

BRIEFING NOTE

Agenda Item 6

**TO: CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY & PERFORMANCE
PANEL**

DATE: 15 APRIL 2010

RE: POSITIVE ACTIVITIES WORKING GROUP – FINAL REPORT

Purpose

To receive the final report of the Positive Activities working group established by the Panel at its meeting on 24 September 2009.

Background

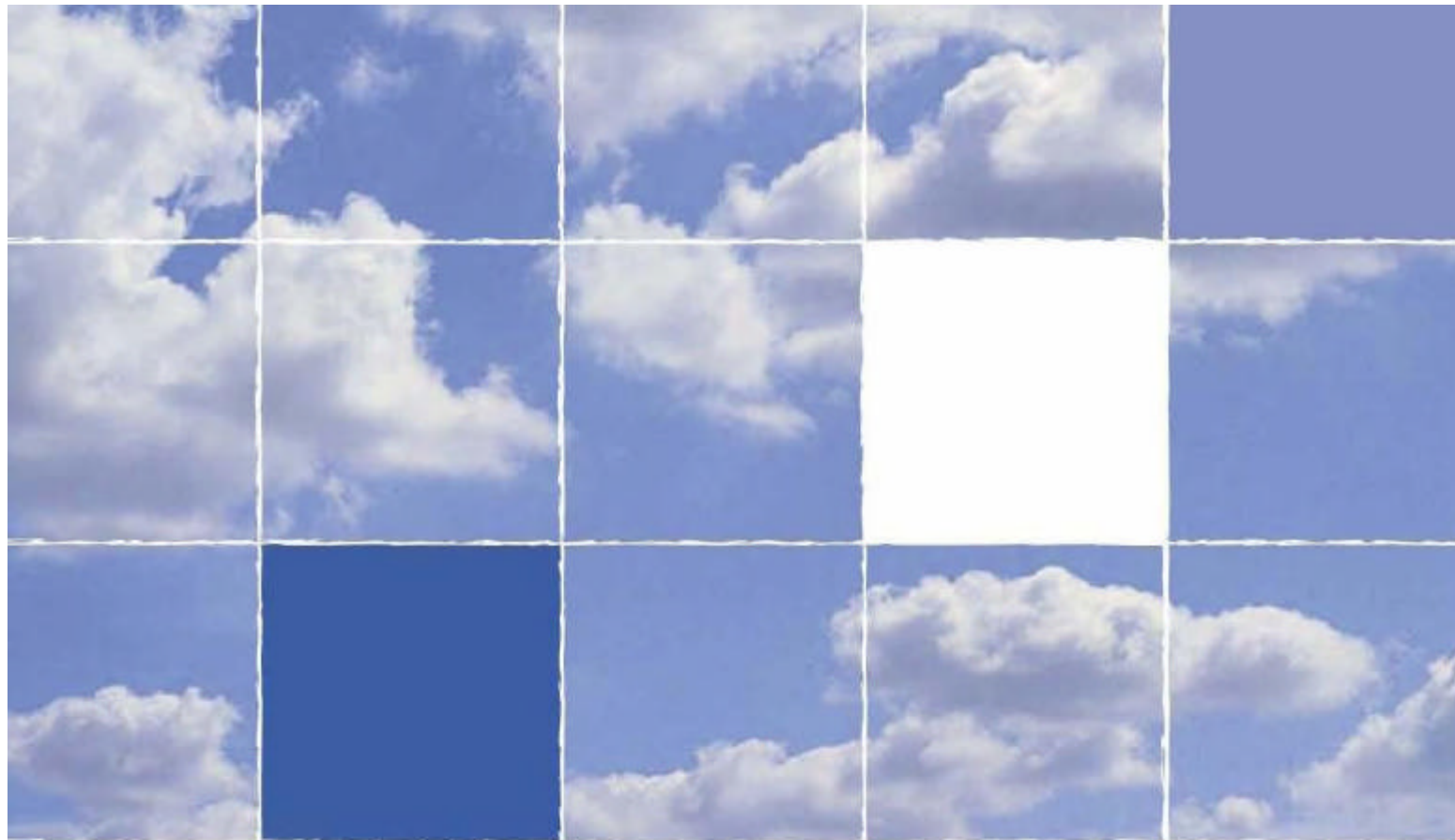
The Panel identified positive activities as an important subject to investigate and a working group was established with a set of key objectives. This included, seeking to ensure that the range and quality of Positive Activities is as good as it can be in Walsall, as well as consideration of the role of young people in designing and delivering new opportunities and the effective promotion of Positive Activities.

The Panel are asked to consider the final report and approve the recommendations for submission to Cabinet.

Recommendations

That:

- 1. that the importance of outreach work in engaging young people continues to be recognised in the delivery of services;**
- 2. that the Council supports the existing provider in identifying possible future funding partners to enable the Young People's Information Centre (YPIC) to continue to operate following the conclusion of New Deal funding in 2011;**
- 3. that all Council services and partners ensure that all events and activities are shared with the Council's Integrated Young People's Support Services to assist in meeting the duty to publicise all Positive Activities;**
- 4. that there is effective use of facilities, including mobile units, to target areas with limited provision and "hot spots";**
- 5. that all opportunities are used to promote the wide range of Positive Activities that are available to young people in a way that is appropriate for the target audience, this should include all opportunities to make use of Council and partner managed websites, as well as social media;**
- 6. that the importance of completing the Tell Us Survey is effectively communicated to young people within schools;**
- 7. to receive case studies and regular reporting of activities and outcomes at the Children's and Young People Scrutiny Panel;**
- 8. that a presentation regarding the initial period of the introduction of Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) is received by the Panel during the next municipal year. With consideration also given to providing similar presentations to Political groups;**
- 9. that the Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) Newsletter for Members is produced on a regular basis.**



Positive Activities in Walsall

Report by the Positive Activities working group

**To be presented to the Children's and Young People
Panel – 15 April 2010**



Walsall Council

Chair's Foreword

The Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel have long recognised the importance of engaging young people more positively in learning and in their own personal development. There are also widely acknowledged benefits for our local communities, including contributing to reductions in youth crime and anti-social behaviour. The working group was established to consider current positive activities provision and possible action to support its development in meeting the aspirations of Walsall's young people.

I would like to thank all those who have assisted the working group during the period of its activity this municipal year including, the other members of the working group, and officers from within Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), the staff, youth and outreach workers and young people at the Young Persons Information Centre (YPIC), Blakenall.



*Councillor Eddie Hughes
Lead Member, Positive Activities working group
Chair, Children's & Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel*



Councillor Les Beeley



Councillor Rose Martin



Contents

Introduction	3
Terms of Reference	3
Membership	4
Methodology	4
Report Format	4
Delivering Positive Activities in Walsall	5
Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS)	6,7
Target Driven Action Plan (TAP)	7,8
Early Years intervention	8
Operation Stay Safe	9,10
Meeting with young people	10-12
Promoting Positive Activities in Walsall	12,13
Recommendations	14
 Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference	 15-16
Appendix 2 – Target Driven Action Plan (TAP)	17-26

Introduction

The Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel identified the delivery of positive activities for young people in Walsall as an appropriate area of Council services to investigate during 2009/10.

Terms of Reference

The working group held an initial meeting in July 2009 to develop its terms of reference from the previous year. These were then agreed by the Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel at its meeting on 24 September 2009.

The working group was established with a set of key objectives:

1. to ensure the range and quality of positive activities is as good as it can be in Walsall;
2. to ensure young people play an active part in designing and where possible delivering new opportunities, including volunteering;
3. to ensure the effective promotion of positive activities;
4. to ensure that young people in Walsall get the services they deserve.

The working group's full terms of reference can be viewed at Appendix 1.

Membership

Councillor Eddie Hughes	<i>Lead Member, Conservative</i>
Councillor Les Beeley	<i>Conservative</i>
Councillor Rose Martin	<i>Conservative</i>

The working group was supported by a number of officers:

Ian Cruise-Taylor	Project Manager, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS)
Nigel Patterson	IYPSS – Youth Service Manager

The working group's investigation was assisted by a number of witnesses, including Mel Ward, Manager, Young Persons Information Centre (YPIC), as well as his successor Paul Smith, outreach and youth workers, together with young people who use the YPIC.

Methodology

To support their activity the working group held four meetings. This included meeting with young people at the Young Persons Information Centre (YPIC), Blakenall as well as discussions regarding key issues with officers. Councillor Hughes also represented the working group at the Making A Difference (MAD) event in Darlaston in November 2009. This event formed part of a series of activities to celebrate Youth Week. The working group also attended the Youth Training Awards at Forest Arts Centre in September 2009, and arrangements made for visiting the recently purchased mobile positive activities facilities.

Report Format

The report is a summary of the evidence the working group received along with comments and suggestions for future action.

Delivering Positive Activities in Walsall

The working group heard that much of Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) (discussed in detail later in the report) provision relates to National Indicator (NI) 110: Young people's participation in positive activities, specifically any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sport, arts, or a youth group) as defined within the Education Act 2006. The key obligation in providing these activities sits with the Council, although a significant contribution is also made by local partners.

The TellUs survey

Decisions regarding provision are in part shaped by the results of the annual TellUs survey. This is a self-completion survey of young people across England, asking their views about their local area, and including questions covering the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The survey was carried out in Spring 2008 and was completed by 14 year-old pupils within a sample of schools in each area.

Local views highlight success

- In Walsall in 2008 55% of young people answered "yes" to question 4f: "In the last four weeks have you participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sport, arts, or a youth group)? This compared to 62% nationally; whereas 41% said "no" compared to 34% nationally; with 4% of children and young people in Walsall responding "don't know" against 5% nationally;
- Officers explained that this ranked Walsall 1st within its statistical neighbour group; 1st in Black Country/ Birmingham set; 6th within the Metropolitan authorities and 44th nationally. However, there were concerns regarding the number of completed surveys.

The working group welcomed the results of the survey and emphasised the importance of building on this success. For example, by identifying and developing particularly successful strategies and approaches. The working group highlighted the importance of ensuring that those completing the survey understood its importance and relevance to improving those services from which they were likely to directly benefit.

Positive outcomes

The working group heard that there were many examples of the type of provision for young people within Walsall that have contributed to the positive survey outcomes. This included the "Catch them Young" scheme for 11 – 16 year olds, a fishing project based at Joseph Leckie School. Young people were identified by the Police as suitable for the project based on exclusion rates, anti-social behaviour and information

from the Youth Crime Action Plan which identifies high crime areas. The working group heard that these activities were funded by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. A number of other projects are also in operation including, Computer Literacy and Information Technology (CLAIT) courses as part of support provided to young people in preparation for work.

Measuring Success

The working group heard that the process of measuring the quality and success of positive activities was sometimes challenging with no empirical evidence available. However, some of the statistics that are collected include the number of people who have participated in positive activities and have achieved an accredited outcome, for example, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The outturn for 2008 for publicly funded Youth Service/Youth Work is set out below:

Participation	6075
Recorded Outcomes	2457
Accredited Outcomes	473

The working group heard that there is a large amount of anecdotal evidence of the impact of positive activities. For example, a project recently introduced to parts of Walsall and originally undertaken in Dudley, "Leaps and Bounds" which aims to help young people improve their behaviour and attitudes and work towards life goals with a range of activities, is supported by the Council and a number of other organisations. In one area of Dudley local police strongly believe that the presence of "Leaps and Bounds" contributed to a significant fall in anti-social behaviour.

Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS)

The working group heard that the introduction of IYPSS in November 2009 restructured the provision of services and represented a new way of working. This activity was led by the Council. However, important contributions will be made by other partners and stakeholders, including the voluntary and community sectors. The IYPSS is pursuing the task of providing a range of activities for young people aimed at increasing their level of personal responsibility, being valued members of their communities and encouraging them to consider/ plan for their own futures.

National Context

The national context for the introduction of IYPSS includes Aiming High for Young People 2007, with objectives including seeking to provide wide-ranging and high quality positive activities for young people, as well as the Youth Taskforce Action Plan 2008, which sought to tackle anti-social behaviour, while also supporting greater achievement for young people. The working group heard that the introduction of integrated services was particularly important to support action to

reduce the number of young people categorised as Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEETs). Walsall achieved a reduction in 2009/10 to 8.1% (774 young people) meeting our LAA target.

IYPSS - Key Targets:

- To target and support vulnerable young people in seeking to reduce substance misuse;
- To reduce the number of under eighteen conceptions;
- To achieve a reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system;
- To reduce the number of homeless young people;
- To increase the proportion of young people achieving level 2 and 3 qualifications;
- To increase the proportion of those participating in positive activities.

The working group heard that the Council and its partners recognise that young people only get once chance. However, they have not always been best served previously as a consequence of duplication and a lack of integration of services. It is anticipated that the new integrated services will provide support for young people with the aim of promoting their active citizenship. It will seek to achieve this by operating as a proactive service, providing good quality provision, including a comprehensive range of positive leisure-time activities as well as targeted support for young people and their families.


Local Delivery

The working group heard that IYPSS will be delivered locally within three major footprint areas, with the same comprehensive range of services offered within each. This will enable services to drill-down to particular neighbourhoods to better understand the needs of young people within specific communities.

The working group welcomed the introduction of IYPSS in Walsall and expressed the view that it would continue to be important for duplication to be avoided, as there would be a risk of different services targeting the same individuals.

Target Driven Action Plan (TAP)

The working group heard that there are around 23,000 13-19 year olds in Walsall, with a target that 55% of the local population should be participating in positive activities, and a Government minimum target of 25% of the 13 – 19 years reached by publicly funded Youth Service/Youth Work. The TAP (Appendix 2) demonstrates how IYPSS has twin objectives of both achieving the delivery of targets against the TellUs survey, as well as meeting the Council's wider responsibility to ensure all young people aged 13 to 19 are able to take part in positive activities in their local area. The working group heard that the TAP



highlighted the significant number and range of activities available through IYPSS as well as a number of related performance targets.

The working group stressed the importance of setting achievable and realistic targets that reflected available resources and local challenges.

Helping to deliver the TAP & NI 110

The working group learned that to support the delivery against the TAP and NI 110 targets, funding of £400,000 is being drawn from the Youth Capital Fund. The working group heard that the aim of the Youth Capital Fund was to improve the provision of positive activities for young people, by giving them the power to decide how this funding should be spent. Applications are made by young people to a panel of other young people who determine whether bids are appropriate and should receive funding. An independent evaluation of the programme has shown that the funds have had a genuine influence on empowering young people, increasing participation in positive activities and the quality of provision on offer. Walsall's successful application has enabled the purchase of three mobile vehicles and refurbishment of the existing technology bus to provide activities, including computers, for young people in areas of the borough which currently experience limited provision. Other organisations are also able to use the mobile facilities but must provide their own suitably qualified driver. A Council officer will also undertake an induction and accompany the driver on a road test. The Council is currently offering use of the vehicle on a trial basis until September 2010 when a review will take place. A refurbishment/upgrading programme for fourteen centres is also underway. In addition, a myplace funding application is to be made by April 2010. This is a multi-million pound government programme aimed at delivering high quality places for young people to go. Grants of between £1m and £5m are available, with the Council anticipating a grant of £1.3m which will be used to build a purpose built youth facility. The authority has over the past 3 years had youth opportunities monies which again has the applications being judged by young people, young people have taking part in activities, outing and have brought lots of equipment to improve outcomes for young people.

The working group acknowledged the success of this activity and stressed the importance of ensuring that those areas with the most limited provision are prioritised. The working group also expressed the view that there might be a role for other local partners, including the voluntary sector, particularly in the operation of the vehicles.

Early years intervention

The working group heard that there is a huge importance of intervening early in relation to young people, possibly as early as primary stage learning, to reduce the burden and cost of services later. It was also key to link what is done with IYPSS and Targeted Youth Support, of which positive activities is part, to the Families Matter Strategy. This should assist with the process of parents/ guardians encouraging young people to participate. It was explained that these activities have a much

broader reach and contribute to improved outcomes for individuals over the longer-term. The working group heard that it was also important that the service gains the participation of young people from 9 – 11 years old as they make what can be a traumatic transition from primary to secondary education.

The working group heard that there are a number of instances of neighbouring infant and junior schools operating under joint governance arrangements to provide a sustainable range of extended school provision for each others pupils. In addition, in circumstances where a child lives some way from their school, there have been discussions about that child attending activities in their “home” locality.

The working group welcomed the examples of collaboration between schools to support efficient extended-school provision at primary school level. The working group highlighted the importance of this activity as part of the process of engaging 9 – 11 year olds in positive activities and supporting their transition to secondary education.

Supporting IYPSS: Operation Stay Safe

In relation to tackling some of the attendant issues that exist in seeking to deliver effective IYPSS, including anti-social behaviour, Operation Stay Safe has been introduced to Walsall.

Background

Operation Stay Safe is one of seven elements to be delivered as part of the Youth Crime Action Plan 2008. It is a multi-agency scheme supported by the Home Office, which aims to keep young people safe and tackle issues of anti-social behaviour, where police use existing child protection legislation to remove children and young people from the street late at night to a place of safety. Parents/ guardians and, where necessary, additional services can then be contacted. It can be summarised as follows:

- Based on partnership between the police and the local authority;
- Use police intelligence to sweep Anti-Social Behaviour ‘hotspot’ areas late at night;
- Remove children and young people from the streets if they are at risk of significant harm;
- Take them to a designated ‘safe place’ where a multi-agency team assesses risks;
- Return children and young people to care of parents or guardians when possible;
- Offer and pursue multi-agency support when necessary.



Objectives

- Protect children left to wander the streets at night without responsible adult supervision;
- Protect children at risk of consuming alcohol;
- Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Educate young people away from gangs;
- Promote responsible parenting.

Early outcomes

- Current trials of this approach suggest that it is very effective in preventing crime, with each operation removing an average of twenty children from the streets each night. Liverpool has evidence of a 25% reduction in ASB in hotspot areas with no displacement to other areas;
- Furthermore, this approach provides the opportunity to identify any underlying reasons for a young person being on the streets. For example, if the young person has run away from home and feels it is unsafe to return, the need for emergency accommodation can be assessed.

Operation Stay Safe in Walsall

- In May 2009 Operation Stay Safe was rolled out in three neighbourhoods across the borough with night officers patrolling the Pleck and Delves, Cadmore and Palfrey areas as well as the Alumwell and Birchills, looking for young people under the age of 17 who they believe could be at risk of harm;
- The officers escort the young people to a local youth centre where Children's Service practitioners talk to them and contact their parents to come and collect them. If the parents do not do this the police will visit the family home;

Other community safety action

- The Young Persons' Information Centre (YPIC), for more information please see **Meeting with young people**, continues to have a positive relationship with local police and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's). This has helped build positive relationships between the Police and young people in Bloxwich and Blakenall. This included a forum that took place in January 2010 with the Police. This was requested by young people from the YPIC to talk about issues that were impacting on their lives;
- The YPIC has also been at the forefront of creating a partnership approach to reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within Bloxwich and Blakenall. The "Youth Action Meeting" (YAM) project is seeking to establish a coordinated approach to dealing with and solving issues of ASB, with partners including Walsall Housing Group (WHG), the Police, IYPSS and the Environmental Community Team.

The working group welcomed the introduction of Operation Stay Safe in Walsall and highlighted its important role in supporting effective IYPSS. It emphasised the importance of furthering a coordinated and targeted response from all partners.

Meeting with young people

The working group met with young people who attend the Young Persons' Information Centre (YPIC) in Blakenall together with the Centre Manager, youth and outreach workers. The working group heard that before the Centre officially opened in October 2007, it was actually a residential dwelling with four separate addresses and at some time in the past the dwelling also had a shop. It now provides a fun, educational and important information facility for young people. The Centre Manager explained that the YPIC serves 11 – 19 year olds and stressed that it was important to recognise that the centre is distinct from a youth club and has a different offer.

Agenda shaped by young people

The young people described how much they enjoyed the activities they were able to participate in through the centre. This included going on trips, attending workshops, as well as regular programmes of activities within the summer holidays. The Centre Manager explained that education formed a critical element of all visits. Other activities provided by the Centre include a homework club based on the IT suite. The Centre Manager explained that often the young people will take the initiative. For example, they determined for themselves the need for a training course to assist them in finding employment e.g. C.V. writing. In addition, key issues are tackled in a variety of ways. For example, activities for young people include talk-show style discussions around topics such as smoking. This involves them undertaking significant preparation, for example, research regarding the issues to be discussed.

Working with other services

The working group heard that the YPIC is also participating in local extended schools provision. This includes activities and learning outcomes for eight to thirteen year olds, as well as sign-posting of other services.

Making use of the YPIC

It is estimated that around two hundred young people have made use of the facility over the last two years. However, it is difficult to control the numbers of young people who come in to the centre – the level fluctuates throughout the year. For example, numbers tend to be lower in the summer holidays but typically rise in October and November. The number of young people attending recently were around sixty to sixty-five with the Centre operating with a capacity of seventy.



Success of outreach work

The working group heard that outreach work has had a significant impact, with thirteen new young people being identified and now attending the centre between June and August. Outreach workers continue to work hard and have had some success in persuading typically hard-to-reach young people from the local community to make use of the centre.

Monitoring of attendance

The working group heard that attendance is monitored at the YPIC. In terms of admissions, discretion is used and close working undertaken with the Police who might raise concerns regarding specific individuals attending the Centre. In addition, schools are contacted to check if a young person should in fact be attending school or a training course elsewhere.

The YPIC- knowing what success looks like

In terms of measuring success, the young people explained that the most valuable work undertaken by the YPIC is by the youth and outreach workers. They provide critical support for those who are unemployed and often suffering from a lack of motivation. A youth worker can be someone for them to talk to as well as provide guidance and support. The working group heard that the young people are also motivated by events including the annual Youth Service Training Awards. However, the working group acknowledged that the most meaningful evaluation is not the number of young people who make use of the Centre but how those who have attended have benefitted.

Promoting the YPIC

The young people expressed the view that further action that could be taken to promote the YPIC and encourage greater participation amongst local young people. For example, the displaying of posters within the area. The YPIC also produces a quarterly activity report for meetings of the New Deal Board.

Future funding of the YPIC

The working group expressed concerns regarding the possibility of funding for the YPIC not being available once New Deal funding concludes in 2011 which would force the Centre to close. The working group felt that such an outcome would be likely to disadvantage young people within Blakenall, especially if alternative provision was not available.

Developing links with Scrutiny

The YPIC and the young people who attend agreed to develop some case studies explaining what the service provides for them and what has made a difference to share at a future Panel meeting.

The working group expressed strong support for the positive impact of the work undertaken by the YPIC on young people. The working group noted in particular the importance of outreach work in encouraging young people to make use of the positive activities available as well as provide critical support. It was also proposed that the parent Panel received case studies as well as regular reporting of activities and outcomes from the YPIC to further highlight the valuable work undertaken.

Promoting Positive Activities in Walsall

The working group have sought to determine how to most effectively promote positive activities to young people. The working group expressed concerns regarding the challenges of increasing the numbers of young people who participate in these activities. In relation to this the working group heard that the Council must meet a duty by 2011 to publish all positive activities. A number of concerns were identified in relation to meeting this requirement. For example, there are significant practical challenges in being able to identify and collate all positive activities provided by statutory bodies, the third as well as private sectors, including being very costly and resource intensive. In addition, there may be a number of activities undertaken locally that for legitimate reasons would not want to be part of published activities e.g. those which are religious faith-based. Officers also explained that limited responses have been received from other Council services in sharing information regarding positive activities. A further challenge will exist with any positive activities that appear on the Council site likely to be assumed to be Council approved. It would therefore be necessary to adopt a process for assessing organisations against a set of criteria. For example, that staff have undertaken appropriate training, are Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) compliant where necessary and that Public Liability Insurance requirements have been met. However, this would further add to the Council's administrative burden. The working group heard the one neighbouring authority had already declared that it was not in a position to deliver against the duty.

The working group, in addition to practical concerns regarding meeting the duty, expressed concerns regarding the limited responses provided by other Council services in assisting IYPSS in meeting the duty and highlighted the importance of all services contributing to the collation and publication of positive activities. The working group also agreed that consideration is given to a split list that distinguishes approved organisations.

Ensuring young people know about the local IYPSS

The working group sought to determine how to most effectively promote positive activities to young people and seek to increase the numbers of young people who participate in these activities. The working group emphasised the importance of identifying and using the most effective methods of communicating the programme to young people, including the use of social media as one way of reaching out to this audience, for example, Twitter, Facebook and Bebo. While the development of a dedicated website was also proposed which might be better received by young people than a Council-branded site. The working group also noted the Youth Directory that was produced by young advisors in partnership with Blakenall's Childrens Area Partnerships which listed upcoming events. The working group considered whether it might be possible to identify suitable sponsors who would be able to provide positive associations for young people and the activities available.

Targeting hot spots

The working group emphasised the importance of effective sign-posting of provision as well as services being aware of "hot spots" to target resources, for example, areas with low take-up of positive activities provision.

Accessing positive activities

The working group identified a further issue was the difficulties experienced by some in being able to physically travel to activities elsewhere in the Borough. Officers also explained that a further challenge existed in persuading young people to cross perceived social boundaries between wards.

The working group highlighted the importance of outreach work in breaking down perceived social barriers. While recognising that under IYPSS there will be increased availability of positive activities across the borough, the working group emphasised the importance of the effective use of facilities, including the mobile units, to address the issue of difficulties faced by young people in travelling to activities elsewhere.

Recommendations:

- 1. that the importance of outreach work in engaging young people continues to be recognised in the delivery of services;**
- 2. that the Council supports the existing provider in identifying possible future funding partners to enable the Young**

People's Information Centre (YPIC) to continue to operate following the conclusion of New Deal funding in 2011;

- 3. that all Council services and partners ensure that all events and activities are shared with the Council's Integrated Young People's Support Services to assist in meeting the duty to publicise all Positive Activities;**
- 4. that there is effective use of facilities, including mobile units, to target areas with limited provision and "hot spots";**
- 5. that all opportunities are used to promote the wide range of Positive Activities that are available to young people in a way that is appropriate for the target audience, this should include all opportunities to make use of Council and partner managed websites, as well as social media;**
- 6. that the importance of completing the Tell Us Survey is effectively communicated to young people within schools;**
- 7. to receive case studies and regular reporting of activities and outcomes at the Children's and Young People Scrutiny Panel;**
- 8. that a presentation regarding the initial period of the introduction of Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) is received by the Panel during the next municipal year. With consideration also given to providing similar presentations to Political groups;**
- 9. that the Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) Newsletter for Members is produced on a regular basis.**

Appendix 1

Work Group Name:	Positive Activities working group
Panel:	Children's & Young People
Municipal Year:	2009-10
Lead Member:	Councillor Hughes
Lead Officer:	Ian Cruise-Taylor
Support Officer:	Matt Underhill
Membership:	Councillor Hughes Councillor Beeley Councillor Martin

1.	Context
	The Government is keen to see young people engaged more positively in learning and their own personal development. It is seen as a contribution to increasing volunteering and participation in learning as well as contributing to reductions in youth crime and anti-social behaviour. This theme is echoed in the strategic partnership locally and is being taken up largely through the development of Integrated and Targeted Young People's Support Services.
2.	Objectives
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to ensure the range and quality of positive activities is as good as it can be in Walsall; 2. to ensure young people play an active part in designing and where possible delivering new opportunities, especially for volunteering and 'things to do – places to go'; 3. to ensure that young people in Walsall get the services they deserve.
3.	Scope
	The council's response, along with partners and stakeholders, to the Government's 'Aiming High for Young people'.
6.	Equalities Implications
	The working group will have the opportunity to review completed and emerging Equality Impact Assessments completed as part of the project documentation for the introduction of Integrated and Targeted Young People's Support Services. These have been undertaken to ensure new policies, procedures, services and strategies recognise and reflect the services equalities duties.
4.	Who else will you want to take part?
	It will be important to include service users. For example, young people who use local facilities including a Young People Information Centre (YPIC); It might also prove useful to speak with those involved in the provision of these services outside of Walsall to learn about best practice.
5.	Timescales & Reporting Schedule
	The working group will report to the parent Panel within the municipal year, and will look to update the Panel where appropriate

	as its work will run in parallel with the introduction of Integrated and Targeted Young People's Support Services.
6.	Risk factors
	Given the range of organisations and stakeholders involved there is a risk of potential duplication as a consequence of different service areas targeting the same young people.

Date Agreed:	24 October 2009
--------------	-----------------

DRAFT 4

Appendix 2

WALSALL PARTNERSHIP

TARGET DRIVEN ACTION PLAN

1) (New) Local Area Agreement Target(s) to be Achieved: NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities – current baseline 55% locally (national average 62%), target 65% for 2010.	2) Lead Group: Children's Pillar
3) Lead Organisation and Address: Integrated Young people's Support Services, Walsall Council, Children's Services, 12 th Floor, Tameway Tower, Bridge Street, Walsall WS1 1JZ	4) Supporting Organisations: Fire Service, secondary schools, Walsall College, Serco, Voluntary Sector organisations, NHS, Police, Children's Area Partnerships. Other Council Departments Neighbourhood Services and Economic Regeneration
5) Main Contact Person and Contact Details: Alan Michell Head of Integrated Young People's Support Services Michellalan@walsall.gov.uk Ian Cruise-Taylor Project Manager, Integrated Young People's Support Services Taylorci@walsall.gov.uk Nigel Patterson Youth Service manager PattersonN@walsall.gov.uk	
6) What existing activity is being undertaken to achieve the target(s)? National Indicator 110 relies on the results of the annual 'Tell-us Survey' conducted in selected schools and measures a narrow indicator which asks young people if they have engaged in a group activity led by an adult, outside school hours in the last 4 weeks. This question has been developed recently appearing in this format first in Tellus 3, this year being Tellus4. A wide and varied menu of activities	

provided by Walsall council and partner organisations, mainly in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) helps to meet this indicator and provide young people across the borough with fulfilling activities also aimed at meeting the council's wider responsibility to ensure all young people aged 13 to 19 are able to take part in free-time positive activities in their local area. The results of Tellus surveys, data collected for 'PLINGS' (Places to Go, Things to Do), Duke of Edinburgh Award and Residential data will be used to inform the baseline and target. The Government has issued revised guidance which is due to take effect in February 2010, which is currently being studied. Here are examples of the range of activities young people engage in:

- **Art**, young people take part in arts in a number of different ways, drawing, painting, vision arts, photography and the chance to do arts award.
- **Music**, young people can record their own tracks using the studio equipment in centre across the borough, djing workshops, use instruments and the opportunities to perform live.
- **Drama**, young people have the opportunity to stage drama production working with arts worker from across the borough
- **Dance** Young people take part in dance project/sessions with several centre having dance studios
- **sports**, several types of sports are available to young people including football, basketball, cricket and also Wii activity
- **after hours activities in schools**, informal sessions, clubs and activities including sports, arts, and leisure pursuits
- **Consultation activity**, every programme and project involves consultation with young people.
- **Youth Opportunities Fund/Youth Capital Fund**, is a programme where young people make decisions on funding for projects submitted by other young people.
- **UK Youth Parliament** is a process where young people get a chance to represent Walsall on at a National level.
- **Duke of Edinburgh award scheme**, social development programme for 14 to 25 year old young people.
- **Outings and trips**, young people have the opportunity to go on day trip e.g. Alton Towers
- **Residential experiences**, helping young people's personal development through controlled challenges in residential settings (climbing, canoeing etc)
- **International women's day, Black history Month, MAD show**, Young people from across Walsall have opportunity to take part in borough wide activities link to global themes.
- **Mobile provision, technology bus, library services, police bus**, a number of mobile units working across the borough bring services such as information and advice, internet access, constructive games and books.
- **Holiday programmes**, across the borough during school holiday periods clubs and project provide trips and centre based work, a number of services also supplied by libraries and leisure services
- **Family learning** opportunities in schools and other settings
- **Study groups (homework clubs)**, provided by libraries to provide support and look at fun ways on learning
- **Teen reading group**, Young people are encouraged to go into the library and meet other teenagers and discover new authors and books.
- **Extended schools offer**, every school in Walsall has a duty to provide out of school activities such as chess club.

- **F.I.R.E Project**, an intensive 5 day programme designed for young people who are either excluded, or on the verge of exclusion, from school and those who are working with Youth Offending Teams.
- **Volunteering**, Young people become senior member with in their youth clubs helping run the project (16-18)
- **Youth Awareness**, 10 week programme for young people aged 16-18 who have an interest in becoming a youth worker
- **Way4ward programme**, enables young people and their family to find ways of becoming more physically active in a safe and informed way
- **Sports clubs**, number of sports clubs offering a range of activities from football to badminton
- **Uniform organisations**, Scouts and Guides clubs are available for young people across the borough
- **Positive Activities for Young People**, which offers arts, sports, cultural and educational activities for young people at risk of offending
- **YIP (Youth Inclusion Programme)**, aimed at the top 50 young people at risk of offending providing them with one to one and group work interventions
- **Youth Crime Action Plan** funded partnership with the Police, targeted at crime hotspots, and activities for young people on the weekends.

There are 40 youth clubs and projects (providing detached youth work, residential activities etc.) funded by Walsall Council (including centrally managed), all of which deliver positive activities for young people. In addition to this, partner organisations such as the Library Service, Sports and Leisure, the Fire Service, Extended Schools, and the Youth Offending Service all offer opportunities for young people to take part in positive activities. Other organisations and groups exist across the borough funded and run privately or in the community, such as riding schools and church groups who provide opportunities for young people, which lie outside the scope of current data collection, but which would enable a young person to answer the question in the TellUs survey positively. Other services such as Connexions help to promote and direct young people towards suitable opportunities. There is something to do for young people seven days a week.

The projected outcome for Youth Service 'Reach' in 2009-10 is 8500 which is 35%, compared with the 2008-2009 8172 which is 33%, which compares favourably with the national benchmark of 25% of the 13-19 population.

7) Has an analysis / review / evaluation been undertaken to assess the suitability of existing activity, including identification of duplication and gaps in service delivery? If yes, please provide evidence of the review / evaluation and outcomes?

All youth centres undertake regular reviews with young people attending their sessions, to check the level of interest, this is used to assess existing programmes and contribute to future plans. However, many of the activities are provided by non-statutory, non-direct funded organisations, and the opportunity to assess and review is limited. A 'mapping' exercise was carried out in 2008 which has informed planning in 2009 and a half day workshop has taken place with a number of key partners/service providers. In addition to this a further small working party looked at the next steps needed to meet the target, which are set out below.

7a) What proposed activity is to be undertaken to achieve the target(s):

Actions:

Activity	By when	How will we know its been achieved
Update 'map' of existing opportunities to identify gaps and duplication (working through CAPs, VCS and partner organisations)	30 th April 2010	Map completed
Develop and promote a comprehensive 'Youth Offer' which explains to young people and others what is available, how services are provided and how to get involved in developing the services themselves	31 st May 2010	Youth Offer publicised on web, in young people's publications, and in public places. Reviews show that it is being understood by young people
Work with young people to gather their views on existing arrangements and future needs (working through the Children's' Trust)	28 th February in initially then ongoing reviews of progress	Young people report satisfaction with process of engagement
Ensure website and directory include all existing opportunities	31 st March 2010 then ongoing reviews of progress	Website and other publications updated
Ensure information services (e.g. IYPSS, Libraries, Schools,) have up-to-date information about opportunities and promote these to young people	31 st March 2010 then annual review of progress	Market testing, mystery shopping by young people
Develop and agree action plan to fill gaps and remove duplication	31 st March 2010	Action plan complete and agreed by partners
Work with partners (e.g. extended schools, VCS, LA directorates, Serco) to develop provision to meet identified needs reduce duplication and fill gaps	Baseline established by 30 May	New provision in place and maintained

	2010, then regular reviews	
Refurbishment of a number of youth facilities which will improve the quality of building, making them more attractive to young people,	March 2010	When the facilities have been provided, and the numbers of young people attending has increased overall to 45% (currently 32%). this activity is funded by YCF +, and this must be spent by 31 st March 2010
Purchase of 4 mobiles to offer positive activities in agreed areas in the borough, based on need/demand	March 2010	When the mobiles are in use – this activity is funded by YCF +, and this must be spent by 31 st March 2010
Work with BSF to contribute to creation of learning villages in local communities, to increase opportunities for youth provision and positive activities for young people	30 th April 2010, then quarterly review of progress	New/improved strategically placed provision in place, and young people are using them in sufficient numbers – contributing to the overall target of 45%
Expand Youth Inclusion Programme beyond WS10 and WV13.	Spring 2010	Further groups of young people (within target of 50 at any one time) are offered support under the YIP model
Commissioning of competitive grant process for Positive Activity and Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) for up to 3 years, of a total of £850,000 per annum	June 2010 with quarterly and annual monitoring and reviews	Activity in place via a competitive grant process with robust contract and monitoring arrangement process.

8) Why has this particular course of action been chosen?

Data from the last TellUs shows that 55% of young people surveyed indicated that they are engaging in positive activities in Walsall compared with 62% Nationally. The two most obvious reasons that young people don't engage are that they do not know what exists, or it doesn't (or is perceived not to) meet their needs. It is also likely that some young people may not recognise the definition in relation to something they already do. Although there are a significant number of opportunities for young people already in existence, these are often provided without being part of a strategic response. Many opportunities are provided by a wide range of organisations whose links to the formal systems are not strong, and this will continue to be the case.

The steps above are designed to achieve 3 outcomes

- a. provide a wider range of opportunities based on identified needs,
- b. improve young people's awareness of them and
- c. robustly monitoring the use made and effectiveness of the provision to aid future planning

9) Is this activity linked to existing strategies / outcomes, including the Sustainable Community Strategy; How does it Contribute to achievement of new Local Area Agreement target(s); Have additional Partners been identified who can add value to the programme / commission – who are they and what roles could they perform?

The activity is linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy:

Point 1.1.3 enhance the quality of life people living and working in Walsall.

Point 1.3.1 Encourage active citizens to participate in local decisions-making processes

Point 3.1.1 supporting children to do as well as they can and enjoy their childhood and youth

Point 3.1.4 improving the skills and knowledge of both people in and out of work.

It also contributes to the targets and outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan. By delivering against the high level priorities outlined within the CYP Plan we deliver also against the aspirations outlined within the sustainable community strategy (above). This plan also links into NI 5, general satisfaction with the local area; NI 117, 16 to 18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training; and NI 87, Secondary school persistent absence rate. NI 111, Reduction in First Time Entrants; NI 19, reducing the number of young people re-offending.

Walsall council commission a number of partners to deliver positive activities focused services. They include: Community associations, Old Hall People's Partnership, Walsall Youth Arts, Forest Arts Centre, the Scouts and Guides

10) Are there any existing services which need to cease, or be reduced in scale, in order for this activity to take place?

Each year a review of services is undertaken and adjustments made annually and in –year based on changes in need or demand. The commissioning process reviews providers performance each year in the Autumn so that decisions can be made regarding provision in the coming financial year. This leads to changes in the provision ‘map’ including provision ceasing and new/different activities being commissioned. The target will be met by increasing directly funded or commissioned provision and seeking to influence non-funded providers to maintain, increase or change their offer according to perceived need.

11) Please outline the service specification:

The service is in two parts: the first focuses on the number of young people who have engaged in a group activity led by an adult, outside school hours in the last 4 weeks, at the date of the TellUs survey, and meeting the council’s wider responsibility to ensure all young people aged 13 to 19 are able to take part in free-time positive activities in their local area. The main budgets involved are:

Youth Service Main*	£2,424,000	All universal youth work activity is focused on providing positive activities
Central projects*	£ 758,300	Specific LA youth work targeted projects
Delegated projects*	£ 521,300	Youth Work projects delivered by the third sector, funded by LA Youth Service
Youth Opportunities Fund	£ 392,200	Young people’s fund (managed and decision made by young people) (DCSF)
Youth Crime Action Plan	£ 40,000	Youth Work in hot spot area providing positive activities (Home Office)
Youth Inclusion Project	£ 130,000	Youth inclusion monies giving positive activities to top 50 at risk young people (YJB)
Positive Activities for Young People*	£ 732,816	Activities and support for young people at risk of involvement in crime

*Area Based Grant funding

Information on fire service, libraries and extended school not available

12) What is the approximate total cost of the activity?

£4,998,616

13) What is the procurement / tendering / contracting process and timetable?

The new commissioning model is to be rolled out next year with partner being invited to bid relating to outcomes for young people. Contract will be award on a three year process.

Centrally managed projects are allocated money based on deprivation and population

YCAP money is allocated to crime hotspots and workers are also invited to bid for money to meet a need in their districts.

14) How will links be made with local communities (including communities of interest and geographical; what links are being

made with Local Neighbourhood Partnerships)?

The Children Trust have conducted a wide range of consultation with children and young people, the results form the basis of the Children and Young People's Plan. Youth workers attend LNP and CAP's to inform/engage colleagues and community on the work taking place. They also work to provide youth work support in other settings such as schools and VCS provision. The Youth Service also consult widely with service users to identify what activities to put on for young people.

15) Is the proposed activity Compact compliant? Please provide an explanation?

Yes, the principles that lie behind the relationships with service users, the community and partners are entirely consistent with those of the Compact, the Youth Service works to eliminate discrimination, promote social justice, good community relations and community cohesion. The commissioning of services is based on the notions of integrity, openness and honesty and applies the same rigour for planning and monitoring to directly delivered and funded projects

16) What performance management arrangements are in existence regarding identified existing activity?

Each service provider funded under the youth service commissioning process is subjected to a quality assurance (QA) visit. All directly managed project are also are subjected to a QA visit. Reports are required for government office relating YOF funding. YJB inspect YIP. Reports are made to the local authority performance board relating to positive activities for young people. Although the National Indicator relies entirely an analysis of responses to the TellUs survey, the Youth Service is monitored for 'reach' participation in activities and accreditation of learning/involvement, which enable the service to determine its engagement with young people. Staff are also monitored against the quality of their interventions with young people.

17) Has an equalities impact assessment been undertaken regarding the activity and the proposed outcomes?

The equality impact assessment provides a tool whereby service able to measure the accessibility and target groups of young people under positive activities. Ongoing information is held on the EST system as a means of measuring progress made against targets. This has identified a number of activities which need modifying and groups of service users who are less well served.

18) A risk assessment must be undertaken regarding the proposed activity. Please provide a risk assessment of the programme / commission: to follow

19) What is the succession strategy for this activity - how will this be resourced in the future, how will this be undertaken and what are the timescales:

Significant levels of activity are already funded through mainstream ABG budgets. Those which are funded by other sources will be considered for inclusion in mains tream budgets in advance of funding ceasing. Needs will be identified on a locality basis and services

will be designed to respond to those needs. The annual commissioning process will assist with this approach.

20) How will achievements of the programme / commission be communicated to the wider partnership / community?

Through youth service and council publications, partners organisations and websites. Through reports to CAPs and neighbourhood management.

21) What learning has been identified through undertaking this process - how has this been of value in assessing the activity?

That further mapping needs to take place to identify gaps and duplication.

The need for further developments in relationships with the full range of positive activity providers

The importance of support for robust and transparent commissioning processes

The need to highlight the amount of good work taking place in Walsall, and the range of providers involved.

I CONFIRM THAT THIS COMMISSION WILL NOT ENTER INTO ANY COMMITMENTS OR LIABILITIES THAT WILL REQUIRE ANY OTHER FUNDING BEYOND 31 MARCH 2011(*) AND THAT I WILL ENSURE THE SUCCESSION STRATEGY IS MANAGED EFFECTIVELY SO THAT SERVICE USERS AND / OR EMPLOYEES ARE CLEARLY INFORMED OF, AND ASSISTED APPROPRIATELY, PRIOR TO THE END DATE OF ANY SERVICE PROVIDED.

(*) This may be extended, by separate agreement – through the agreed commissioning process

Signed:

On Behalf of the Lead Organisation

Performance / Target Monitoring Outputs:

Target Profile – Detail the expected quarterly out-turn for the target (please ensure that the cumulative, or 4th quarter out-turn, is as indicated in the Local Area Agreement):

Baseline Position	2008 / 09				2009 / 10				2010 / 2011			
	1 st 1/4	2 nd 1/4	3 rd 1/4	4 th 1/4	1 st 1/4	2 nd 1/4	3 rd 1/4	4 th 1/4	1 st 1/4	2 nd 1/4	3 rd 1/4	4 th 1/4
NI 110				55%				65%				70%
YS Reach				33%				35%				39%

Please provide the name and contact details of the officer who will be able to supply the out-turn data against this target:

Financial Profiling for 2008 / 09:

Please show your planned expenditure per month:

(If you intend to employ staff, then staff costs will be minimal during the first three months, to allow for recruitment)

Month	Staff	Capital / Resource	Revenue	Totals
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
January				
February				
March				
TOTALS				

Matthew Underhill

Scrutiny Officer ☎ 01922 652087 or underhillm@walsall.gov.uk