

## **West Sunderland Area Committee**

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **Feedback on 'Question to Area Committee', 10 September 2009**

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

- 1.1** At the meeting of the West Area Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> September a question was asked by the Young Asian Voices project (YAV):  
' In the Barnes Park and Eden Vale area there are a lack of facilities for young people to use at evenings and weekends and that schools are not supportive in letting the local young people use their facilities. It was nearly three years since an enquiry had been made for something to be provided in the area, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Why are these young people still on the streets and schools in the area could not be opened up so they could use the facilities'?
- 1.2** The Head of the Youth Development Group responded to the question advising that the recently appointed School Cluster Manager for the area can assist by liaising with schools to develop community use of their facilities. This includes exploring caretaking and letting arrangements, often seen as a barrier to community use.  
In addition, a mobile youth facility was being developed that could target specific hot spots, groups or areas of need.
- 1.3** To further consider the issues raised by the question, the Area Lead Executive for the West arranged a meeting of officers to consider the issues and to explore solutions both in the immediate and longer term. Four main areas were identified for further consideration:
- How to unblock the issue of use of schools and perceived high charges for use of school facilities;
  - What other community facilities are available (Council and others);
  - Suggested non-attendance of detached youth workers at agreed sessions (this position was resolved at the meeting and it was confirmed this was an initial difficulty at the start of a project and current Quality Assurance arrangements are robust);
  - Particular issue with regard to the Eden Vale/Barnes area and particularly provision for BME young people.
- 1.4** Following the initial meeting, two further meetings were held with officers and partners particularly to consider the last bullet point

##### **2. Immediate Issues**

- 2.1** Police have identified their view of the position in the Eden Vale/Barnes area and noted their concern that the temporary closure of Barnes Park may well exacerbate the problem.

**2.2** There are three differing age groups of mostly Asian young people that the police identify in the Eden Vale area of the City. Although they don't live in these streets they feel comfortable in this area and are not keen to move any great distance. The police suggest that although the youths are loud, they are generally not doing anything wrong.

**2.3** Groups of mainly white youths currently congregate in Barnes Park which is due to close.

**2.4** Significant level of residents' complaints and activity are being coordinated through the Diversity and Inclusion Team with the mediation service Unite's involvement.

### **3. Current situation**

**3.1** Current YAV provision for Boys 12-19:

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
		<b>Sans St YCC</b> <b>5.30pm – 8.00pm</b> Includes sports facilities		<b>Burn Park Church</b> <b>6.30pm – 9.00pm</b> No football or physical activity		<b>SAFC Academy (Crowtree)</b> <b>12.30pm – 3.00pm</b> Includes sports facilities

**3.2** In addition to the YAV provision there is also some cross over with A690 Youth Project's provision funded through SIB and including the Eden Vale/Barnes Area. When this is added the overall provision is as described below:

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
		<b>Sans St YCC</b> <b>5.30pm – 8.00pm</b> Includes sports facilities	<b>Caged Football (Mineral Line)</b> <b>7.00pm – 9.00pm</b>	<b>Burn Park Church</b> <b>6.30pm – 9.00pm</b> No football or physical activity	<b>Detached Youth Work</b> <b>6.00pm – 8.00pm</b> Provides link to other services	<b>SAFC Academy (Crowtree)</b> <b>12.30pm – 3.00pm</b> Includes sports facilities

### **4. Additional provision**

**4.1** Young people have identified their requirements as more sports related activities

**4.2** YAV have identified their wish to reinstate the former provision which included sporting facilities on a Tuesday

## **5. Use of sports facilities**

**5.1** Although other facilities were considered it was concluded that the best opportunity to offer additional sporting facilities in the area was through Thornhill School, with Crowtree as a second option, however transport could be an issue.

**5.2** In considering the use of Thornhill School, some mis-information has been shared in the past with the result that there is an incorrect view of the current situation.

**5.3** It is suggested that SAFC Foundation have free and continuous use of sports facilities at the same time that costs are proving prohibitive for YAV. The actual position is that the PE department of the school have commissioned SAFC Foundation to deliver an extended PE curriculum for their own pupils to ensure the school complies with the Physical Education School Sport Club Links strategy (PESSCL).

**5.4** YAV have not previously paid for sessions. The last sessions were funded by a minimal LMAPS contribution based on negotiations between police and school. This provided an overall donation rather than covering a sessional cost.

**5.5** Current suggested charges for facilities have been confirmed as reasonable by Extended Services Team.

## **6. Proposals**

**6.1** In the past YAV has accessed two gyms (£25 per gym) and the Sir Tom Cowie Suite (£62.50). Based on the feedback from young people it is proposed that an option to use two gyms only be pursued.

**6.2** In the immediate term (now to end December), Extended Services have negotiated a rate of £95 for the two gyms per session, this will commence on 6 October. These sessions will be funded from the Extended Services Cluster Development budget.

**6.3** This will allow time for officers and partners to pursue longer term solutions to both availability of provision and funding.

## **7. Recommendation**

**7.1** To note the contents of the report.

**7.2** To receive a further report at the January Area Committee meeting on longer term solutions for provision and funding.