This stops crimes from taking place, providing a direct diversion and deterrence for the young people. The programmes are developed to address high levels of ASB and give young people "something to do".

Key to the success of such programme is to provide a wide range of activities which are appropriate to young people's preferences, at a time when there is traditionally no universal provision (Friday and Saturday evenings) Examples within the city include Friday Night Football at Castle View School, Fitness Friday activities delivered from Raich Carter Sports Complex. The provision can be either indoors or out but must be high quality, well organised and in an environment where young people feel safe and the activity belongs to them. Staff need additional skills which are not just traditional coaching, but need to be able to communicate with the young people, engage and motivate.

#### **Case Study a**

Since February 2008, a partnership, comprising Neighbourhood Wardens, Gentoo, Sunderland North Community Business centre and Positive Futures, was created to develop a structured diversion program on a Friday night to reduce the levels of Anti Social Behaviour within the Castle Ward. The Football program funded by Gentoo and managed by the Neighbourhood Wardens has attracted over 260 young people. With an average attendance of around 100 per session, the activity is supported by young people aged between 8 and 19 years. Those young people who are identified as requiring additional support are signposted to the main Positive Futures programme.

The programme is supported by Neighbourhood Policing teams and Castletown Neighbourhood Action Group. The Program operates out off the Castlevieview Centre's Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) between 19:00 – 21:00.

Friday Football was set up to provide positive structured activities for young people in Sunderland North, although the main aim was always to reduce antisocial behaviour. The SAFC foundation also run similar schemes called Kicz.

#### **Case Study b**

The Fitness Friday programme at Raich Carter delivers a more varied programme addressing the same aims at the previous example, again

demonstrating seamless partnership between the voluntary and community sector and Raich Carter Sports Centre.

The requirement for positive engagement in the Hendon Area was identified through Local Multi Agency Problem Solving groups; due to the high level of reported incidents of youth related antisocial behaviour.

As such the Fitness Friday Scheme was developed and is now a key element to provision in the area. The programme was firstly developed as a pilot in partnership with Sport and Leisure and Back on the Map but is now delivered by the Community and Voluntary sector and Raich Carter with funding again received from BOTM NDC.

The partnership arrangements allow detached workers from the voluntary sector to signpost street based young people to the provision. The Council's Sport and Leisure Section provide key staff, coaches and youth workers to manage front line delivery and Raich Carter provide low cost facilities and additional staff support. Due to its success during the pilot year, additional funding was secured to extend the programme for a further period and for additional provision on a Saturday evening. Alongside the sporting activity there is youth based work, supported by the commissioned youth services provider.

The programme has had a significant impact on the number of youth related antisocial behaviour incidents in the area and attitudinal surveys have shown a change in young peoples attitudes, including reductions in substance misuse, drinking and risk taking behaviour.

The project engages with approximately 150 young people per evening and made a significant contribution to the development of joint thinking between agencies.

As previously mentioned, the project is currently funded by Back on the Map NDC, however, this will eventually be exhausted so partners are currently looking at ways to sustain this activity. The annual costs of the Raich/Hendon model, is circa £80,000 for two sessions per week, with the relevant staff delivery and indeed relevant partner agencies playing their role to support and signpost.

### **Recommendations**

It is important, to be clear 'who' the programme/intervention is focusing on before developing the preferred solution. Ideally, every regeneration area should have a framework 1 and framework 2 scheme funded and supported.

In order for this proposal to be developed it is suggested the following actions be agreed and implemented:

- Identify potential delivery partners and determine their capacity to deliver, for example the Commissioned Youth Service, Community and Voluntary Organisations, Police and Gentoos.
- Identify a venue from which to operate the project
- Consult the young people, community and police to ensure the venue is appropriate, and the activities are attractive to the target audience
- Identify costs and investigate ways to sustain long term activity.

**Proposal**

- **Review:** Investigate and consult on the provision of a Positive Futures social inclusion programme for Washington, identifying delivery partners, venues, costs and report back to a future meeting of this Committee.