

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

31 January 2013



## Item: Youth Services Restructure & Review

### Summary:

Children and Young people Overview and Scrutiny panel have asked for information on the youth service provided across Plymouth, and also on plans to review service provision.

This paper sets out current Youth Service provision, to be considered alongside a brief presentation to the panel. We have indicated a range of documents which will inform the review and we can provide more information should members need this.

We have also set out an outline for a proposed review of services in draft, and we hope to engage the panel on the scope and focus of the review, and on when it would like to see proposals, which we could outline in the March meeting, if this is the panels preference.

### Introduction:

- I. Homes and Communities Department have completed a management restructure, and now have the team in place to review the PCC 'youth offer' to ensure that services aligned within this new structure are set up to work effectively and are prioritised to contribute to key challenges faced by Young People and their families in the city.
  - I.1. Following discussion with the Children & Young People's Portfolio Holder, it was agreed to set out the current level and spread of Integrated Youth Service activities and targeted support currently being delivered across the City. This is to ensure Elected Members understand the full range and focus of the services currently being delivered by the Integrated Youth Service.
  - I.2. This information will inform the scoping of a wider review, of the youth offer, during January – April 2013. The challenges and opportunities for the well-being and aspirations of young people in Plymouth are not to be underestimated. We can co-ordinate a range of skilled teams to support young people so that they play a full role in the life of the city. The statutory duty is set out below; however, our offer needs to be wider than this in order to contribute effectively to tackle child poverty.
  - I.3. Following the principles of a Cooperative council, we need to understand the capacity, engagement and appetite of the voluntary and community sectors in looking to shape or deliver services in co-production with the city council.
  - I.4. Fundamentally we need to provide services that are a balance of specialist, targeted and universal services, shaped by and for the young people they serve.

## 2. Youth Service Statutory Duty:

- 2.1. Local Authority responsibilities to deliver Youth Services are detailed in the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education under Section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 2.2. It relates to local authorities' duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being, as defined in Subsection 13.

## 3. Summary of Service Provision

A range of key documents\* are highlighted below that detail current Service delivery. These documents will form a baseline for the Jan – April review.

1. **Integrated Youth Service Annual Report 2011-12:** Service report detailing last year's performance and outlining key areas of development and delivery for 2012-13.
2. **Positive for Youth Survey Report 2012:** Detailed report on what Plymouth's young people told us about services for them in March April 2012. 1195 Young People responded to the survey.
3. **Detailed city-wide youth offer breakdown:** Spread sheet detailing all programmed activities being delivered in quarter 3 of 2012/13 with a total of 168 targeted area-based youth work projects identified by each locality area.
4. **Youth Service Performance Update:** Details performance against 2012-13 targets. All key performance targets are being met or exceeded and evidences good improvements on 2011-12.
5. **Staffing Structure Chart:** Details the staffing structure and deployment across the services.
6. **Practice Examples of Open Access, Targeted and Intensive Intervention:** Examples presented in the C4EO validated practice template that illustrate the range of interventions currently delivered by the service and the outcomes for young people.
7. **Summer Mix Report 2012 & Case Studies:** Full report on the performance and outcomes relation to the 2012 programme.
8. **Elected Members meetings feedback:** Collated responses from questions asked by young people in recent consultation with local Councillors.
9. **Diversion from Care, Intensive Support Team (IST) Quarterly Report:** Performance Summary that outlines the successful performance of this key diversion from care programme.
10. **What is Youth Work:** PCC DVD recently produced to promote youth work within the city this will form part of the social media resource being developed to promote the offer to young people and stakeholders.
11. **Summer Mix:** PCC DVD produced to promote the offer to young people and potential providers within the city.

*\*The review documentation can be studied on request*

#### 4. Outline of the Review

We have set out below an outline for the review of Youth Services. We are working with Plymouth Learning Trust and the Heads of Schools to plan for their engagement in the review, together with other statutory and voluntary sector bodies, and young people across the city.

**Scope:** Following the management restructure in our Homes & Communities Department there is a revised management line with a new Head of Service , and six service managers leading the delivery of a wider range of youth related support services which will, to a greater or lesser extent, be included in the scope of the review . These include:

- All services within the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYS)
- Targeted youth support contracts delivered or commissioned by the IYS
- Care Leavers Transition Support (18+ Personal Advisors)
- Careers South west contract
- Youth Offending Services

#### Project Timing:

Initial Project Scoping – Goals, Controls, Governance and Time Frame	Jan 2013
Identify & Prepare Project Team	Jan 2013
Project Initiation and report to Children’s Scrutiny Committee	Mid-January 2013
Main review tasks – Data, Stakeholder analysis, YP consultation, needs assessment, review of drivers and priorities	January to End February
Analysis of intelligence/ development of recommendations / consultation with key partners	March
Finalise review outcomes and recommendations for approval to boards/ committees as appropriate	End March
Develop Implementation Plan for approval and action	April

#### Process:

This review will form part of the annual reporting and action planning cycle for the services within direct scope of this exercise. This would ensure that the management focus and resources necessary to deliver this project are prioritised to achieve the outcomes, whilst, completing a key management task that defines the service priorities and developments for the next 12 months.

In addition to the internal Service review and action planning this exercise would take a more comprehensive scan of needs and priorities of service users. The review will also need to be inclusive of key stakeholders and partners, including schools and local communities. The opportunity to have a peer review will be considered if deemed appropriate.

The review will also draw from national research, evidence and guidance on 'best practice' as well as building on successful local practice models.

Young people will be at the heart of the review and our Young Inspectors will play a major part to ensure it is 'youth proof' in line with the 'Positive for Youth' criteria. We will develop an engagement and communication plan to ensure we involve a representative mix of young people.

With significant changes in the school sector it is recognised that a specific element of the review will need to look at 'traded' youth services.

Fundamentally, while the review will focus on targeted early intervention and diversion from risk taking behaviour, it needs to explore best practice to ensure all young people in the city have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their ambition and aspirations, and make a strong contribution to the growth of Plymouth. It will, therefore, also consider the universal offer to young people.

### **Key Review Objectives:**

1. To identify and plan for improvements in the offer for young people across a range of key services including Youth Service, Youth Offending Team and Care Leavers Support Team, particularly strengthening early intervention, prevention and transitions for young people within and across services.
2. To identify any duplication or alternative forms of service delivery, with opportunities for the voluntary and community sector, for a more cost effective use of resources and improve operational links across services and within communities.
3. To identify and plan for improvements in communication of the offer to young people and their families and the other services that support their needs.
4. To identify any underperformance issues and plan for remedial action.

### **The review will provide the following outcomes:**

1. Feedback from Young People, communities and other stakeholders on what's working well and what needs to improve.
2. Up to date information on where the services need to be deployed/targeted to meet current needs and priorities.
3. Information on what aspects of the current offer need to change in order to be more effective and provide better VFM.

4. A clear communication and engagement strategy that will improve understanding, involvement and access to the Service for customers, stakeholders and local communities.

**Governance of the Project:** This project will be directly reported to the Assistant Director for Homes & Communities, CYP Portfolio Holder and Chair of CYP Scrutiny internally, but will have specific and focused work in reference groups through schools and other strategic groups such as the 11 to 19 Strategic Partnership, the Plymouth Secondary Inclusion Committee and the Youth Justice Partnership Board.

### **Recommendations**

1. That members of the panel note the current areas of service delivery
2. That panel members comment on the scope, content and focus of the review so that officers can shape the detailed project plan and implement the review.

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