

Title of Report:	Changes to local universal youth provision
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	18 th September 2012

Purpose of Report: To update the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission on changes to universal youth provision and club activities which are no longer financed by the Council

Recommended Action: To note the content of the report

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 During the Commission's 31 July 2012 examination of the Council's handover of provision of youth clubs in the district, members requested further information. This report amplifies the position with regard to the open access youth clubs formerly run by West Berkshire Council, delivery of which changed between March and September 2011 as a result of a refocusing of the youth service away from universal provision due to significant budget reductions.
- 1.2 Significant officer time from the Acting Head of Youth Services and Commissioning, Youth Services Manager and Youth Service Operational Managers and area co-ordinator was spent working with local communities and organisations to support and enable the sustainability and development of local youth provision over a period of eighteen months from November 2010.
- 1.3 Several clubs accessed support from the Community Solutions Fund, which was established as a time limited fund to try and address any gaps created by withdrawal of Council funding. Currently Children's Services provides funding to Berkshire Youth to deliver support to local community youth clubs, and to enable them to access the member benefits of this organisation.
- 1.4 There are no plans within the Directorate at this time to have any further input into these youth services, which now need to be run by community volunteers if they are to continue. The Directorate currently has no funding which would allow for further

youth-work support or activity. The next section details changes to specific provision across the district.

2. Senior Youth Club at Riverside

Previously:

Tuesday evenings: 7:30 - 9:30pm
Venue: Riverside Community centre
Age group: 13 -19 yr. olds
Nos. attending - Average of 10 per session

Update:

This provision had closed prior to the Youth Service vacating Riverside in March 2011, not primarily as a result of budget reductions. However, WBC worked closely with the Clay Hill Residents Association to develop an agreement for this group to run the building for community use.

The Youth Service continues to work with young people in the community via the detached provision delivered in the Clay Hill area.

CHRA (Clay Hill Residents Association), in collaboration with Berkshire Youth, now runs a fortnightly senior club, with members of the community volunteering their time to run it.

There is also a successful junior club.

3. Senior Youth Club at Greenham

Previously:

Monday Evenings: 7-9pm
Venue: Greenham Community Centre
Age group: 13 -19yr. olds
Nos. attending - Average of 8 per session

Update:

This club was handed over to the Greenham Community Youth Project, with a grant from the Youth Service to help maintain the provision in an area of high need, and it continues successfully.

The Youth Service continues to work with local young people via the detached provision delivered in the Greenham area.

4. John O'Gaunt Lunch Club and senior club

Previously:

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday: 1 - 1:45pm
Venue: John O'Gaunt Youth Club
Age group: Rotation of all year groups
Nos. attending - Between 20 and 30 per year group

Update:

This club was closed as it no longer met the criteria for the Youth Service work with vulnerable young people, and as the Youth Service vacated that premise due to the budget reductions.

Collaboration between Wired Rock Café, the Town Council and others, with support from West Berkshire Council, has taken on management of the JOG Youth and Community Centre and Wired Rock Café runs a range of youth related activities including the senior club.

5. Lunch time sessions in schools x 4

Previously:

Venues: Denefield, Little Heath, Theale and John O'Gaunt 1 - 1:45 pm

Age groups: All years

Purpose- To raise awareness of youth provision for pupils during their break time, so the numbers engaged with varied.

Update:

These sessions were closed as they no longer met the criteria for Youth Service work. Young People in those localities can access the detached provision delivered in the area.

6. Waterside Junior Club

Previously:

Tuesday evening 6:30 - 8pm

Venue: Waterside Centre

Age group: 8 -12 yr. olds

Nos. attending - Average of 20 per session

Update:

This club was closed as a result of the Youth Service move to targeted work with 13+ young people. Newbury Town Council was informed of this closure, although thus far we are not aware of any response from community to revive this club.

Adventure Dolphin continues to deliver universal activity-based provision from the Waterside Centre.

7. Theale Junior Club

Previously:

Tuesday evenings: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Venue: Theale Youth Centre -Theale Green School site.

Age group: 8 -11yr olds

Nos. attending - Average 30 per session

Update:

The centre was one of those lost in the cuts, resulting in the closure of the club.

Berkshire Youth were alerted and meetings held between them and Theale Parish Council. We are not aware that any replacement has started due to Young People not showing an interest in attending.

8. Other clubs developed with support of WBC since 2010

Horizon Youth Club at the Moorside Centre is now running through the support of the Town Council and Berkshire Youth.

Lambourn Youth Club - due to open in September 2012.

Kintbury Youth Club juniors and seniors.

9. Conclusion

9.1 The commitment and hard work of local community members and organisations, the expertise and practical support of Berkshire Youth, officer and Member time from the Council, and funding from WBC and Greenham Common Trust has ensured that there continues to be a strong and vibrant provision of open access youth clubs in West Berkshire despite the loss of core funding.

9.2 However, in the current financial climate, there is unlikely to be the possibility of further financial or staffing support from the Council towards these or other new facilities.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.