

At an Extraordinary meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE MULTI PURPOSE CENTRE on MONDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, G. Miller, D. Snowdon, D. E. Snowdon, Thompson, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

Mike Poulter	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Sandra Mitchell	-	Children's Services
Jim Kennedy	-	Children's Services
Tracy Hassan	-	Children's Services
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fletcher, Padgett and D.Trueman. Neil Revely and Phil McAloon.

Declarations of Interest

Item 02 – Review of Provision of Activities of Youth Services for Young People

Councillor Farthing declared an interest as a volunteer on the Board of Trustees for Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

Councillor George Thompson declared an interest as a Member of the Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

Councillor Williams declared an interest as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

Review of Provision of Activities of Youth Services for Young People

The Executive Director of Children's Services provided a powerpoint presentation (copy circulated) Tracey Hassan introduced the presentation which provided the committee with the recommendations from the People Board on the commissioning of youth services in the area.

(For copy of presentation – see original minutes)

Tracy Hassan, Commissioning Lead, advised that the Consultation had been undertaken between June and September 2012 to seek views on youth provision and activities for young people in the city. The Area Committees People Board had been consulted on the provision within their area of the city. The People Board had been asked a set of three questions and the draft service outcomes and draft service specifications had been given consideration. A set of recommendations for the Area Committee had been developed and approval of these recommendations was being sought at this extraordinary meeting.

Ms Hassan also advised that the age ranges had been extended from 13 – 19 years to 11 – 19 years, plus services for 8 – 10 year olds.

The three questions for the Board to consider were:-

- i) Are there any additional outcomes to add to the draft Outcomes Framework?
- ii) Are there any specific needs within the area which have not been addressed in the draft Service Specification; and
- iii) Are there any questions Members wish to have included as part of the evaluation criteria to support the award of the youth contract?

The Chairman proposed that the Committee look at each question and consider the recommendations to be agreed in stages rather than discuss all questions together.

Additional Outcomes to add to the draft Outcomes Framework

Councillor Kelly raised concerns that due to the public health responsibilities being transferred over to the Local Authority again that there could be a level of duplication occurring.

Ms Hassan assured Members that they were looking at the situation and that any proposed activities would need to be complimentary to the current provision which would be robustly monitored.

Sandra Mitchell, Head of Early Intervention and Locality Services advised that some providers may signpost to other services.

Councillor Kelly wished to stress the need to be aware that there would be groups out there which would need to be reached.

1. RESOLVED that the Committee considered the inclusion of additional outcomes as part of the Outcomes Framework to :-
 - i) include health related issues and safety awareness to include bullying and domestic violence – also drugs, alcohol and sexual health issue (raised by young people at the State of the Area Debate); and
 - ii) Increase skills and confidence, helping young people to be job ready

Specific needs within the area which have not been addressed in the draft Service Specification

Councillor Farthing commented that there needed to be a link to local culture and history as it was important to build on the good work being done by our schools.

Ms Hassan advised that they would be able to include a link to heritage in the proposals.

Councillor G. Miller raised concerns that the list was very complex, which he felt may limit the number of providers applying. Councillor Miller also commented that he was not certain this process would give us everything we needed but he looked forward to seeing how the team would manage and monitor the works.

Councillor Kelly commented that he totally agreed with the recommendation not to introduce a charge for sessions but raised a concern that, as money was tight, charities and the lottery commission were not willing to fund projects which they believed to be the Local Authority's responsibility and this would need to be taken into consideration.

Councillor Kelly also commented that he shared Councillor G. Miller's concerns that we may have difficulty in monitoring the provision and there needed to be a mechanism in place to do so.

Ms Hassan advised that they did have detailed documents which would be produced on the Provider days, which would help support providers as a 'top layer' with a more detailed programme behind it.

Councillor Kelly cautioned that if we were setting up something which depended on funding being brought in, that he did not want to see the whole project fail, should the funding not be obtained.

The Chairman agreed with Councillor Kelly but commented that we were all facing cuts and the need to be more robust.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee considered the inclusion of the following specific requirements of the area which had not already been addressed in the draft service specification for both 8-10 and 11-19 year olds provision:-

- i) The partnership section should look to include Faith groups, schools, community centres, health based projects and services, uniformed groups;
- ii) Providers would be encouraged to raise additional funding to provide additional/new activities giving added value to the contract;
- iii) Providers would be encouraged to work with other service providers and local organisations to avoid duplication of services;
- iv) Transition in relation to the different age groups and moves to and between the different provision/ services to be addressed;
- v) The Committee was not in favour of charging for provision therefore this would be removed from the service specification;
- vi) Provision should include a wide range of services and link with local amenities and make good use of outdoor spaces to promote and link in with the areas heritage and culture;
- vii) The service provided needs to be attractive to young people and advertised/promoted in an appropriate way;
- viii) Signposting and referrals to other youth provision and specialist services is important (for harder to reach children);
- ix) Inspection and quality assurance is important to ensure young people are getting the best possible support.

Options for delivery

Councillor G. Miller commented that he was pleased to see the age range changed to include 11 -19 year olds and was delighted we would now have a flexible approach, therefore he was happy to proceed with any of the three options available once we had the providers on board.

Councillor Kelly commented that the two sessions and the third banked session, if used for the whole of Washington, would offer a flexibility to support the area and he was also pleased to see the age range had been changed to 11 -19 year olds.

Councillor Walker enquired as to how the mechanism for choosing and managing the banked sessions would operate.

Ms Hassan advised that the process would be supported with intelligence from our Intel hub and supported by the Community Profiles.

Councillor Walker stressed that the youths would need a level of stability and to know that activities were going to be held consistently.

Councillor Farthing commented that she felt it was not clear as to holiday provision and if there would be any for the 8-10 age group. Councillor Farthing stressed that

provision for this group was needed to entertain during the school holidays to deter Anti Social Behaviour.

The Chairman advised that there was an additional session for 8 – 10 year olds to be included with the provision.

Ms Mitchell advised that should Members wish to enhance provision, that would be over and above the contracted provision but there was a finite budget to deliver the new contracts and the proposals presented made the best use of the resources available.

Councillor Thompson commented that he was really pleased to see the age range extended as it was important to engage with youths at an early age and raised concerns over the third option of banked sessions as the process may become rather 'messy' when moving sessions around the area should there be five different providers for each ward. Councillor Thompson also commented that he liked the option of having school holiday provision but was not keen on the idea of moving provision around.

Councillor Williams commented that we did only hit a small number of people with the youth work and an even smaller number of 8 -10 year olds. Councillor Williams believed there may be an issue if five different providers were awarded the contracts but this would be something that needed to be addressed as a Committee and she felt the two sessions plus a banked session offered the most flexibility.

Councillor Williams also commented that LMAPS would highlight where any issues were occurring to help us to work together as we needed to be more careful with our money.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he felt the banked session was clouding the issue and would prefer to have three sessions and hope there would be scope for others.

Councillor Kelly commented that he did not believe we would have five different providers for each Ward and that he would prefer one provider bringing two sessions with a banked session also. Councillor Kelly also commented that he would be delighted to see two dedicated sessions in his Ward.

Councillor F. Miller enquired as to the performance indicators and what would happen if the provision wasn't working in a Ward.

The Chairman advised that the provision had to be flexible so that if something wasn't working, it could be looked at and changed if necessary.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon commented that she would prefer the banked sessions and that it would be up to the Committee how to manage them using the Intel hubs as it would be nice to have a level of flexibility to deal with issues.

Jim Kennedy, Area Youth Lead (Washington) advised that the Committee would also have the XL Youth Village provision to call upon.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that the contract needed to be as flexible as possible to tackle those areas not yet reached and find those people that do not use the provision.

Councillor H. Trueman suggested that maybe they could combine the three options into something different.

Ms Hassan advised that these proposals would be part of a bigger picture and they were attempting to pull together a bigger directory, building in other sources to top up the contract but a decision was needed on the three possible options presented at the meeting to proceed to the tendering process.

Councillor Walker commented that providing two well structured sessions would still be good and Option 3 would give a level of flexibility.

Having been put to the vote, with 8 members in favour of Option 3, It was:-

3. RESOLVED that the delivery be 2 sessions 11-19 and 'bank' 3rd session to use to address additional needs across the ward or locality including school holidays plus 1 session for 8-10 (year round but flexible days/hours within the holiday periods).

The Committee then agreed the recommendations made by the Washington People Board to include the following additional questions/statements within the evaluation criteria used when awarding youth contracts:-

- i) How would you address centre based issues e.g. delivery in outdoor spaces or the deployment of detached youth work given there may be issues in some wards with regard to suitable bases and/or centre based activity?
- ii) For those young people who do not actively engage in youth provision, how would you ensure a creative approach to engagement and communication?
- iii) How would you provide a wide and varied range of activities demonstrating effective partnerships, use of existing locations and pooling of resources to support choice and value for money?
- iv) The area profile indicates the need to address emotional health and well being. How would you support this in your delivery?
- v) Flexibility is required to respond to additional identified needs. How would you determine and inform consideration as to how the flexible resource should be deployed?

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.