

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting: 06 January 2021

Title of Report: **City Wide Youth Service Provision**

Lead Member: Councillor Jemima Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Lead Strategic Director: Alison Botham (Director for Children's Services)

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Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Provision of information about city-wide youth work offer. The paper describes the range of youth work provision delivered by PCC and commissioned services, and gives examples of partnership projects with NSPCC and Barnardos which involve an element of youth work provision.

Recommendations and Reasons

(Not applicable- paper is for information only.)

Introduction

Youth work is a specialist discipline with a specific skill base. Professional and non- professionally qualified youth workers work with young people, using a defined methodology, skill set and value base. Work can be 1:1, with groups of young people or involve intervention within a community setting. Youth work aims to support young people to achieve positive outcomes and to improve life chances, with a particular focus on participation and advocacy. The youth worker's role is to support, encourage and enable young people to raise aspirations and make positive choices.

There is a wide and diverse youth work offer across Plymouth, with many community groups offering an element of youth work. Plymouth City Council's Youth Work offer is delivered via

- Children Young People and Families Service, where the youth workers are mostly professionally qualified
- Community Connections
- Commissioned services

- Partnership arrangements such as Together for Childhood (described below)

1. Children Young People and Families Youth work offer

1.1 . Intervention Team

The Intervention Team has 4 professional youth workers; 2 providing support to young people presenting as homeless and 2 providing targeted interventions alongside young people who have been referred by a social worker.

Homeless Work – young people are supported through their initial homeless approach. Direct work will take place with the young person in an attempt to identify safe family members or friends who can provide accommodation. If required the young person will be supported in a joint assessment with Community Connections. As part of the homeless pathway, if the young person is housed out of the family home they will receive support from the youth workers ensuring they are linked to an education provider and have applied for all appropriate benefits. If required additional support would be offered to ensure the young person is settled in their accommodation.

Targeted Work – intervention is generated by a social work assessment and plan, and undertaken on a 1:1 basis offering time and a safe space to explore feelings, anger management and emotional literacy, increasing the young person's self-esteem, managing anxiety, increasing sexual health knowledge, exploring healthy relationships and keeping safe. Pieces of work are often complex with high levels of poor mental health, self-harming, exploitation, use of drugs and alcohol and risk taking behaviour.

1.2. FIP (Family Intervention Project)

FIP has one youth support worker who undertakes individual pieces of work with young people. This may include Keep Safe work, healthy relationships and on-line safety work, or raising self-esteem, confidence and emotional literacy. The youth support worker may support a young person to undertake positive activities and raising aspirations, or support with group work programmes alongside family support colleagues.

1.3 AST (Adolescent Support Team)

The AST have 3 qualified youth workers and a specialist Child Exploitation Worker within the team. AST work with those young people at the highest risk and provide wrap-around support to the family. The youth workers provide advocacy to ensure the young person's voice is heard. They

work alongside the AST key workers, offering specific interventions, e.g. around child on parent violence, online safety and child exploitation as well as building positive relationships to support with improving mental health, confidence and self-esteem.

1.4 EHASt – (Early Help, Advice and Support Team)

EHASt have 10 qualified youth workers in the team – although some are part-time, undertaking the following functions-

REACH - The team undertake Return Home Interviews for those young people who are missing from home or care. This involves building a relationship with the young person in order

to gather information as to why they were missing, understand the issues behind this and ensure they can access the right support. The REACH work is integral in supporting the case workers to manage the risk the young person may be at. All young people reported missing have a Child Exploitation Screening Tool undertaken. EHASt are developing training and information packs for parents/carers to support them to manage the risk their child may be at.

Targeted Work - The EHASt youth workers work with young people not at threshold for statutory intervention, using a range of tools to understand the young person's experiences and assess risk (for example, DUST, STORM). Youth workers will support young people 1-1 and in groups. They are trained to deliver Take 3 parenting programmes. The workers will work with young people on all aspects of their lives from healthy relationships and online safety to raising aspirations and self-esteem to improving independent living skills. They regularly work with young people who are isolated and are not engaging in society to improve mental health and encourage engagement with services that can support.

1.5 Participation Team

The Participation Team aims to put young people at the heart of practice by engaging them within a framework of participation, consultation and involvement, enabling their voices and experiences to shape and improve service delivery. By doing this the team also aims to support their personal development and understanding of their own personal journeys.

The Participation Team facilitates a number of groups including:-

- Three **Listen and Care Councils** that work exclusively with looked after or care experienced young people. These groups are involved in co-design of system improvement and also feed their views directly to councillors and the Corporate Parenting Group.
- **Young Safeguarders** who support the work of Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership to make sure that the voices of young people are heard and that the policies and procedures that affect their lives are fair and easily understood. They are also involved in quality assurance work on behalf of the partnership.
- **UK Youth Parliament** and **Plymouth Youth Cabinet** are democratically elected young people who campaign and represent young people across Plymouth both locally and nationally on issues that affect their lives.
- **Young Recruiters, Trainers and Advisors** are trained young people who are involved in staff recruitment and produce training materials to support staff development.

2. Community Connections Youth Service

Community Connections' youth workers guide and support young people in their personal, social and educational development to help them reach their full potential. They set, organise and run community programs aimed at young people aged between 8 and 25. The aim is to help young people explore and understand their ideas, values and beliefs, building their confidence and life skills so that they can make a successful transition to adulthood. Youth workers work in a variety of settings, delivering focused work to engage with high-risk young people, for example, targeted interventions/outreach activities and work with partners. Youth work relies on voluntary engagement by young people and the building of relationships based on trust in order to support and empower them. The majority of activity is based on the streets of Plymouth with some core service programs being offered from buildings managed by Community Connections. These centres are Southway, Honicknowle, Estover, Efford and Fredrick Street Youth and Community Centre.

The following provisions are the current offerings by Community Connections Youth Service. Many of these sessions are now virtual due to Covid-19.

2.1 Young Carers

Plymouth Young Carers Project is a part of Time 4 U - Plymouth's young carer offer to children and young people. The Young Carers Group is a citywide project providing youth sessions for all young carers aged from 8 years up to 19 years of age. The project's aim is to give young carers a break, meet up with other carers, to have opportunities to engage in positive, fun activities and to feel supported.

2.2 The Out Youth Group (OYG)

OutYouth is a youth group designed specifically for young people from 11 – 25 years of age who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans, offering two back to back groups depending on age. Young people are able to meet with their friends, and socialise in a comfortable, inclusive space with the freedom to identify without judgment or discrimination. Staffed by qualified youth workers and volunteers, young people can seek information and advice, and support as required. OutYouth provides a rotation of activities and opportunities for young people to influence and participate in wider projects and consultations.

2.3 For Me & My Friends (4MMF)

4 MMF is a youth group aimed primarily at young people on the autistic spectrum, aged 10 to 25 years of age. The group also works with young people with Global delay syndrome, sensory processing disorder, Asperger's, ADHD, OCD, generalised anxiety disorder, attachment disorder and Swan (syndrome without a name). The project offers young people the opportunity to have fun, have a voice, learn new skills and make new friends.

2.4 Youth 4 U

The Youth 4 U Forum works in collaboration with young people, Derriford's paediatric staff, and representatives of the hospital Patient Advice and Liaison services. The aim of the group is to improve overall services and NHS care for children and young people using the hospitals wards.

2.5 No Limits

No Limits is a youth club that is open for young people aged 11-24, who identify as having an additional need. The project offers young people the opportunity to experience youth work provision and to socialise with their peers in a safe and welcoming environment. It offers fun, interactive activities, group work, informal education and personal development.

2.6 Pop Ups (Targeted)

The role of the Pop Up Team is to identify, intervene and prevent young people going missing, becoming exploited, or becoming involved in youth related ASB and crime & disorder. The Pop Up Team deliver specialist outreach & engagement with young people at risk of police intervention. The Pop Up Team works alongside the Safer Communities Team, Child Centred Policing Team, and Children's Social Care, in addition to other key partners within the city and wider communities. This is a collaborative partnership helping to develop a child centred, trauma informed approach across city and seeks to facilitate the shift, over time, from delivery being entirely reactive towards a prevention based model/methodology, where early intervention opportunities can be prioritised.

2.7 Detached Youth Work (Targeted)

Detached youth work uses the principles and practice of informal education to engage young people in a constructive dialogue about their needs, interests, concerns and lifestyles to support them in their personal and social development. It takes place in 'non-institutional' settings: primarily in the street, but also in parks, cafés, shopping centres, and other spaces young people have chosen to be, making it accessible to young people who are unlikely to attend building-based provision. Detached Youth Work is slightly different to Pop Ups, where the latter is reactive, over short time periods, the former seeks to engage young people over a longer time period and identify opportunities, activities, and projects.

2.8 Argyle Community Trust PL Kicks Partnership

Working in partnership with Argyle Community Trust. The Kicks project is about cutting crime and anti-social behaviour where it is delivered. Predominantly composing of football sessions, all participants are able to access further qualifications, courses and accreditation.

2.9 Open Access Sessions

Open access youth work is provision based on voluntary participation, with young people being free to come and go as they please. Offering a regular, safe, warm space to socialise with friends and a space where young people can build positive relationships with youth workers and other relevant agencies and practitioners. Open Access Youth sessions are arguably the 'bread and butter' of youth work.

2.10 Summer Mix Up, July-August 2020

The historical delivery of the Summer Mix project, was adapted to a 'Mix Up' of predominately online activities over a four week period, including -

- The Virtual Offer – Weekly Quizzes and games; Creative Facebook competitions; Online 'how to' tutorials, ongoing virtual support, information and guidance
- The Sharp Shooter Photography themed competition.

In addition, the **delivery of over 600 Themed Targeted Activity Packs** delivered to vulnerable young people as nominated by professionals across the city, with additional 'Cook a Classic' activity boxes for and the Pop Up Team organised COVID secure organised bike rides for young people .

2.11 COVID-19 Community Connections Youth Service Position

In response to COVID19, Community Connections Youth service have been responding dynamically to the needs of the young people in the city. Understanding the needs of existing service users whilst also creating a gateway for vulnerable young people, now hidden more than ever, we have been tailoring our response in line with Government and The National Youth Agency advice to reach as many young people as possible. Presently all core projects are working towards the delivery of activity boxes for young people.

We are currently in the process of transition back from virtual to face to face sessions of certain core projects, and we will continue to monitor national guidance to ensure service offers reflect this. In order to sustain contact with vulnerable young people, 1-2-1 support work with vulnerable young people has continued to be offered ad hoc. Locality detached work will continue as a means to maintain and/or reconnect relationships with young people with the aim of engaging in relevant project work as we move forward. Pop Up Targeted provision will continue, focusing on youth interventions on the streets with those young people identified as being most at risk via both the city wide partnership Missing and Child Exploitation Forum (MACE) and the Child Centred Policing Team. Additional project planning and

development also continues in the background, as is partnership work with the Voluntary Community Sector via Plymouth Octopus Project (POP+), as a means to work collaboratively and progressively forward into the next new 'norm'.

2.11 Xmas Delivery

Christmas Bundles will be delivered to approximately 200 vulnerable young people identified by professionals across Plymouth as well as 100 Young Carers.

In addition, the youth work team are in discussion with Argyle Community Trust to work in partnership and deliver a 3 day 'Christmas Hunger Project' within at least one of our centres leading up to the Christmas period, primarily focusing on engaging with young people who access free school meals.

2.12 Projects in Development

- **Make Shift**

MakeShift is a new art group designed specifically for young people suffering from low level mental health issues. The group aims to provide opportunities that enable young people to acknowledge and understand their own mental health, provide opportunities to learn new skills coping strategies, build supportive and trusting relationships, provide a safe space for mental rest and reflection and to create opportunities for positive mental stimulation. An overarching aim is to create avenues for empowerment for individual and collective change, hence the name MakeShift.

This project will commence as a pilot project for a small group of young people via a referral process and will run for between 8 – 12 weeks. . Following which the project will be evaluated with the aim of this running throughout the year.

- **CSE / CSA Project**

Aim – to work with small groups of young people who have experienced trauma or Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs), including sexual abuse or child exploitation. The project concept has been developed after intervention with young people within The Alliance Temporary Accommodation Project for Homeless Young People.

This project will commence as a pilot project for a small group of young people via a referral process and will run for between 8 – 12 weeks. Following which the project will be evaluated with the aim of this running throughout the year.

- **Animation Sweet!**

Aims- to engage young people in a creative medium to learn, create and showcase issues / projects / themes that are relevant to them. Consulting and working with small groups to explore / create relevant animations; exploring creative techniques where young people can express their voice; supporting the visibility of creative youth work; creating on line 'how tos'; working towards creative on line competitions based on relevant themes; exploring opportunities in the creative sector.

- **Young Women's Project – Efford Youth & Community Centre**

The young women's pilot project was planned to start this year, but was been placed on hold due to covid. The core aim is to focus on engaging young women in creative and entrepreneurial thinking in bringing project ideas to life. A dynamic and successful female entrepreneur will be volunteering her time with the youth service, and bringing her experience of running '[Founding the Future](#)' to young women in Plymouth. This will be reviewed in the New Year.

- **Digital Badging**

Working with RIO on acquiring Digital Badges - credentials that symbolise learning achievements. They can be used to support young people aged 14+ to gather, reflect on and articulate real-world evidence of their skills and create better futures for themselves. They are a powerful and positive way to re-think qualifications, especially in the space of careers and employability education, but they are also valuable in recognising other forms of informal learning such as that which occurs in extra-curricular activity.

3. Commissioned Services

3.1 The Zone

- **Progeny Contract**

Progeny aims to facilitate the development of a whole school approach to positive emotional health and wellbeing culture across special and secondary school communities. This service includes supporting schools to carry out an annual audit, creating bespoke annual delivery plans for each school and the delivering the subsequent training required by staff, delivery of activities in mental health weeks in October and May to pupils, Mental Health First Aid Training for staff, Peer Listener training for pupils and group parent/carer workshops.

- **Wellbeing for Education Return Contract**

The Wellbeing for Education Return project seeks to better equip education settings to support children and young people's wellbeing, resilience and recovery in the context of COVID-19 and associated measures. There are two elements to the project:

- (i) A national training package tailored to meet local need, which will provide guidance and resources for education staff on responding to the impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of students.
- (ii) A local expert who will work with partners and deliver to leads in education settings, and provide ongoing advice and support until March 2021.

- **Xenzone – Emotional Health & Wellbeing (EHWB) in Schools**

The EHWB in Schools Service provides face to face and online counselling and talking therapies for young people aged 11-18 including psychoeducational groups, moderated online forums and access to safe online resources to secondary schools in Plymouth.

- **Sexual Health in Plymouth (SHiP)**

The Zone operates as part of the SHiP Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service. This is delivered in partnership with University Hospitals, Livewell South West and the Eddystone Trust. The service provides sexual and reproductive health information and promotion, contraception and treatment and testing for sexually transmitted infections. The Zone specifically works with under 25 year olds and has a focus on vulnerable and higher risk younger people.

3.2 The Plymouth Alliance – The Zone

The Plymouth Alliance deliver a whole system response for people who are aged 16+ and who have support needs in relation to homelessness and/or substance misuse and who may also have support needs around mental health, offending or leaving care. The Plymouth Alliance has seven members; Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA), Harbour Centre, Hamoaze House, Shekinah Mission, The Zone, Livewell Southwest and Plymouth Access to Housing (PATH).

A key element of the contract is to provide accommodation and support services to people aged 16+, regardless of legal status. The offer includes supported accommodation, floating support services and supported lodgings to reduce duplication, provide equity of access to accommodation for 16/17 year olds irrespective of status and to use the total financial envelope flexibly to best meet need.

The Zone provide a front of house drop in service where young people can access a range of support services including accommodation advice. The ZAP project, commissioned as part of the Plymouth Alliance, provides the early intervention, prevention and homeless floating support element of the housing pathway for young people aged 16-25. This includes delivering intervention work such as mediation at the initial point of crisis to prevent homelessness, homelessness prevention support through ongoing casework and tenancy sustainment.

4. Partnership work with youth work element

4.1 Together for Childhood

Together for Childhood (prevention of child sexual abuse in Plymouth) is co-led between Plymouth City Council and the NSPCC and has participation at its core. The Young Voices project is a particular focus of youth work activity, with 2 part time youth workers facilitating a project about peer-to-peer problematic sexual behaviours to understand social norms and issues from young people's perspectives. A self-selecting group of 24 young people from Marine Academy Plymouth have co-created a rap as a campaign message to their peers. This financial year we are working in 3 further schools; Stoke Damerel Community College, ACE and Mill Ford to work alongside young people to support the development of new campaign messaging.

Below is a snapshot from the summary of evaluation of the schools based work with young people:

- Young people told us that being part of the participation groups had made them think about their relationships more and they really welcomed the opportunity to have a safe, informal space where they could talk about issues.
- They thought that facilitation by external youth engagement officers made it easier to open up.
- They also felt a sense of being included and belonging and told us that the project had given them a voice and they felt that they were being heard

4.2 Young Parents

This is a partnership project between Community Connections youth workers and Barnardos. The group is designed specifically for young parents and expecting mothers and fathers, and offers a space to feel valued and positive about becoming parents. It offers a safe, non-judgemental space, in the Youth and Community Centre in Southway, where young parents can socialise, build support networks and gather information and advice about becoming / being a parent, alongside wider issues and concerns that may affect them as young people. The group also assists in supporting children learn how to gain social interaction skills and help with childhood development.

4.3 Care Journeys

Care Journeys is a collaborative 7 year partnership between CYPFS and Barnardo's, which aims to improve the outcomes for young people who have been in care. The focus is on the mental health needs, positive care journey destinations, including creating a range of opportunities available for young people in and leaving care. The aim is that young people who have been in care should be at least as likely to be in education, employment or training ('positive destinations') in comparison to young people who have never been in care.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable- paper is for information only.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The youth work offer relates to-

- Focus on prevention and early intervention
- Keep children, young people and adults protected
- People feel safe in Plymouth
- Quality jobs and valuable skills

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

not applicable- paper is for information only

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Not applicable- paper is for information only

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Youth work provision relates to service delivery to a range of vulnerable young people including young people with protected characteristics. It aims to promote opportunities for disadvantaged young people, promote welfare and safeguarding, and enhance positive outcomes and life chances for the young people who use the service provision.

Appendices -None

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers: None

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Alison Botham											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Alison Botham Date agreed: 18/12/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Jemima Laing approved by email. Date approved: 18/12/2020											