

## 1 Provide non academic support and advice for children and young people

### **Background/Key Issues**

In addition to formal and academic learning young people need advice and support on a range of economic and social issues. Young people often respond better to advice and support delivered out of the school environment.

### **Current Activity**

The Youth Information Staff (Sunderland City Council) engage with 13-19 year olds via a City Centre drop in multi partnership provision to offer specialist support covering health, education, housing, welfare, volunteering, training and employment. Satellite points at The Flatts Youth Club, Herrington Burn YMCA, Streetz and The Hetton Centre provide information and have up to date materials.

Houghton Kepier School work in partnership with other organisations and signpost pupils to relevant services such as the NHS (sexual health, healthy eating, smoking cessation etc.)

SAFC Foundation deliver sessions on substance misuse, peer pressure, confidence and self esteem raising through games, football and classroom activity.

From April 2010 Exended Services subsidy for economically and socially disadvantaged children and young people will be available to increase out of school hours activity for all schools.

Connexions offer support to At Risk young people and intensive support is offered to pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities in Hetton and Houghton Kepier schools.

In Year 11 impartial, individual careers guidance interviews are available in schools at times to suit young people and their parents/carers. Children not accessing school based provision are still tracked and offered support by Connexions.

Houghton Job Club supported by Connexions and the Youth Development Group offer support on issues such as domestic violence, relationships, homelessness, drug and alcohol related issues and debt.

Houghton Racecourse Community Access Point (HRCAP) and Barnardos 'The Hive' work with young people on a Neighbourhood Allotment .

A Neighbourhood Agreement at Low Moorsley ensures that the needs of young people and families are met using close working between partners such as Gentoo and Connexions.

Extended services have established young parents groups to provide support and guidance to young parents (up to age 20).

The City of Sunderland College work to ensure there are no financial barriers to young people accessing education e.g. Educational Maintenance Allowance payment scheme, reduce meal costs for under 19s and advice on discounted student travel.

A counselling service is provided by City of Sunderland College. Student welfare advisers and Medi Points are provided on each site. The college also supports access to free childcare for students under 20.

### **Gaps/Needs**

The Youth Information Service do not have satellite points in the Shiney Row, Penshaw or Fencehouses areas.

### **Proposals**

#### **Review**

As part of the Youth Development Group's mobile youth provision ensure information, advice and guidance is available in all parts of the Coalfield (e.g. Shiney Row, Penshaw, Moorsley/Peat Carr and Fencehouses areas).

## **2 Adequate youth provision to be available for all wards**

### **Background/Key Issues**

The current contracting arrangements for City of Sunderland funded youth provision does not ensure equitable service delivery in every ward across the area. Some additional youth provision is offered in areas where the individual organisation/provider has successfully secured alternative funding. Some areas within the Coalfield have little or no services specifically for young people. It is perceived that lack of organised youth activity results in youth disorder in some areas.

### **Current Activity**

City of Sunderland commissioned youth work is delivered by Easington Lane Access Point (ELCAP) and by the Youth Development Group directly. The new contracting arrangements are being developed and will be implemented in April 2010.

The Youth Development Group are meeting with local Councillors to gain their input into the new contracting arrangements. The new contracts will be ward based and be specific to the needs of that particular ward. Specific targets will be set depending on local requirements and type of service delivered.

Youth Villages across the whole City are being delivered on Friday and Saturday evenings. Locations have been identified with input from local Councillors. The location changes every 10 weeks to ensure all areas are covered. During winter months the Youth Villages will move to locations where there is some indoor space.

Lunchtime and after school clubs providing coaching and football skills are provided by SAFC Foundation at Houghton Kieper and Hetton Schools.

The City of Sunderland College operates a wide range of enrichment activities including sporting activities and sporting teams, Charity, art, journalism and adventure clubs and themed weeks around social, cultural and religious topics. The College also delivers Princes Trust projects in the Coalfield area.

### **Gaps/Needs**

Although successful in other parts of the City, Youth Villages have not had the opportunity to be trialled in the Coalfield. The provision needs to be available to young people in the Coalfield area and its success monitored.

There is a need for more partnership work between schools and community groups – e.g. through signposting.

Lack of a clear understanding of what is available in the area and whether this is adequate/appropriate for the specific needs of young people.

### **Actions**

Youth Development Group to provide Youth Villages in the Coalfield area on Friday or/and Saturday evening. Effectiveness and success to be monitored and feedback given to Area Committee.

As part of the consultation for the new Youth Provider contracts, the Youth Development Group to provide information on what the current provision consists of (what, when, where)

Youth Development Group to advertise new ward based Youth Work contracts, and through the City Council's procurement process establish the Youth Work providers to operate from April 2010.

## **3 Prepare young people for adult life through encouragement and building of confidence**

### **Background/Key Issues**

Formal and non-formal learning, delivered in a range of settings including schools, youth clubs and centres provides the mechanism for making contact, building relationships, developing self esteem and raising aspirations amongst young people. Young people need to develop their confidence and be offered encouragement and support in order to prepare for their future.

### **Current Activity**

The Youth Opportunity and Capital Fund is a funding opportunity that offers young people aged 13 to 19 more control, choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. Young people are involved in both applying for grants and giving out grants to improve youth services and youth facilities in Sunderland. This method of allocating funds builds skills and confidence in young people.

A transition summer school is delivered by Houghton Kepier school to around 70 children from their feeder primaries. Staff, Year 11 pupils and Children's Centre staff provide support to the young people and their parents to ensure the transition from primary to secondary school is made as easy as possible.

The GO4IT project works with local schools and Connexions to provide targeted support to young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or at risk of becoming NEET.

Houghton Kepier school use an external organisation to provide opportunities to build confidence away from the school environment.

The first Junior Coalfield Forum event was held in July 2009. It was very successful with 40 children from 19 Coalfield schools involved. There will be an event each term where the children will put forward their views and ideas they have to improve their opportunities and area.

SAFC Foundation work with 13 primary schools in the Coalfield area to deliver a project which uses team games to compliment topics in the classroom. The programme is delivered one hour per week for 6 weeks in each school. 565 primary school pupils were engaged last year.

Education Business Connections (EBC) provide various programmes to raise aspirations and build confidence in young people. Delivery of key life skills such as teamwork, communication, working independently and enterprise are supported by local employers who provide an insight into working life.

Extended services have established young parents groups to provide support and guidance to young parents (up to age 20).

The City of Sunderland College offers a wide academic and vocational provision. A focus on self assessment, group activities, presentation, team building and interview skills aids confidence building and preparation for lifelong learning.

### **Gaps/Needs**

The GO4IT project funding will cease at the end of March 2010. Programmes have limited availability due to lack of funding.

Short term funding results in ad hoc delivery and lack of a strategic approach. Delivery of some programmes is dependent on individual organisations fund raising ability and client's ability to pay. This results in potential unequal service.

There is a lack of initiatives to tackle bullying in primary schools

### **Proposal**

**Review** anti bullying provision in schools and explore the need to extend anti-bullying programmes in primary schools in the Coalfield area.

**Review** future delivery of GO4IT positive activities work with young people. Connexions and Youth Development Group.

## **4 Raise aspirations of children/young people and their families**

### **Background/Key Issues**

Due to a range of factors, including the demise of local industry, the Coalfield area has families who are 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation unemployed. Lack of availability of local employment, and other economic issues have resulted in low aspirations which pass from parents to children and young people. There 20 schools in the Coalfield area (3 nursery, 15 primary and 2 secondary) and The City of Sunderland College, Shiney Row Centre. There are also three Children's Centres in the area.

### **Current Activity**

The extended Job Linkage service provides support for individuals in relation to training and employability. A Community Liaison Officer has been appointed for the Coalfield area to target and support vulnerable residents.

Education Business Connections (EBC) provide programmes including University visits, ACE days, ATTACK clubs, enterprise days and interschool competitions.

A pilot project around e-champions and e-mentoring, using business mentors, has been successfully delivered by EBC at Hetton School.

The 'Get Hooked' programme offered by Houghton Kieper School will work during the school year with parents and children in Year 6 at feeder primaries. The objective is to raise standards and confidence of children and parents/carers prior to them beginning secondary school in September 2010.

Connexions organise an annual event for year 6 pupils to take part in taster sessions and activities at Sunderland University in order to encourage them to think about further/higher education in the future.

Aimhigher is an initiative which is aimed at widening participation in UK higher education, particularly among students from non-traditional or low participation backgrounds, minority groups and disabled persons. Aimhigher is delivered by a wide range of partners including universities, colleges, schools, training providers and the Connexions service. It is currently funded through to the end of July 2011.

A range of adult and community learning courses are provided at the Hetton Centre and in Copt Hill through Age Concern. Courses are delivered during the day and include crafts, dancercise, IT and digital imagery.

Sunderland City Council's Family, Adult and Community learning service deliver a range of courses to improve confidence, build skills and knowledge and help people to develop healthier lifestyles. Some of the course that are currently available are detailed below.

## Courses in the Coalfield Area

Shiney Row, Houghton, Copt Hill and Hetton

<b>Arts and crafts</b>							
Code	Programme	Level	Duration	Day	Start date	End date	Venue
HC09P03-1	Crafts and Computing – Introduction	1	1pm - 3pm	Tuesday	15/09/09	01/12/09	Hetton Centre
<b>Health, alternative therapies, public services and childcare</b>							
HC09P04-1	Dancersize - Beginners	1	10am - 12noon	Tuesday	15/09/09	01/12/09	Hetton Centre
HC09P05-1	Emotional Well Being – Introduction	Entry – 1	10am - 12noon	Wednesday	16/09/09	02/12/09	Hetton Centre
<b>Information and communication technology</b>							
HC09P01-1	Computing - Beginners	1	10am - 12noon	Tuesday	15/09/09	01/12/09	Hetton Centre
HC09P02-1	Digital Imaging - Beginners	1	10am - 12noon	Thursday	17/09/09	03/12/09	Hetton Centre
AC09S12-1	Silver Surfers – A Taste of IT.	Pre-Entry	10am - 12noon	Thursday	24/09/09	22/10/09	Houghton Library N.B Contact Age Concern
<b>History</b>							
AC09P06-1	Family Tree Online	Entry	10am - 12noon	Thursday	05/11/09	11/02/10	Houghton Library N.B Contact Age Concern

'Turning Point' has secured funding through Family, Adult and Community Learning. The project will be based in a community location in the Coalfields area and will target unemployed adults who misuse drugs and/or alcohol and who live in the 'Coalfields Corridor' from Penshaw to Easington Lane. In addition to the focus on employment, the courses on offer will include, How to be a Good Tenant and How to better understand the negative effects of Substance Misuse (both in terms of their physical health and the community they live in).

Family Learning currently has a Small Steps, Giant Jumps dance and movement course at Hetton Lyons Nursery and a Little Movers, Big Thinkers course at Hetton Lyons Primary.

The Family Learning Festival in October 09 has a planned Tree and Bark Art session at Hetton Centre and for Dads and Lads, a Mask Making session at Dubmire Primary School.

SAFC will be offering Family Learning Football Coaching courses in the area during 2009-2010.

Extended services Buddying Project is showing good practice of parental engagement between nursery school and voluntary childcare.

The City of Sunderland College has school liaison officers who go into schools to discuss further education options. A transition tutor from Hetton School spends an allocated time each week ensuring that pupils from Hetton School are progressing well at college. A programme of Aimhigher activities take place throughout the year.

### **Gaps/Needs**

- Lack of sustainable funding to deliver successful 'pilot' programmes
- There is a shortage of providers who are able to deliver family learning opportunities

### **Proposals**

**Review** - FACL to identify and support the development of new providers of family learning

## **5 Raise attainment levels and skills of young people**

### **Background/Key Issues**

Attainment levels at Key Stage 2 are slightly below the City average. 79% of children achieved KS2 level 4 in English (81% City) and 78% in maths which is the same as the City average. At Key Stage 4 57% of pupils achieved 5+ A\*-C GCSEs (64% City). The College, including the Headways Sixth Form Centre has an improving 3 year trend in its pass rates for 16-19 learners from 81% in 2006/07 to 93% in 2008/09. The levels of residents over 16 with no qualifications is higher in Hetton and Houghton than the City average.

### **Current Activity**

The National Curriculum has been revised to give schools greater flexibility to tailor learning to their learners' needs, there is less prescribed subject content in the new programmes of study. Pupils will still be taught essential subject knowledge. However, the new curriculum balances subject knowledge with the key concepts and processes that underlie the discipline of each subject.

A Behaviour and Attendance strategy is being developed by Sunderland City Council. The strategy, due to be finalised in January 2010, will support pupil behaviour and school attendance to raise educational attainment.

The City of Sunderland College in partnership with Sunderland City Council introduced a new sixth form structure and strategies such as 'right student, right course'. This has led to improved pass rates.

Connexions Personal Advisers work with young people in schools and colleges to raise aspirations and skills. Staff work with an identified caseload of young people to provide continuity of support. The Team Leader for the Coalfield area is Paul Wilson.

Partnership Agreements have been reached between Houghton Connexions and Hetton School and Houghton Kepier School. These Agreements outline joint working to support pupils from Year 7 onwards. Connexions staff have a dedicated office space within each school where they can meet with young people.

City of Sunderland College has a site at Shiney Row and also delivers learning at Easington Lane and three primary schools in the area .

Connexions and School Inclusion Staff undertake home visits for those not attending school to reduce the possibility of young people becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

## **6 More support for 14-19 year olds regarding employability skills**

### **Background/Key Issues**

The Coalfield area has the lowest level of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), 185 young people are NEET. Over the past three years the numbers have reduced by 7%, with the Coalfield being the only area of the City where there has been an improvement on previous year's figures. This suggests that young people are engaged in education or training programmes, however there is a gap around providing young people with the skills and support they need to gain employment.

### **Current Activity**

Starting in October 2009 SAFC Foundation, in partnership with Job Centre Plus, is running a series of 10 week courses with participants gaining accreditation, increasing employability skills and progressing into employment (with the Foundation or other employer).

Connexions is based in Houghton Town Centre and provides a focal point for young people where they can access a wide range of services and opportunities. Connexions also use various providers, such as Job Linkage, Streetz and Community Access Points, to provide a multi agency response to needs of young people.

Connexions advisers each have a NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) caseload. Each young person's situation is reviewed and attempts are made to contact them every 4 weeks. Individual support, on intensive job search and personal development activities, is given. The Youth Development Group support Connexions in their Houghton Job Club which takes place each Wednesday 1-3 p.m.

The Job Linkage service has been expanded to ensure that the support for individuals to move from unemployment into work is tailored to the specific needs of the Coalfield area

Limited range of work experience opportunities for all Year 11 pupils in all schools. Links with learning providers such as Springboard are made for learners with additional needs.

There is a network of 13 Citywide providers who between them deliver 80% of work based learning programmes in Sunderland, including apprenticeships, Entry to Employment and Train to Gain. Only one provider, Springboard, is based in the Coalfield. However,

programmes are offered across all areas and not only in the area where providers are located.

TWEBLO (Tyne & Wear Education Business Links Organisation) co-ordinate and facilitate work related learning to young people at school. Projects include Business Ambassadors, Interview Skills, Enterprise and Work Experience.

### **Gaps/Needs**

There needs to be a wider range of work experience opportunities made available to young people.

Opportunities to access alternative support (such as employability skills in partnership with Springboard) needs to be available to mainstream learners.

There is a lack of employer led apprenticeships. This hinders progression from from level one and two training up to full qualification level.

### **Proposals**

**Escalate to LSP** - review apprenticeship opportunities. Greater public sector commitment to the creation of more full apprenticeships is required - Either by providing apprenticeships within statutory sector organisations or providing financial incentives to other employers.

## **7 Address issues around lack of public transport in some areas**

### **Background/Key Issues**

The lack of adequate public transport provision in parts of the Coalfield area can prevent local people accessing learning opportunities.

### **Current Activity**

Children's Centres provide community transport for service users

ELCAP run a Community Transport scheme