

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 January 2010

COMMISSIONING OF YOUTH WORK

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Learning City, Safe City and Attractive and Inclusive City of Sunderland Council.

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY: Delivering Customer Focused Services, Efficient and Effective Council.

1. Why has this Report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To update the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee with regard to the Commissioning of Youth Work provision from 2010 to 2013 to the value of £2.25m.
- 1.2 The new strategy has been agreed by Cabinet after extensive consultations with Young People, Elected Members, Practitioners, Members of the Local Community and the Voluntary Sector.

2. Background

- 2.1 The commissioning strategy is part of a three part model that ensures the delivery of universal, targeted and specialist youth provision in the following strands:
 - Commissioning local neighbourhood youth provision in all wards across the City in partnership with local voluntary sector youth projects.
 - Direct delivery of specialist and City wide projects, for example, Youth Parliament, City Equals, Youth Opportunity Funds, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Youth Information Shop, Music Workshops, Young Community Leaders Courses and social inclusion clubs.
 - The management and delivery of mobile youth provision including XL Youth Village Events at weekends and the planned new mobile service for weekdays.
- 2.2 Sunderland City Council has been delivering universal neighbourhood youth work throughout the city using the Council's Commissioning of Youth Work Strategy 2005 – 2010 that has led to the current success in exceeding national and local targets in all of the contracts with the exception of one that was decommissioned.

- 2.2 Table one: City-wide 'Resourcing Excellent Youth Service' (REYS) Targets comparison of actual figures reached.

	07/08 actual figures	08/09 REYS target	08/09 actual figures
Contact	12996	6644	14719
Participation	6111	3986	6353
Recorded	3792	2392	3827
Accredited	1668	1196	1804

- 2.4 The new Commissioning of Youth Work Strategy for 2010 – 2013 has taken into account all learning and experience gained from the past five years. It reflects the wider vision of integrated youth services across the city and fits with the Children's Trust framework for the effective and consistent commissioning of services.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Consultations and workshops have taken place in each area with Elected Members, to consider local and area profiles. This exercise provided Elected Members with the opportunity to inform and design contract specifications and performance indicators based on local and ward information for their wards and areas.
- 3.2 In accordance with Children's Services Commissioning policy, we have completed service evaluations and performance reviews of youth work provision and completed a comprehensive needs analysis.
- 3.3 As part of the process of evaluation and consultation, young people participated in needs assessment events across every area of the City.
- 3.4 In accordance with the Council's Procurement Framework, an open tendering process will be carried out as part of the commissioning cycle to identify the most appropriate organisations to deliver youth services in each ward across the city.
- 3.5 If following the tendering process suitable providers have not been identified in any area, it is the intention of Children's Services to then manage the delivery 'in house'. Services would then be available, via a range of mobile and centre based provision in partnership with key stakeholders and organisations within the area.
- 3.6 It is envisaged this will lead to a more flexible approach to the strategy and the creation of a 'mixed economy' that enables best value and modes of delivery that meet the needs of each particular area.
- 3.7 The successful providers will have their provision reviewed annually, as part of the contract service specification which sets out the performance targets. If

these performance targets are met, contracts will be renewed annually for the three year period.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Commissioning Strategy aims to provide methods of delivery that are flexible to the needs of young people and the communities in which they live and which will further enhance the current high levels of ward based services
- 4.2 The new contracts will allow and encourage greater flexibility in ways of delivery as the service specification requires different approaches to meet changing needs of young people. This includes the expectation to deliver on Friday nights, weekends and during school holidays at times and in venues that are safe and offer excellent quality youth work programmes that have positive outcomes for young people.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 To consider and support the commissioning of youth work services within the five regeneration areas for a three year period from 2010 to 2013.

7 Background Papers

- Aiming High for Young People – a ten year strategy for positive activities
 - Children's Act 2004
 - Children's Trust Commissioning Handbook
 - Corporate Strategic Service Improvement Framework
 - Commissioning of Youth Work Strategy 2005-2010
 - Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2013
 - PSA Delivery Agreement 14: Increase the number of children and young people on the path of success
 - Youth Matters: Next Steps – Something to do, somewhere to go, someone to talk to
- 7.2 Details of how to access any of the above background papers can be made by contacting the Contact Officer.

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