

Cabinet – 28 October, 2015

Youth Services Working Group

Report of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Portfolio: Councillor Towe

Report detail

A working group was established by the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider youth service provision on 23 June, 2015.

On 8 September, 2015 the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the final report, attached as appendix 1 to this report. A number of recommendations were approved as detailed on pages 2 & 3, and replicated below, for submission to Cabinet.

Recommendations

Resolved:

1. That Area Partnerships are consulted during November, 2015 to identify which of the two commissioning decision making processes they would wish to implement in their areas;
2. That Cabinet be advised that the Working Group recommend that option B of the resource allocation model be adopted;
3. That Cabinet be advised that the working group have concern in relation to the options proposed by the Development and Delivery Team to dispose of surplus centres and suggest that every effort is made to discuss options for the sites with partners during the commissioning process to keep options open;
4. That the Portfolio Holder (Learning Skills and Apprenticeships) continues to meet with the organisation 'On-Side' to discuss the feasibility of introducing a purpose built youth facility in Walsall. The working group ask that the Portfolio Holder provide a report to a future meeting of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of any discussions;

5. That Cabinet explore the possibility of introducing 'Youth Zones' in leisure centres to assist in maximising the use of leisure facilities by offering discounted sessions purely for young people.

Author

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8 September, 2015

Youth Service Provision Working Group

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All

1. Report:

- 1.1 As part of the budget setting process Cabinet agreed, on 4th February, to a reduction of £1.07m in the Targeted Youth Work budget for the two year period 2015-17, reducing it from £1.96m to £888k.
- 1.2 The Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee established the Youth Services Working Group at its meeting held on 23rd June, 2015 to consider the proposals in more detail and make recommendations to Cabinet.
- 1.3 The Working Group met on 27th July and 7th September, 2015 to consider proposals. Specifically, at its meeting held on 7th September, 2015 the Working Group considered the following:-
 - The creation of a Youth Mutual which would develop links with the 3rd sector and 'dovetail' with the review of youth services;
 - Work being and/or proposed to be carried out to utilise existing buildings –schools/libraries/leisure centres etc to deliver youth services (Sefton Model);
 - How funding can be spent at a local level to ensure that 'need' is addressed whilst allowing flexibility to direct support which is best suited to each locality.
- 1.4 Consideration was also given to new initiatives such as a introducing 'Youth Zones' which maximise the use of leisure facilities by offering discounted sessions purely for young people. A further initiative discussed was introducing the organisation 'On-Side' to Walsall which draws from numerous funding streams to provide a purpose built facility with numerous activities for young people. This is due to be implemented in Wolverhampton in early 2016.
- 1.5 In terms of buildings, the working group considered the table attached at appendix 1 to this report which detailed the possible options for the surplus centres proposed by the Development and Delivery Team.
- 1.6 In terms of commissioning decision making the Working Group were

advised that there two options were being considered:-

Option 1 – locally shaped and corporately commissioned which would strengthen the localisation of the process with the Youth Support Services working with Area Partnership colleagues to establish 6 area based commissioning groups, drawing on the experience and expertise of local partners, providers and young people as key decision makers and;

Option 2 – budgets and decision making delegated to the Councillor Area Panels which would see a delegation of Executive powers to Area Panels.

- 1.7 Further to this the working group considered resource allocation model options. The working group considered three options which each contained a level (differentiated between each option) of weighting based on need (as distinct from deprivation as previously) assessed against the levels of teenage conception, youth crime, incidences of youth related anti-social behaviour and numbers of young people not in education, employment or training.

The three options are set out below:-

	Distributed by Ward	Distribution by youth population and need	
		Distributed by youth population (9-19)	Distributed by need factors
Option A	75%	12.5%	12.5%
Option B	50%	15%	35%
Option C	20%	24%	56%

Following deliberations of each of the matters, the Working Group developed a number of recommendations.

Recommendations:


1. That Area Partnerships are consulted during November, 2015 to identify which of the two commissioning decision making processes they would wish to implement in their areas;
2. That Cabinet be advised that the Working Group recommend that option B of the resource allocation model be adopted;
3. That Cabinet be advised that the working group have concern in relation to the options proposed by the Development and Delivery Team to dispose of surplus centres and suggest that every effort is made to discuss options for the sites with partners during the commissioning process to keep options open;


4. That the Portfolio Holder (Learning Skills and Apprenticeships) meets with the organisation 'On-Side' to discuss the feasibility of introducing a purpose built youth facility in Walsall. The working group ask that the Portfolio Holder provide a report to a future meeting of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of any discussions;
5. That Cabinet explore the possibility of introducing 'Youth Zones' in leisure centres to assist in maximising the use of leisure facilities by offering discounted sessions purely for young people.

Contact Officer:

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Appendix 1

Possible options for the surplus centres proposed by the Development and Delivery Team

Centre	Likely option	Comment
Aldridge Manor House	Sale	Property already agreed for disposal under the Smarter Workplaces programme agreed by Cabinet in April 2011
Allen's Centre - Caretakers House	Lease	Potential interest from Age UK
Blackwood Youth Club	Retain for further review	Modular building nearing end of useful life. Site adjoins other facilities (library and health centre) so should not be treated in isolation
Mossley Youth Centre	Lease	Strong interest from Mossley Big Local
Pelsall Youth Centre	Sale	This building adjoins Pelsall Local History Centre, managed by Manor Farm Community Association
Pleck Youth Centre	Sale	Modular building is nearing end of useful life, unsuitable for alternative use
Proffitt St Youth Centre	Sale	A converted pair of semi-detached houses that could be returned to residential use
Rosehill	Sale	In addition to YSS provision, the centre is currently used for sessional childcare (2 year olds).
St Giles Youth Centre	Retain	Potential lease to a commissioned provider of Targeted Youth Work

(In addition to the Council owned centres, YSS currently leases premises in Darlaston which is owned by Diocese of Lichfield, managed by Darlaston Boys Club. It is proposed to relinquish the lease on this building.)