

Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**
 Date: **8 March 2010**
 By: **Director of Children's Services**
 Title of report: **Update report on the outcome of the Youth Development Service Review following implementation from April 2009**
 Purpose of report: **To provide an update on the progress of implementing the YDS Review and an outline of the impact of the YDS on young peoples lives.**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to accept the progress report and recognise the contribution of YDS in delivering the Youth Offer and Targeted Youth Support agenda.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Prior to the Youth Development Service [YDS] Review undertaken in Autumn 2008, the County Council youth services were delivered by both Integrated Youth Support Services [through the YDS] and across the rural areas by ten community colleges. The budget delegated to community colleges was in excess of £800k.

1.2 The key recommendations from the YDS Review are attached as **Appendix 2**. The review recognised that services delivered by a range of providers did not ensure a consistent approach across the county and that the 'well established' Youth Development Service was well placed to create one unified service, working to one set of priorities.

1.3 Cabinet agreed the Review recommendations in December 2008 and clarified that budgets should be centralised under the YDS but that budget allocation should largely remain within existing geographical areas for approximately two years. It was further recommended that five area based teams be established co-terminus with the Borough and Districts. Creating these five area based teams also required the redefining of the spread of population across the county - previously community college boundaries had determined catchment areas.

1.4 **Table 1** as attached in **Appendix 1** shows youth work spend and youth population (13-19hrs) by Borough and District for the year 2009-10.

1.5 The National Youth Agency collect data annually relating to young peoples involvement in youth provision and spending by local authorities on youth services. The figures available from the last audit undertaken [2007-8] shows that of the 118 local authorities that responded, East Sussex County Council are placed 112th in terms of spend per head, which was identified as £46 per young person [this included external funding YDS attracted]. In comparison with our statistical neighbours only Bedfordshire spent less per head and our closest neighbour West Sussex spent £172 per young person and were ranked 23 out of 118.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The Youth Development Service management sits within Integrated Area Children's Services and is strategically placed alongside other complimentary support services for young people eg, Social Care, Connexions Intensive Support, U19 Substance Misuse Service, Behavioural Support, Teenage Pregnancy etc. The YDS makes a key contribution to the development of Targeted Youth Support which has been driven by the Government Youth Matters and Aiming High agendas.

2.2 Locally, East Sussex have identified NI 110 – 'Increasing Young Peoples participation in positive activities' as part of its LAA priorities and YDS is the lead agency. This target forms part of the East Sussex Children & Young Peoples Plan.

2.3 A second target within the CYP Plan that YDS lead on is to 'Increase opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making that affects them'. YDS manages the East Sussex YouthBank which is a youth empowerment project that uses grant making as a vehicle to help get young peoples voices heard in local decision making processes.

2.4 The government has set out its ambitions for increasing participation in positive activities through the creation of a 'local Youth Offer'. The co-ordination of the 'Youth Offer' is the responsibility of the top tier local authority bringing together services from a range of public, voluntary and private providers. At a local level in East Sussex it is the responsibility of each Youth Partnership [an age related group of the CSPG's] to ensure a number of key things are taken into account:

- Needs of local young people are met
- Duplication of provision is avoided
- Partnership approaches to delivering services are developed
- Areas of need/gaps in provision identified and filled
- Young people from more deprived communities are targeted and services are provided free.

2.5 Communicating the universal 'Youth Offer' to young people is crucial. Each Youth Partnership is responsible for local mapping and getting information about 'what's on' for young people into East Sussex Activities and Services directory. This web based directory is located on the Connexions 360 website operated by East Sussex County Council. NI 110 measures young peoples 'take up' of positive activities through the annual Tellus survey undertaken in schools. The initial bench marking of this target showed a 73% take up of positive activities by young people in E Sussex.

2.6 The Youth Offer is a universal offer for all young people – however it is the responsibility of the YDS to ensure that services are located in more deprived communities and that those young people most disengaged from services are encouraged to participate in positive activities. Taking a more targeted approach YDS is piloting a programme to support young people to access positive activities where this need has been identified as part of their CAF. The young person will then receive support for 12 weeks to access a local youth facility or activity club; a small amount of funding is available to support fees or equipment needed to take part. Support is reduced as the young person becomes more confident and self sufficient.

2.7 YDS continue to operate a wide range of services across a seven day week concentrating provision during evenings and weekends. In line with the Governments agenda about increased weekend opening YDS has begun to develop Friday and Saturday evening provision through existing budgets. YDS plays a key part in delivering a range of health and IAG interventions through trained staff working in centre based and street [detached] based services.

2.8 To ensure there is no overlap nor gaps of youth provision, YDS works closely with E Sussex Council for Voluntary Youth Services who provide infrastructure support for a membership of 125 voluntary youth organisations. YDS has provided £20k this year for ESCVYS to administer as grants to support 'running costs'. This provides small organisations that contribute to the local Youth Offer with a 'life line' to pay rent, insurance etc to allow them to operate safely for local young people.

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 The YDS is a key partner in the delivery of Targeted Youth Support and has developed a range of services to target young people at risk of achieving poor outcomes. This involves some re prioritising of resources but plays a valuable role in achieving wider targets within the CYP Plan. Last summer YDS worked with 35 young people who were making the transition from school to college after GCSE's. Identified by Connexions PA's these young people were unlikely to successfully make the transition without support through the summer period. In mid September 2009 a total of 33 young people were still in their college destination and contributed to the NEET prevention agenda.

3.2 The YDS Review set out a clear direction of travel for the YDS to deliver a range of complimentary services that are area based and respond to local need. A key focus has been to increase the availability of youth services and for YDS to increase the contact and participation of young people in its own services. **Table 2** as attached in **Appendix 1** shows the targets per area for contact and participation and the achievements to date this year. Contact is 7% above the actual target for 2009-10 already and Participation has reached 10% [target 15%] which already surpasses the 8% achieved last year [2008-9].

3.3 YDS play a key function in delivering youth services for young people that 'slip outside' the 'mainstream', where parental involvement in supporting them to access services and positive activities is minimal. Youth Workers take the role of 'significant adult' in a great many of these young peoples lives and provide information, advice and support on a broad range of subjects. Sometimes this support provides a bridge to more specialist services, but more usually the YDS enables young people to journey through their adolescence feeling valued as an individual and as a member of their community.

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Table 1

	Area budget £	Number y/p 13-19 years	Cost per young person
Hastings	308,845	8067	£ 38.28
Rother	253,585	7112	£ 35.65
Wealden	374,666	12607	£ 29.72
Eastbourne	280,463	8109	£ 34.59
Lewes	318,360	8023	£ 39.68

Table 2

YDS Area	Total Youth Population by borough and district	25% of total youth population YDS Target Contact	YDS Actual Contact Up to end of Q3	As a percentage of Contacts	15% of total youth pop. YDS Target Participation	YDS Actual Participation Up to end Q3	As a percentage of Participants
Hastings	8090	2023	4467	55%	1214	1050	13%
Rother	7276	1819	1425	20%	1091	764	11%
Eastbourne	9489	2372	2563	27%	1423	713	8%
Lewes	7888	1972	2737	35%	1183	650	8%
Wealden	11289	2822	2706	24%	1693	1275	11%
Total	44031	11008	13,898	32%	6605	4452	10%

Strategic Review of the East Sussex Youth Development Service (YDS)

Summary of Key Recommendations

- 1 The core mission of the YDS should be to act as a bridge between young people at risk of poor outcomes and the support they need
- 2 The YDS should have an important role in promoting the development of the wider Youth Offer in East Sussex, with more of its budget made available for small grants, training and infrastructure support for the voluntary and community sector
- 3 More resources should be devoted to detached and mobile provision, designed to reach out to the young people who most need support
- 4 Centre based generic provision should continue, but with much of the support provided in rural areas being provided on a mobile basis and a strong emphasis on supporting all young people to access the full Youth Offer in their area
- 5 Some YDS resource should be available for intensive support to individual young people, as part of Targeted Youth Support in the area
- 6 There should be benchmarking with other areas of the country to establish the appropriate level of YDS / PCT investment in health provision for young people
- 7 The deployment of the YDS budget across different activities should be decided on a district / borough area basis, replacing the current delegation of funding to community colleges; there should, however, be close consultation with secondary schools in all areas.
- 8 Youth Partnerships, linked to Area Children's Services Planning Groups, should be established as a vehicle for strategic planning of the Youth Offer, Targeted Youth Support and YDS activities in each district / borough area. Within these areas, resources should be targeted as far as possible so as to reach the young people who most need them
- 9 Funding allocations should remain in the same geographical areas for the next two years while a process to reallocate resources is considered.