

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	15 June 2022
Title of Report:	City Wide Youth Service Provision
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
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Your Reference:	062022/Youth Service Provision
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

This 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

Children, Young People and Families Service – Targeted Support Service provision

1. Intervention Team

The Intervention Team works alongside Children's Social Workers providing interventions. The team has 4 Professional Youth Workers who provide specialist youth work interventions.

Youth Homelessness: Two Youth Workers in Targeted Support are dedicated to work with young people who present as homeless in the city. These Youth Workers work closely with our housing colleagues and The Zone who provide advocacy. Their work involves getting alongside the young person and making all attempts to support them to identify a safe place to live, whether this be back with family where possible or with friends. Where this is not an option then they will support the young person to be assessed jointly with colleagues from Community Connections and the Zone to identify what accommodation would be most suitable and safe and will continue to support once the young person is housed. This may include emotional, financial and practical support for example, helping to set up benefit entitlement, budgeting work and practical support to ensure the young person can live independently.

Targeted Intervention: Two youth workers receive bespoke pieces of work that would have been identified through a social work assessment and plan. This work would be undertaken on a 1-1 basis and could include providing space for the young person to explore feelings of anger, self-esteem and confidence, managing anxiety, sexual health and healthy relationships. This work can be complex and relies on successfully building relationships and trust.

2. Adolescent Support Team

The Adolescent Support Team is made up of Social Workers, Family Support Workers and Professional Youth Workers. The team work intensively with young people aged between 10 and 17 using the Trauma Recovery Model as the basis of their practice. The Adolescent Support Team work restoratively with young people and their parents where the relationship has broken down or is at risk of breaking down. The Youth Workers will support the Social Workers and / or Family Support Workers providing 1-1 specific interventions including healthy relationships, understanding exploitation, keep safe work for example with the aim of improving the relationship between them and their caregivers.

3. Family Intervention Project

The Family Intervention Project work with families using the whole family approach. This work is intensive and the team can be involved with the family for up to a year. The team have a specific Youth Support Worker who is available to provide specific bespoke pieces of intervention to adolescents within the family.

4. Early Help Advice and Support Team

The Early Help, Advice and Support Team have 5 Youth Workers who work with young people who don't require a 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.

The Youth Workers in the Early Help Advice and Support Team have now resumed the running of 2 Group Work programmes, the first covering online safety and exploitation and the second an educational programme that covers a managing anxiety and anger, transitions, healthy relationships, self-esteem and aspirations. These are rolling programmes that will be delivered throughout the year.

As we move forward, it is hoped that partners will be able to support with co-delivery so that we can provide a much fuller programme.

5. Reducing Exploitation and Absence from Care and Home (REACH)

The REACH team have recently moved to the Youth Justice Service and are in the process of growing in structure from 3.5 Professional Youth Workers to 5 Youth Workers and 3 Support Workers (including a Practice Manager qualified as a Professional Youth Worker)

The team work with all young people who are reported missing to complete the Return Home Interview and provide specific interventions to reduce further missing episodes. The team work to build a relationship so that they can get alongside the young person to enable them to understand the reasons why they are going missing and to identify the level of risk associated with this.

As the team grows work will include supporting parents to understand the risk of exploitation and what they can do to support their children. The team work closely with the social work teams and youth justice service to identify risk and develop appropriate plans to reduce this.

6. 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.

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. Whilst some of this activity is based

on the streets of Plymouth, some core service delivery is offered from assets managed by Community Connections. These centers are Southway, Honicknowle, Efford and Estover Youth and Community Centre.

Recovery from COVID-19 Position

In response to COVID-19 Community Connections Youth service responded dynamically to the needs of young people in the city. The service built and understanding into the needs of existing service users whilst also creating a gateway for vulnerable young people who were hidden more than ever, by tailoring service offerings in line with Government and The National Youth Agency advice.

We have now transitioned back away from virtual sessions into physical attendance programme delivery.

The below details both the current provisions and work in motion to develop service offerings by Community Connections Youth Service.

Detached Youth Work

The Detached Team are focused on developing the wider offer within the city through the deployment of team members into locations where risk taking and/or anti-social behaviour is believed to be taking place. They also work to address thematic or seasonal issues such as knife crime, tombstoning, criminal exploitation. The team then work with young people identified and signpost them into other services, engage with them in appropriate settings, give support, advice and guidance. The team also work in partnership with other city providers ensuring where possible gaps in provision are addressed, behavioural issues are escalated where appropriate and funding bids are submitted where appropriate.

Plymouth Pathfinder Project

Plymouth Pathfinder is a 2-year pilot programme, funded until November 2022. The programme seeks to maximise the benefits that physical activity can bring to a cohort of children and young people in Plymouth, in particular:

- those who have experienced childhood trauma
- or (and) who have special educational needs

The aims include helping children and young people to reach their potential, to develop coping strategies and tools to support them into adulthood and to support the next generation of families.

We are now working in and with all 3 of selected school/community systems:

- Marine Academy Plymouth
- Sir John Hunt Community Sports College
- Stoke Damerel Community College

Young Carers Project

Venue/s: Honicknowle (Efford)

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 5 youth sessions per week for all young carers aged from 8 years up to 19 years of age. The overall aim the project is to give young carers a break, meet up with other carers, and have opportunities to engage in positive fun activities and to feel supported.

The Out Youth Group (OYG)

Venue/s: Central location – Fredrick Street

OutYouth is a youth group designed specifically for young people ranging in age 11 – 25 years of age who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans. Open weekly there are two back to back groups depending on age. Young people are able to meet with their friends, make new 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 have opportunity to seek information and advice, and support as required. We provide a rotation of activities for example art, craft, board games, cookery, sports and opportunities for young people to influence and participate in wider projects and consultations. Two recent focus pieces of work have looked at the use of Pronouns and Interpretations, Loneliness and Isolation.

For Me & My Friends (4MMF)

Venue/s: Efford Youth Centre

4 Me & My Friends, is a youth group aimed primarily at young people with young people on the Autistic spectrum, aged 10 to 25 years of age. The group also work 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.

Project Name: Young Parents Community Café

Venue/s: Southway Youth Centre

This group is a tailored to the individual and the group's needs; we also welcome expecting mothers and fathers to the group. The group is designed specifically for young parents under 25 years of age and offers a space to feel valued and positive about becoming parents. We offer a safe, non-judgemental space, in our Youth and Community Centre in Southway.

Argyle Community Trust PL Kicks Partnership

Venue/s: Specific areas – Honicknowle; Efford; (aiming to reach; Southway, Barne Barton / St Budeaux, Keyham)

Working in partnership with Argyle Community Trust. The Kicks project (see [here](#)) is about cutting crime and anti-social behaviour in the various areas it's delivered in. Predominantly composing of football sessions, all participants are able to come and access further qualifications, courses and accreditation.

Open Access Sessions

Venue/s: Specific areas – Honicknowle; Efford; Southway;

Open access youth work is provision that a young person may access regardless of their background, needs or position in society. Open access youth work is based on voluntary participation, with young people being free to come and go as they please (for further insight see - [here](#)). Offering a regular, safe, warm space to socialise with friends and a space where young people can and do build positive relationship with youth workers and others relevant agencies and practitioners. Open Access Youth sessions are arguably the 'bread and butter' of youth work

Animation and Gaming Sweet! – In Development

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

Funding

Respite Innovation Fund - Secured

Community Connections have supported a bid into the Respite Innovation Fund. The application centres on empowerment, sustainability and improved outcomes. This is achieved through multiple platforms such as a youth work programme equating to £156,174 which community connections will work with

partners to deliver if successful. Other deliverables include a residential offering, education programme, NHS SaT and Psych, and a parenting support programme.

Plymouth Pathfinder – Active Devon - Secured

Through active involvement with the Plymouth Pathfinder Project and youth workers engagement with the pilot schools, it has been identified that there is a need to support young people affected by the Keyham Tragedy outside of school term. Through consultation the detached youth team we have secured £10,000 which will be used to increase positive activities and projects for young people in the Keyham area of the summer of 2022.

Cllr Community Grant - Secured

£4,000 has been awarded to the Detached Team to support the transition and engagement of young people with The Shed in Keyham, as a Youth & Community venue.

Keyham Sparks Fund- Secured

The Detached Team were successful in their SPARKS bid (up to £3000) to take young people from the Keyham Area to London later in the year as part of the Voices Participation Group.

Safer Streets 3 - Secured

The CYT secured £20,000 from SS 3, specifically to invest in equipment and resources to increase their creative digital offer to young people. This will increase the team's capacity in exploring digital creative technology and media, whilst enriching the universal offer through the development of a gaming suite. The core objective being to enhance the opportunities of engaging young people in their contemporary digital realms and increase opportunities to raising awareness of online safety and creative opportunities, whilst also acting as an informal method of engagement to support the prevention of VAWG – creating a safe space, to engage and explore contemporary issues.

Safer Streets 4 – Application made awaiting outcome

To employ a targeted youth work team who will focus on engaging with young people and relevant partners in the city centre and waterfront. The aim would be to have a team of youth workers that are consistently and regularly in the area to be able to build relationships with young people, this would enable the opportunity for engagement to work with young people on the streets and support and divert young people from ASB related behaviour. The team would also have capacity to follow up work in groups/121 to ensure that there is positive and ongoing level of engagement and support for the young people. The team would have the ability to have regular detached sessions as well as scope for intensive and targeted responses when needed

Fit and Fed - Young Carers Summer Funding - Secured

Awarded £6,756 to deliver Summer Activities for the Young Carers Group

Youth Investment Fund – Application in Process

This is a £368 million investment in young people to improve access to Universal facilities. This is very early days for the funding and an initial meeting has taken place with Community Connections and Children's Services to see where we can work together to apply for funds. Applications can range between £300k and £8.7m. If successful this will enable a review and investment into the current Youth Centre facilities and explore options in regards to the placement of a new youth centre within an area of high need, low service. (Information Attached)

Commissioned Services

The Zone - Progeny Contract

Contract Value: £317,988.30 (7 years with a further 1 year extension to allow for review of service offer and identification of sustainable funding)

Contract Length: 1st Sept 2016 - 31st Aug 23 (7 years)

Description of the Service: 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.

Devon Mind - Wellbeing for Education Recovery Contract

Total Contract Value: £10,000 (4 months)

Contract Length: 1st Dec 21 – 31st Mar 22 (4 months – time limited DfE project)

Description of the Service: The Wellbeing for Education Recovery project followed on from the Wellbeing for Education Return project (delivered by The Zone). The overall purpose of the project is to build on support for schools and colleges in recognising and responding appropriately to children and young people who may present with a range of mental health and well-being issues impacted by the pandemic.

Kooth Digital Health Ltd (formerly known as Xenzone) – Emotional Health & Wellbeing in Schools

Contract Value: £1,796,541 (6 years with a further 7 month extension to allow alignment of contracts across Devon for CCG procurement timeline)

Contract Length: 1st Sept 2016 - 31st Mar 23 (6 years and 7 months)

Description of the Service: The EHWPB in Schools Service provides face to face (sub-contracted to Young Devon) and online counselling (Kooth) 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.

The Plymouth Alliance – The Zone

Contract value: The current annual core contract value of the Alliance is £7.3 million of which the Zone receive around £175k.

Contract length: Initially for 5 years until 2024, however this may be extended until 2029.

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, 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 specifically for young people includes supported accommodation, floating support services and supported lodgings. Historically these services had been commissioned separately to services for adults, but the rationale for joining these to the Alliance was 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.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Jean Kelly											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Alison Botham, Director of Children's Services, Yes Date agreed: 06/06/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Charlotte Carlyle, approved by email. Date approved: 06/06/2022											