

## **SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE**

**14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW Work Plan 2011/12: Youth and Play Provision; diversionary activities to alleviate anti social behaviour and disorder**

##### **1. Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 20010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan; **Annex 1**.

##### **2. Work Plan 2011/12: Youth and Play**

- 2.1 At its last meeting, the committee received a progress report and agreed to receive a further report on implementing its priorities:
- Out of school activity provision for 8 – 12 year olds;
  - Holiday activity provision (all age).
- 2.2 Members were particularly concerned with the future provision of holiday activities as additional activities previously funded by the Positive Activities for Young People grant had ended in March 2011.

##### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Area Committee agreed in July to provide £42,000, £7,000 per ward, to fund a programme of summer activities for young people. This was in addition to the £30,000 provided by Children's Services.
- 3.2 The £42,000 SIB funded a comprehensive programme of activities during the school summer holidays for children and young people aged 8 - 18, which was subject to a presentation to committee in September. Committee also agreed to the use of the Children's Services delegated budget to provide holiday activities in school holidays up until Easter 2012.

##### **4. Overview**

- 4.1 The 10 projects have continued to work together as a successful West Area partnership to deliver a wide range of youth and play provision for the school holiday periods of summer, October half term, Christmas, February half term and, currently, Easter.
- 4.2 During the 10 weeks of provision currently delivered, the combined projects made contact with 1,215 young people, of which 472 attended

three times or more. To date, almost 300 additional youth/play sessions were delivered.

- 4.3 All projects were visited by the Youth Development Group to ensure quality of provision and, in addition, all projects were subject to a full evaluation, which confirmed the quality of the programmes and their outcomes. The evaluation included the views of young people and outcomes included: developing new personal and social skills; volunteering and organisational skills; developing positive relationships; having fun and; gaining confidence.
- 4.3 The summer activities also produced another legacy in helping to break down projects working in isolation and developing real partnerships to maximise resources, create new and more opportunities for young people, sharing resources and responsibilities.

## **5. Future Holiday Activity Schemes**

- 5.1 There is limited financial provision within the existing commissioned youth contracts to deliver holiday activities. A full re-commissioning exercise could have been undertaken for April 2012, however with significant uncertainties as to future funding levels and the need to better understand expectations for youth activities as part of the "Positive for Youth" initiative, it was agreed that the existing contracts would be extended for a further 12 months. Part of the discussions with providers has focussed on the need to provide additional activities particularly during school holidays although it is recognised that this will not be at the levels previously delivered with support from grant or from additional SIB resources.
- 5.2 Following the concerns expressed at the last meeting about the future provision of holiday activities, a consultation has been undertaken with the 10 projects. This has led to the development of proposals to ensure an extended offer of holiday activities across the West area can take place in 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- 5.3 The details of any programme are subject to consultation with young people, but would be at the same level as that reported to committee in September. At this meeting, a group of young people helped to present the report and thanked committee for its support.
- 5.4 During the holiday programmes, there could be an average of six additional youth sessions a week per ward, delivering activities such as: sports, arts, volunteering, outdoor activities, healthy lifestyles.
- 5.5 The costs of such a programme totals £75,000 over two years; £37,500 per year. This is broken down as follows:
- May/June half term, £2,500;
  - Summer, £21,500;
  - October half term, £3,000;

- Christmas, £2,500
- February half term, £3,000
- Easter, £3,000

5.6 The proposed programme compares to a expenditure this year of £72,000. The lower cost of the proposal in 5.5 is achieved by additional provision built into contracts for the next 12 months and for 8 – 12 year olds (see 6 below), reduction of building costs, greater use of the XL Villages and the partnership's work becoming smarter.

## **6. Out of School Activities for 8 – 12 year olds**

6.1 Following the discussions described in 5.1 above, discussions with existing providers have also included extending their provision to include a minimum of one session per week for 8 – 12 year olds in each ward to be delivered within existing budgets.

6.2 This new provision must take place in the evening and it is anticipated that it will be delivered as a minimum one hour session prior to an existing programmed youth session.

6.3 Whilst provision will consist of age appropriate activities, it is envisaged that older young people may volunteer during these sessions and appropriate internally accredited social education programmes will be developed. An example of this would be a localised junior accredited scheme.

6.4 It is proposed to evaluate this provision after six months and bring a further report to committee.

## **7. Recommendations**

Committee is requested to agree:

- i) Whether it wishes to support, in principle, a £75,000 SIB application for the provision of holiday activity in 2012/13 and 2013/14. This would be submitted to the next committee meeting.
- ii) Note the progress on out of school provision for 8 – 12 year olds and receive a further report following evaluation after six months.

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