

23rd APRIL 2012

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES

INFLUENCING PRACTICE, POLICY AND STRATEGY

PROVISION OF XL VILLAGE YOUTH ACTIVITY

1.0 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 This report provides information on the current position in relation to the XL Youth Village provision both citywide and specifically in East Sunderland. It highlights proposals for amendment to the delivery model in order to provide better value for money and seeks approval for the intended Summer sites as proposed by the East Youth Task and Finish Group.

1.0 Background

- 2.1 The Sunderland Fear of Crime Survey (March 2008) found that the 5th most important priority for residents to feeling safer was 'more activities/facilities for young people'. For the last four years, the survey has also found residents greatest perceived problem was young people "hanging around". Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPs), regularly identify tackling youth disorder as a top priority, particularly relating to the consumption of alcohol. Additionally there is an increasing awareness of the public's concern regarding young people in local neighbourhoods being involved in anti social behaviour especially at weekends and a commitment by the Council to provide more 'things to do' for young people at weekends to address this.
- 2.2 Sunderland's 'Positive Activities for Young People' pilot in 2008 was established in response to the Governments '**Aiming High Strategy**': to engage young people in constructive activities in their leisure time. As part of this the Youth Development Group developed a pilot project with the voluntary sector to engage young people into positive youth work activities at weekends and deter them from anti social behaviour. This was a pilot concept of the XL Youth Village and was delivered in the West area from July to September 2008 in partnership with A690 Youth Initiative. The project was an overwhelming success engaging over 200 young people every Friday and Saturday night in areas which had had high levels of youths causing annoyance. The pilot delivered a police reported 34.4% decrease in youth disorder, compared to the same period the previous year, with a major impact on minimising alcohol consumption of young people and encouraging community cohesion.
- 1.1 Following the success of the pilot, Sunderland City Council created Sunderland XL programme, employing its own team of youth workers to deliver the project. The provision engages young people at weekends, and complements existing provision/facilities. The programme was developed in partnership with Gentoo, Northumbria Police, A690 Youth Initiative, Northumbria Water and Nike who provided equipment, uniform, staffing support and resources. These partners remain involved with the programme and are part of the City Wide Steering Group.
- 1.2 The XL Village model has been recognised locally, regionally and nationally as a model of good practice both for the extent of partnership working and the innovative approach to youth engagement. Most recently it was the winner in the Partnership Category at the Regional Youth Work Awards in March.

- 1.3 The XL Youth Village aims to provide:
- Highly visible, safe and attractive places for young people to go in their leisure time, where they can get involved in a wide range of positive activities.
 - More young people having the opportunity to participate in activities that support their personal and social development and achieve positive outcomes.
 - More young people with access to Information Advice and Support from places they feel comfortable.
 - A reduction in young people being involved in anti- social behaviour.
 - Health advice, including sexual health screening and drug and alcohol issue based work.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 The Youth Development Group currently delivers XL Youth Villages working in partnership with A690 Youth Initiative. The model has offered provision of 110 Summer youth villages, and 50 Winter youth villages - a total of 160 youth villages per annum offered City wide. This in addition to the 3 ward based youth sessions which take place each week and the additional provision in school holidays and for 8-12 year olds which has recently been agreed with voluntary sector providers.
- 3.2 The XL project is currently governed by a City Wide Steering Group which meets to discuss the overarching project City wide and the model of delivery. Five operational groups, one in each area of the City, determine at a local level, where to site the youth villages. These groups meet on a monthly basis.
- 3.3 The model of delivery in 2010 and 2011 proved to be very successful engaging over 3000 young people into positive youth work activities. As the project developed it became apparent that some of the youth village sites that were identified by the operational groups were less successful due to the location within the community and the demographics of youth population in the area and that the model of delivery needed to be more flexible to meet the different needs, and youth cultures in different communities.
- 3.4 In response, a new Winter delivery model was piloted in 2011/12. This involved a significant change in the way the programme was delivered to young people, moving from a static provision to a more mobile/responsive provision to meet the needs, not only of the young people who are at the forefront and main focus of the delivery, but also responding to the needs of the local community. An Intelligence and Tasking ASB Group, which considers real time intelligence to ensure resources are deployed in areas of greatest need, currently influence this new XL Village Model where delivery is based on an outreach model, allowing staff to complete reconnaissance of an area initially engaging the young people via detached youth work methods, then identifying provision that meets their needs.
- 3.5 This model is currently in its infancy, but in the short term of delivery it has had an impact within communities, not only accommodating the young people needs, but addressing the issues raised by residents within the community. ASB related behaviour has fallen in the areas where there has been provision. Information on the Northumbria Police website from February 2012 substantiates these findings, identifying that there has been "79 fewer youth related anti-social behaviour incidents reported to police between November 2011 and January 2012, in the 12 areas the initiative has been piloted, compared to the same period in 2010/11, this is down by a third".

4.0 Proposed Future Delivery Model

- 4.1 The pilot XL Outreach has identified that by delivering provision which meets the needs of young people at an area level and having real time intelligence, it has helped to positively engage more young people and direct the work to areas that have the greatest need for positive youth engagement. Having reviewed the delivery model, the Strategic XL Group have proposed that a new delivery model for the XL Youth Village be adopted that would encompass all of the learning to make a more effective and efficient model of delivery.
- 4.2 Developing the Winter model would see XL Youth Village events increasing in size incorporating all of the equipment to give the young people access to more activities and resources. This would involve merging the marquees to make one big festival style event, with live bands, DJ's, trailers with a recording studio, and cinema room, climbing wall, football cage, and areas with information and refreshments. The youth bus will provide advice, information and guidance and there will be a welfare unit offering sexual health information. This model was piloted at the end of Summer 2011 programme with overwhelming success at the Hylton Castle venue, where over 200 young people were attending regularly each week. The second XL Youth Bus will be deployed to another area of the City, to engage young people into youth work who do not normally have access to youth provision. The main focus of this activity will be developing links with the young people who reside in the area, in anticipation of the XL Youth Village arriving in the forth-coming weeks.
- 4.3 XL Outreach model will continue to work with real time intelligence to help engage young people that may be causing anti social behaviour and this will inform the area Operational Groups to help them direct the delivery.
- 4.4 Additional to this, there will be an XL detached youth work team. This will establish working relations in the area and ultimately develop the continuity work with the young people. The detached teams will also support the local community and residents as well as the voluntary sector; it will also compliment the mobile youth provision, which is delivered across the city on weekdays.
- 1.1 The year will be divided into 7 blocks of delivery. This will cover 42 weeks of the year. Each block will be 6 to 7 weeks long and involve a minimum of 60 youth work sessions city wide (including sessions delivered by our partner the A690 Youth Initiative who have secured additional National Lottery funding to support this programme).
- 4.6 In East Sunderland this will mean a minimum of 84 sessions per annum (12 per block) with every Friday and Saturday covered for 42 weeks of the year. This will involve a significant increase in face to face youth work hours. Our staff team will get to know the areas much better and forge meaningful relationships with Young People in their neighbourhoods. Additional to this there will be capacity on specific weekends to support local community events.
- 4.7 A verbal update will be presented at the meeting following the meeting of the Task and Finish group. This update will offer more detail on the proposed timetable of activities and potential delivery sites, currently suggested as Mowbray Park and Hall Farm.

1.0 Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

- i) Note the proposed changes in the delivery model.
- ii) Consider the sites for the XL Village locations for Summer 2012, as recommended by the East Youth Task and Finish Group.
- iii) Agree to receive a further report on the progress and outcomes of the project.

Background papers

SROI of youth villages

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