

Cabinet – 28 October 2015

Youth Support Services – Review of Targeted Youth Work – response to recommendations of Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Portfolio: Councillor Towe - Children's Services

Service: Youth Support Services

1. Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8 September Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report from the youth work sub group, on the proposed changes to Targeted Youth Work (see separate Scrutiny report enclosed in Cabinet papers)

2. Response to the resolutions of the Committee

- 2.1 *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*
 - 2.1.1 The commissioning decision making arrangements have been the subject of further, focussed consultation amongst partner organisations and young people. The notion of a, 'locally shaped, corporately commissioned arrangement' has received overwhelming support from respondents and is being recommended to Cabinet as the preferred arrangement.
 - 2.1.2 This would strengthen the localisation of the process with the Youth Support Services leading the work with locality colleagues including elected members to establish an area based commissioning model, in line with Council strategic arrangements, drawing on the experience and expertise of local partners, elected members, providers and young people as key decision makers. Section 6.4 of the Targeted Youth Work 28 October Cabinet Report, provides further detail on this proposal.
- 2.2 *That Cabinet be advised that the Working Group recommend that option B of the resource allocation model be adopted*
 - 2.2.1 The Working Group's recommendation is included in the Cabinet Report at paragraph 4.6. The consultation with stakeholders and young people showed significant support for this option with half the young people supporting it and 7 of the 25 respondents in support. 13 of the 25 respondents supported option C.
- 2.3 *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*

- 2.3.1 The proposals in the Cabinet paper regarding the future use of promises makes an explicit reference at paragraph 13.2 of the report:

“The Council owned youth centres are under review by the Development and Delivery team in the Economy and Environment Directorate. The option of making them available for use by independent sector partners under the commissioning arrangements will be considered, and was strongly recommended by the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Task and Finish Group, where they fit with the needs determined by the resource allocation model. However it is likely that the majority will be surplus to Targeted Youth Work requirements.”

- 2.3.2 When commissioned providers are being identified, further discussions will take place regarding the opportunity for them to use the buildings released. There is already some interest in Mossley from the BIG Lottery funded ‘Big Local’ in that area. The report points out that a number of the buildings are nearing the end of their useful life and it is recommended that condition surveys are commissioned so that maintenance and investment requirements over the next five years can be assessed and inform any leasing/occupation arrangements.

- 2.4 *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*

- 2.4.1 Consideration of the Onside proposals is on-going. A visit has been made to two existing Onside sites, which indicated that they are thriving, well run facilities with good attendances, and enthusiastic and committed staff.

- 2.4.2 Children’s Services Asset Management Group has been made aware of the proposals and the Onside proposals have also been considered at the Corporate Capital Strategy Group.

- 2.4.3 A full report on progress will be developed for Scrutiny.

- 2.5 *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.*

- 2.5.1 Initial discussions have been held with Leisure Services colleagues and a list of possible opportunities has been identified for further discussions. The list includes:

- Free swimming is still available for all under-16s during all public sessions. This wouldn’t be exclusive youth usage, but it’s a widely accessible activity with a perceived value
- Evening use of the Oak Park astro-turf facility – this could be free of charge, however there would be other users on adjacent pitches.
- Gym sessions – offered in designated areas for exclusive youth usage,
- Hour-long dance, gym and pool sessions across the leisure centres, which could be programmed to run consecutively to create a whole-evening of mixed

delivery (A nominal £1 charge per session would be made, which together with the external funding makes them cost-neutral)

- externally sports projects
- Outdoor Pursuits Service offering exclusive use of the Aldridge Airport Centre for agreed evenings a week.

2.5.2 **Appendix A** provides a breakdown of the numbers of children and young people registered with and attending leisure provisions in the borough.

2.6 *That the YSS Delivery Manager provides a briefing paper on access to Myplace by local young people.*

2.6.1 Members of the Scrutiny Committee expressed concern that local young people were being prevented from gaining access to Myplace. The data on young people attending all targeted youth work provision at Myplace has been reviewed to establish the extent to which young people from Delves, Pleck and adjacent areas attend Myplace.

2.6.2 The attendance data shows for the period March 2015 to August 2015:

	Area based on postcode	Total
WS5	Delves, Yew Tree	755
WS1	Palfrey, Caldmore, Chuckery, Fulbrook, St Matthews	456
WS2	Bentley, Alumwell, Pleck	305
ANON	No postcodes	211
WV12	Willenhall, Short Heath	142
WS10	Wednesbury, Darlaston	120
WS3	Coalpool, Bloxwich	112
WS8	Brownhills, Clayhanger	50
WV13	Willenhall, Wolverhampton	48
WS4	Pelsall, Butts, Rushall	43
B71	West Bromwich	37
b44	Perry Barr, Kingstanding, Great Barr,	8
B70	West Bromwich	7
B43	Great Barr, Hamstead	6
WS6	Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley,	4
WV14	Bradley, Bilston Town, Coseley	2
WS9	Aldridge, Barr Beacon	2
B67	Smethwick, Bearwood, Sandwell	1
B20	Handsworth Wood, Handsworth, Birchfield,	1
total		2310

2.6.3 The data shows that 65% of attendances (aside from the Bentley element within WS2) are from young people with postcodes considered to be in the 'catchment area' for Myplace, if considered as a 'local' centre/provision..

2.6.4 Members were invited to identify any specific issues to be explored. None have been notified to the Youth Support Services.

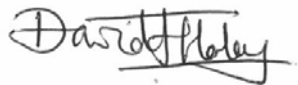
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David Haley

Executive Director

16 October 2015



Councillor Towe

Portfolio holder

16 October 2015

Appendix 1

Service Area	Groups / Activities	Individuals	Annual Visits	Comment
Whole service	All	22,114		Total number of children registered with the Sport & Leisure Service on all memberships / activities that require registration.
Leisure Centres	Swimming	7,077	67,968	These are swims from borough residents who are registered with the service – there may be a significant number of casual swims from those who aren't registered (especially in the 16-19 age group where they don't need to register to access free swimming).
Leisure Centres	Swimming Lessons	2,000	78,000	Average number of children enrolled on swimming lessons at any one time.
Looked After Children		348	Not tracked	LAC aged 9-19 registered for free swimming / the Move-it discount scheme – will be included in the numbers above
Outdoor Pursuits	My Place, Short Breaks, scouts and guides, Air / Army cadets, birthday parties, Action 4 kids, Emmanuel and All Saints Church	Approx 1000	10,000	Significant disability specialism to existing delivery, but a facility that could support a range of group delivery or targeted interventions on the basis, of self esteem, behaviour, reparation work etc.
Sports Development	Doorstep Sports Clubs (Gala / Oak Park	146	716	2 hour sessions with 1 instructor and 1 youth worker. The kids choose two different sessions each week to take part in (e.g volleyball or water polo and then gym or dance). We get a grant from Streetgames plus kids pay £2 a session. At oak Park out of 19 new ones over recent months 13 have wanted gym inductions and are coming at other times. (The other 6 were already fitzone members).
	Park Run	Week of 3rd October.	2500?	These were those runners in the under 19 categories from one run.

Appendix 1

		49 Attended		
	Junior Athletics Club	77 people from April	750	Over the course of a year
Voluntary sector sports clubs	From details of our clubs audit. 167 junior sports clubs across 27 sports (73 cater for females, 154 for males). 94 are accredited. Estimated as 5,300 junior members.	5300	198,750	Visits calculated as individuals x 25 weeks (per season), multiplied by 1.5. Some people will train and play (2 visits), some will only play, some will only train (1 visit).
Health and Fitness Team	Way4ward exercise on referral programme	300	300	Exercise advice on referral service also signposts into additional provision below
	Fun 4Life	750	150	Young Persons Weight management programme
	Exhilar8	30	950	Gym and Sportshall based sessions for people with disabilities currently from Oak park and gala, but was based at Bloxwich. Included designated swim time) when it was at Bloxwich.
	TLC Active	750	75	Gym and Sportshall sessions for young people who are inactive or overweight
	Beechdale Housing Association / NACRO / Bloxwich Primary school	60	440	Group specific support for healthy lifestyle interventions such as weight or healthy behaviour interventions.