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| Title of Report: | Youth activities in West Berkshire |
| Report to be considered by: | Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission |
| Date of Meeting: | 7 December 2010 |

Purpose of Report: To update Members on the progress in developing activities for teenagers.

Recommended Action: Members note the report and the implications of the recent budget cuts.

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Plan Priority(ies):

- CPP1 – Support our communities through the economic downturn** – to alleviate the impact on different communities and individuals who find themselves out of work and/or disadvantaged
- CPP2 – Raise levels of educational achievement** – improving school performance levels
- CPP3 – Reduce crime and the fear of crime**

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Theme(s):

- CPT1 - Better Roads and Transport**
- CPT2 - Thriving Town Centres**
- CPT3 - Affordable Housing**
- CPT4 - High Quality Planning**
- CPT5 - Cleaner and Greener**
- CPT6 - Vibrant Villages**
- CPT7 - Safer and Stronger Communities**
- CPT8 - A Healthier Life**
- CPT9 - Successful Schools and Learning**
- CPT10 - Promoting Independence**
- CPT11 - Protecting Vulnerable People**
- CPT12 - Including Everyone**
- CPT13 - Value for Money**
- CPT14 - Effective People**
- CPT15 - Putting Customers First**
- CPT16 - Excellent Performance Management**

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is a short report on issues associated with the development of youth activities in West Berkshire. This follows a request by Members for actions and updates in May 2010. This supplements the report provided by the Youth Service Manager, attached at Appendix A.

2. Key Context Issues

- 2.1 In the six month period since May there has been a significant change in policy direction and funding from the new government for local authorities. To date we are still awaiting formal policy to support intentions set out by the government and this includes in relation to youth provision. The National Youth Agency is holding its web page on policy stories until more information is forthcoming.
- 2.2 The Education Committee has announced an inquiry into the provision of services beyond the school/college day for young people, primarily those aged 13-25 and submissions are invited up to 15 December 2010.
- 2.3 The inquiry will consider both universal services – for instance youth clubs, or sporting, musical and cultural activities – and targeted services for vulnerable groups. This inquiry will not examine formal careers guidance services, including those provided by Connexions.
- 2.4 An Early Intervention Grant was announced in October's spending review and will be worth about £2bn by 2014/15. The amount is not ringfenced and will replace various local authority funding schemes, although it is unclear which ones these will be, and whether its total value will equal the combined sum of those streams or represent a real-terms cut.
- 2.5 The Department for Education has previously confirmed that Sure Start funding will be included in the grant, along with money for programmes dealing with teenage pregnancy, substance and alcohol misuse, young people at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) or committing antisocial behaviour.
- 2.6 WBC has been required to respond quickly and actively to changes in the government funding formula and the Youth Service has been an early target for cuts. Therefore the progress one might have anticipated since May 2010 has been impacted severely by these changes. However it is recognised there are many opportunities associated with the new government's priorities and this paper sets out how we have attempted to harness with the somewhat limited information available.

3. Actions

- 3.1 **Service reviews** are underway currently within the Children and Young People's (CYP's) Directorate to explore service realignment and a refocusing of service delivery. Outcomes of these reviews will be known before April 2011, some sooner than others. These include Integrated Targeted Youth Support for the over 11s and the Youth Offending Team.

- 3.2 **Growing the role of communities and the third sector.** The government has set out its intentions to provide mechanisms for growing self determination by local communities and the third sector. We anticipate that this will open up more opportunities for grass roots provision to support children and young people to meet local needs. However the implementation of this approach has not yet been conveyed explicitly.
- 3.3 In recognition of the move towards a broader commissioning approach in the CYP Directorate a Commissioning Exchange Forum has been established to ensure that a total resource view is taken in relation to commissioning leads. At the first meeting on 24 November targeted youth support was one of the areas under discussion.
- 3.4 Part of understanding the strategic picture of provision is having a detailed map of what the size of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) is and what it provides. An initial workforce mapping activity reported on to the CYP Trust in July 2010 identified gaps in information related to some sectors of the CYP workforce. Children's Workforce Development Council (CWCD) funding has enabled us to commission a CYP Forum to undertake a detailed mapping activity. This will enable us to identify which organisations are addressing youth needs and to explore new ways of working more collaboratively together.
- 3.5 Discussions between the CYP Directorate and Arts and Leisure have been held to look at cross directorate issues related to youth activities and impacts of cuts.
- 3.6 Actions within the Youth Service are outlined in Appendix A.

4. In summary

- 4.1 Much of this work is about intelligence gathering and network building which will lead to identification of improved ways of supporting a cross-cutting approach to youth activities in West Berkshire. This comes at a time of reduced local authority funding and drives towards greater control for local communities and expectations of provider roles being expanded for communities and the third sector.

Appendices

Appendix A – Youth Service Action Plan

Consultees

Officers Consulted: Mark Vernon, Youth Service Manager

Appendix A

Youth Service Action Plan

| Topic | Objective | Progress to date – Nov 2010. |
|---|--|---|
| Implementation of actions resulting from budget reduction 2010 -11 | To manage the impact of budget reduction of £100k and mvf target of c£60k. | The Theale Y&C Centre has been closed and staff relocated. 3 posts have been closed and staff have left. 1 further worker leaves their post at the end of December. This has resulted in a reduction of service provision, with another project due to end in March 2011. |
| Review of whole service budgets including income & expenditure | <p>To work towards a sustainable budget with achievable income targets for 2011 -12.</p> <p>To manage impact on service delivery for 2011 – 12.</p> <p>To maximise resources available for the service.</p> <p>To ensure budget reflects local and national financial constraints.</p> | This work is underway in response to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and local budget reductions. |
| Manage the return of staff, resources and programmes to the new Dolphin Centre. | To ensure smooth transition of Activity Team / programmes from Beale Park to new centre via interim accommodation during April – July. | All the staff and activities were successfully returned to the new Dolphin Centre in July. A full programme of summer activities has been delivered. There was some reduction in attendance which was attributed to the impact of relocation during the peak season. |
| Youth Service Curriculum | <p>75% of all resources are allocated to work with young people aged 13 – 19 years.</p> <p>Work towards all service delivery based on needs assessment / matrix of resource deployment.</p> | <p>The Service has been able to manage this allocation through careful monitoring of provision.</p> <p>The current service review resulting from the CSR will see a gradual reprioritisation of</p> |

| Topic | Objective | Progress to date – Nov 2010. |
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| | <p>To ensure that the delivery of programmes for young people reflect a broad range of opportunities.</p> <p>To enable young people to access activities that supports the ECM outcome.</p> <p>To minimise barriers to access and maintain highest level of Safeguarding for users.</p> | <p>resources to working with vulnerable / at risk groups of young people.</p> <p>The new Dolphin Centre is fully DDA compliant enabling enhanced opportunities in the east of the district. The West Area Team have recently received delivery of a new mobile unit for detached work and other activities in isolated rural communities.</p> <p>Safeguarding is integral to staff induction and issues of concern are regularly addressed at team meetings.</p> |
| Development of Positive Activities Programmes (PAYP) | <p>25% of service resources allocated to targeted work with vulnerable groups.</p> <p>To enable young people at risk to engage in alternative activities.</p> <p>To contribute towards the reduction of incidents of anti social behaviour.</p> <p>To develop provision in response to needs of vulnerable young people.</p> <p>To support young people who are NEET.</p> | <p>This objective is currently on target to be achieved, although there has been a loss of the Princes Trust team project due to budget cuts. See above - which outlines future priorities for the service.</p> <p>The Youth Service has developed specialist posts including Youth Offending, Looked After Children, and Young People with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities. Each team has run a project during the year to provide positive activities for young people who are NEET.</p> |
| Full Implementation of Quality Assurance systems – including new MIS | <p>To ensure robust monitoring of quality of service delivery.</p> <p>To raise the quality of service delivery.</p> <p>To enable the capture of</p> | <p>This programme is now fully utilised and operational. The programme is used to enhance planning and evaluation of provision as well as capturing</p> |

| Topic | Objective | Progress to date – Nov 2010. |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>robust data.</p> <p>To enable the use of data in service development.</p> <p>Ensure service users contribute to programme development and scrutiny.</p> <p>To measure progress towards meeting service KPI's.</p> | <p>information on each participant.</p> |
| <p>Development of Area Youth Consultative Committees (AYCC's)</p> | <p>To implement the Member approved report on AYCC's.</p> <p>To ensure young people can contribute to the development of services in their community.</p> <p>To provide a voice for young people in their community.</p> <p>To enable effective liaison between young people and elected members.</p> <p>To support the aims of <i>Hear by Right</i>.</p> | <p>These are in the process of being established. Training has been delivered to young people and nominated elected members. With the expected changes in the delivery of Youth Services to young people, the AYCC's will be able to contribute to shaping future provision.</p> |
| <p>Enhance profile of the Youth Service across the District and the region</p> | <p>To develop a marketing strategy for the Youth Service.</p> <p>Increase positive image of the service within the Council, the community and with Members.</p> <p>Ensure regular release of good news stories via Press Office.</p> <p>To raise positive profile of the service regionally to enhance recruitment opportunities.</p> | <p>An Annual Report has been produced aimed at raising the profile of the Youth Service. Termly information bulletins are produced for Members and parish/town councils. Regular "good news" items are submitted to the Press Office for wider media publication.</p> |

Youth Service – the way ahead

1.1 The reduction in the Youth Service budget for 2011-12 will result in the following key service changes:

- Move from 3 to 2 Area teams - 1 based in Thatcham covering Thatcham & the East and 1 in Newbury covering Newbury & the West

- Closure of two youth centres
- Reduction of 3 Team Managers to 1
- Reduction of 3 Area Youth Consultants to 1
- Reduction of 5 fte Centre Business Coordinators to 2
- Closure of 8 part time vacant Youth Worker posts

- 1.2 In response to the Coalition Government and West Berkshire Member's priorities, the Youth Service will be focusing a greater proportion of its resources on targeted work with vulnerable groups. The Youth Service already have staff working with Looked After Children, Youth Offending Team clients, young people with Special Educational Needs, as well as supporting a number of health based projects.
- 1.3 Service Managers will be working with staff and young people's representatives to further develop provision with these groups. In addition, the service will be broadening its engagement with the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens in developing strategies to help address Anti Social Behaviour. The Youth Service is also working with the Post 16 Commissioning team in delivering accredited learning opportunities for young people Not in Education, Employment & Training (NEET).
- 1.4 Service delivery - the closure of centres and the reduction in staff will reduce the level of service delivery. Some projects will close and some communities will no longer have any open access youth service provision. It is proposed that where a reduction in delivery is required, it is made across the whole district, using the original needs assessment matrix to inform decisions.