

Sunderland North LEARNING Theme

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 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. The service is also delivered at satellite points across the North at Monkwearmouth School, Redhouse Youthies, SNYP and Castleviev Youthies.
- Football Friday delivered by SAFC Foundation is delivered 48 weeks of the year. Activities include sport, arts and crafts, learn to drive and baby:think it over. The police attend the sessions to break down barriers.
- SAFC Foundation deliver a music project which is delivered 3 hours per week and works towards Art Award Bronze accreditation.
- Street Cheer offers dance sessions to young people
- SAFC Foundation offer day time sessions within schools to include anger management and PE curriculum
- Sunderland City Council Extended Services subsidy for economically and socially disadvantaged children and young people is being piloted in the Redhill cluster of schools to increase out of school hours activities.
- Connexions have a team who work in the North to support young people in schools, college, work based learning and those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). More intensive support is offered in all three North secondary schools by specialist advisers for pupils with learning disabilities and difficulties and those at risk of disengaging from learning.
- The Salvation Army run a Connect Course at Austin House in Southwick. This provides life skills training and employability courses.
- Springboard and Riverside Training offer Entry to Employment programmes to develop personal, social, vocational, literacy and numeracy skills
- Springboard and Riverside Training offer alternative education programmes for those at risk of disengagement from mainstream learning
- SNCBC operate the GO4IT project, an alternative education programme commissioned by the Youth Development Group.
- Support is available at the Bridge Connect course operating from the Bunny Hill Centre for pregnant teenagers and young mums.
- Sunderland City Council and national charity Youth at Risk are delivering The Community Transformation Programme, which will work with over 200 young people in North Sunderland over the next 18 months (from October 2009). Each young person will have a performance coach who will offer one to one support. Each cohort of young people will engage in the programme for six months.
- City of Sunderland College provides a comprehensive range of student services including financial support for travel and childcare.
- City of Sunderland College tutorial sessions for 16-19 year olds cover issues such as drug and alcohol awareness, tackling bullying, sexual health, human rights and cultural diversity.
- Young people at City of Sunderland College have citizenship activities built in to their programmes of work which help develop a sense of community.

- For those young people, of any age, who experience multiple difficulties Connexions staff attend the North Area Targeted Youth Support Panel which provides multi-agency support for young people.
- From March 2009 all carers have been given access to training around substance misuse
- Childrens Services will work to identify hidden young carers to ensure that they can access the support they need.
- The 'Tackle It' programme delivered by SAFC Foundation includes anti-bullying, substance misuse and work with young offenders. Anti bullying and anger management is delivered to Year 5 pupils. The project consists of classroom work and practical and outdoor physical activities and in the last year has been delivered to Castletown Primary School and Town End Farm Primary School.

Gaps/Needs

There is a need to provide more programmes to tackle issues around bullying in primary schools

Proposal

Review anti bullying provision in schools and explore extending anti-bullying programmes in primary schools in the North.

2 Specialist and generalist youth provision to be available in all wards in the North area

Background/Key Issues

The geographical spread of commissioned youth provision is unequal across the North Area. Support for young people needs to be equitable in all wards. Some of the youth villages and mobile youth facilities are proving effective in reducing youth disorder.

Current Activity

- All commissioned youth work is being reviewed by the Youth Development Group (Sunderland City Council). Future contracts will be ward based. New youth commissioned contracts commence April 2010.
- Mobile youth village (Youth Development Group) now being delivered on Friday evenings at Castletown and Saturday evenings at Cliff Park, Seaburn. A range of activities such as football cage, dance workshops and climbing wall are available. The location changes every 10 weeks (depending on area of need)
- A variety of generic youth provision is being delivered by SNCBC across all wards in the North Sunderland area.
- Girls football team after school during term time (SAFC Foundation).
- Youth Development Group and Redhouse Academy developing dedicated youth provision on Friday and Saturday evenings. Should be open October/November.
- Gentoo staff promote local activities in partnership with youth providers
- Kickz project (SAFC Foundation) delivers a wide range of youth provision three nights a week, 48 weeks of the year at the Seaburn Centre. The Football Friday programme is a successful, well attended provision and also includes half term courses, summer courses and residential.

Gaps/Needs

- Lack of mobile provision (e.g. Youth Villages) during weekdays and holidays
- Insufficient activity in some areas
- Lack of dedicated youth provision/activity in Fulwell and St Peter's wards
- Centre based activities concentrated around a small number of venues
- Facilities such as school playing fields and MUGAs are under utilised out of hours. More partnership working or sharing of facilities should be explored. Young people are being brought from schools football clubs to use XL villages facilities

Actions

- Youth Development Group to provide Area Committee with information regarding current youth provision e.g. what, when, who, where.
- Youth Development Group to consult with Area Committee regarding specification for future ward based commissioned youth provision.
- Youth Development Group to update Area Committee with regard to mobile youth provision.

Proposals

- **Review** current policy for community use of school facilities outside of school hours.
- **Review** the use of underutilised youth and sports facilities e.g. North Community Sports Centre (City Services – sports development and community development)

3 Raise aspirations of children/young people and their families

Background/Key Issues

Sunderland North has the second highest level of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). Castle ward has the second highest of all wards in the City at 75 young people. Due to a range of factors, including the demise of local industry, the North area has families who are 2nd or 3rd 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. The working age population in Sunderland North aren't as well qualified than those in other areas of the City. 39.2% of residents have no qualifications compared to a city average of 36.9%. the levels of residents with no qualifications is particularly high in the following wards; Castle (43.5%), Redhill (47%) and Southwick (47.7%).

Current Activity

- EBC deliver 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'.
- Springboard works with Red House Academy specifically with young people in the Inclusion Unit. Building relationships throughout the year with reciprocal visits in order to build their confidence supporting transition to further learning and to minimise drop out
- Sunderland City Council's Family, Adult, and Community Learning (FACL) provides a range of courses through various providers to improve confidence and build skills and knowledge.
- 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 is 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.
- FACL service are delivering learning programmes such as arts and crafts, health and wellbeing, enterprise programmes and introduction to food safety in Downhill, Southwick, Town End Farm and Redhill.
- Connexions deliver primary events to encourage younger pupils to consider staying in learning when they are older. Southwick Primary School was involved this year.
- Out of the 17 Children's Centres across the City, there are three in the area located in Sunderland North at Bunny Hill, Southwick and St Peters.
- City of Sunderland College deliver family learning in 7 primary schools across the North area.

- The extended Job Linkage service provides support for individuals in relation to training and employability. A Community Liaison Officer has been appointed for the North area to target and support vulnerable residents.
- Springboard run the HUB project from Roker Avenue a Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) funded programme of supported apprenticeships and intermediate labour market programmes for young people in the NEET group.
- By March 2010 a report will be produced by FACL to identify what learning opportunities carers would like to see available.
- Family learning involving parents/carers and children is delivered by City of Sunderland College in 7 primary, and 3 secondary, schools in the North area. Learning is also delivered in community venues enabling easy access to learning opportunities.
- Education Business Partnership events run from the three North secondary schools, such as challenge days, enterprise activities and mock interviews delivered by real employers.
- SAFC Foundation works with young people and their families and in the last year has engaged 203 families in 21 courses across Sunderland. 34% of adult participants were male, which compares to the national average of just 11%.
- City of Sunderland Collge works closely with partner schools, both primary, secondary and special, with a view to improving transition arrangements for young people coming into college. This includes a range of activities including Buddy Days, open days, parent/carer and young person events, joint activities and cross-organisation timetables (where some lessons are partly delivered in schools and partly in college with staff from both teams teaching the learners). The aim of which is to widen horizons and ensure all young people are able to see college as a realistic option.

Gaps/Needs

- Lack of core funding for family and community learning, resulting 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 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

The Family Learning Team at SAFC Foundation will work with FACL to develop an innovative signposting programme that will allow learners to further progress.

Proposals

Review current FACL provision including contracting arrangements, learning providers, type of courses available, times and venues.

4 Raise attainment levels and skills of young people

Background/Key Issues

There are 22 schools in the Sunderland North Area (1 nursery, 18 primary and 3 secondary). The City of Sunderland College have sites at Hylton Skills Campus and St Peter's Sixth Form. In Sunderland North attainment levels at Key Stage 2 are slightly less than the City average. At Key Stage 4 59% of pupils achieved 5+ A-C compared to 64% city wide and 34% achieved 5+ A-C including English and Maths compared to 43% city wide. The recession has hit young people in terms of employment opportunities more severely than adults. Those in most difficulty are young people with low levels of attainment.

Current Activity

- Partnership agreements exist between Connexions and the three secondary schools in the area. The agreements outline joint working and pupils are supported from year 9 onwards, receiving impartial information, advice and guidance on a range of subjects such as option choices, employability skills, training opportunities, college courses and progression routes.
- Support is offered by Connexions to young people who are over compulsory school age and attend St Peter's Sixth Form and Hylton Skills Campus. Learners undertaking vocational training at Springboard in Roker Avenue, ITeC and Riverside Training are also supported by Connexions advisers.
- Young people who are NEET are tracked and offered support by Personal Advisers who make contact with the young person at least once a month to encourage them to take part in education, training and employment. Local opportunities include Apprenticeships at ITeC, Entry 2 Employment at Riverside Training and Springboard Roker Avenue.
- All learners with training providers work to an individual learning plan to ensure progression with frequent reviews built in to monitor progress.
- All learners at City of Sunderland College work to an Individual Learning Plan to ensure personal progression. In addition to the two main college sites in the North, learning also takes place at the Academy of Light, Bunny Hill Centre, Salvation Army and 7 primary schools.
- Maths and English are embedded within all learning programmes delivered to young people at City of Sunderland College.
- Regular progress reviews ensure that there is early intervention for any City of Sunderland College students identified 'at risk' of falling below expected standards of attainment.
- Sunderland City Provider Network has 13 Citywide providers who between them deliver approximately 80% of work based learning programmes in Sunderland, including apprenticeships, Entry to Employment and Train to Gain. Springboard, ITec and Riverside Training are based in the North. However, programmes are offered across all areas and not only in the area where providers are located.
- SAFC Foundation Kickz programme has successfully supported young people to gain accreditation, become peer mentors, progress to further education, training or employment and improve their motivation and aspirations.
- SAFC Foundation runs a trainee scheme for young people 16-18 and has further job opportunities for young people 19-24 years through Future Jobs Fund.
- City of Sunderland College provide a full range of vocational courses in construction, engineering, motor vehicle, health & beauty, catering & hospitality, health & social care and sport.
- From September 2009 City of Sunderland College have been involved in the delivery of all 10 new 14-19 Diplomas.
- Working closely with Connexions City of Sunderland College makes available mid year entry points to study which enables young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET access full or part time education at various points in the year rather than having to wait until a traditional September intake.

Gaps/Needs

- There is a lack of employer led apprenticeships which hinders progression from level one and two training up to full qualification level.
- Young people need sustained, full time, permanent apprenticeships. Those not capable of entering an apprenticeship should be offered long term support, including employer engagement to provide work tasters.

Proposal

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.