

Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **19 September 2011**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Targeted Youth Support Service**

Purpose of report: **To advise on the new model of Targeted Youth Support so as to be able to assess the extent to which the new service is meeting the needs of young people**

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to:

- **Note progress with the Managing Change process for the Targeted Youth Support Services;**
 - **Consider the strategic position of the Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Service; and**
 - **Note the strands of support offered within the service**
-

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Within the context of significant savings being required from the Children's Services Budget, the new Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support (YG&TYS) Service brings a range of previously separate teams and services for 11-19 year olds together in to one service, and reduces the level of universal open access activity. The services to be brought together are the Youth Offending Team, the Youth Development Service, Connexion Intensive Personal Advisors, Teenage Pregnancy and the Substance Misuse Service. Savings have been made through simplifying the way these services work and reducing duplicated efforts – for example, identifying one key case worker for a young person in need of support rather than several specialists, and simplifying management roles. Additional savings are made through a reduction in open access youth activities in some areas, although the service will continue to provide activities for young people where provision is scarce and other providers do not exist. The total budget for the new Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service is £5.6m. This includes £2.48m from Early Intervention Grant (EIG). This is a significant reduction from the budgets of the previously discrete services which totalled £8.1m in 2010/11. The majority of this (31%) reduction being attributed to Targeted Youth Support element of the service.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The new TYS service was planned to start in September 2011 with a transitional phase with all new staff moving into new positions by 1 November 2011. The aims of the service are:

- To provide an improved, streamlined one to one support service to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people aged (broadly) 11-19 who have problems which it has been difficult for universal services to address and who without intervention are at clear risk of requiring specialist services. We believe we should be able to support around 850 young people at any one time with a throughput of around 3,000 a year.
- To ensure that young people with problems associated with substance misuse or criminal activity have quick access to tier 2 support (provided directly as part of the one to one service) and swift access to tier 3 and 4 specialist services where necessary.
- To work with partners to maintain regular open access youth activity sessions at a limited number of venues, selected in consultation with partners, particularly focusing on rural areas where there is little or not alternative provision.

- To work with partners to offer some specialist group activity/services for specific groups of young people, including disabled young people and teenage parents.
- To offer a limited amount of flexible detached youth work support and mobile provision, to be deployed in consultation with partners, in particular the Police and district and borough community safety officers, with the aim of reducing levels of anti-social behaviour and helping young people to play positive roles in their communities.

2.2 Staff are allocated to one of five teams, co-terminus with East Sussex districts and boroughs. The teams are different in size, reflecting the different levels of need for the service in each of the district and borough areas. Some identification with a particular area will give staff the opportunity to develop key partnership links in that area. However, staff will also be deployed flexibly where needed, taking on case work and support in other areas in order to ensure that access to services across the county is fair and reflects the level of need a young person has rather than the capacity of a particular team. The allocation of staff to area staff teams will be kept under review to ensure that over time we reflect patterns of need as accurately as possible.

2.3 The new service will have contact points in each of the five areas to whom referrals and/or requests for advice can be made. The expectation is that referrals will come mainly from the following agencies; Schools, Police, community safety officers, other Children's Services teams, NHS and Voluntary organisations, e.g. youth clubs and advice centres. Self referral and referral by families will also be accepted.

2.4 In addition to intensive one to one support, there will be the targeting of regular open access activities on the basis of two key criteria:

- I. Areas which are hotspots for anti-social behaviour and/or significant levels of substance misuse (including alcohol consumption)
- II. Rural areas which are poorly served by other activity provision but which are strategically chosen so that it is possible (possibly by transport we provide) for a number of young people to access

The allocation of service time for these sessions are being decided in consultation with local partners across the five areas.

2.5 There are particular sensitivities and a high level of interest in our approach to TYS and the impact on streamlining these services for young people. However, there is ongoing communication with partners and stakeholders in the development of the referral routes and deployment of the service through various partnership meetings, including the 11-19 Strategic Partnership Board.

2.6 We are working closely with schools and the police in developing the criteria for referral into the service to ensure support to the most vulnerable young people. A key development in this is the new arrangements that are being put in place so that TYS can in some cases, in liaison with the Police, be utilised in place of other strategies, avoiding the need for a young person to acquire a formal criminal record (if young people in these circumstances refuse TYS support other options will of course be reviewed).

2.7 This approach is strengthened by the integration of Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support within the same wider service allowing TYS support to dovetail with statutory Youth Justice Interventions.

2.8 These developments are supported by the approach being undertaken in the new Youth Justice Service which is in a good position to work with this agenda subsequent to a positive inspection on the YOT service undertaken in April 2011. This gave an encouraging set of findings on our 'safeguarding' work, 'risk of harm to others' work and 'likelihood of re-offending' work. All areas were found to be above average with some very positive elements.

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 The YJ&TYS developments are progressing well and work will continue to be undertaken with partners as we implement arrangements for the new service, but it is acknowledged that there will be some challenges locally as the reduction in service delivery to young people is realised.

MATT DUNKLEY
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Brian Hughes

Local Members: All

Background Documents
None