

Report of the Interim Assistant Director of Neighbourhood and Customer Services to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 22 July 2015

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Subject:

District wide Youth Service provision

Summary statement:

This report informs Area Committees of the Bradford District wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service, which includes, but is not specific to any one constituency area.

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Portfolio:
Neighbourhoods & Community Safety

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Area Committees of the Bradford District wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service, which includes but is not specific to any one constituency area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 6 July 2014 the Youth Service was transferred from Children's Services to Neighbourhood and Customer Services and has been managed through the Area Co-ordinator's Offices.
- 2.2 At the time of transition it was determined that areas of district wide provision e.g. Duke of Edinburgh etc would be located in the constituency where they were based, or where capacity existed to accommodate, for management reporting purposes, but they would continue to provide services on a district wide basis.
- 2.3 It was determined that each Advanced Practitioner would take on a district wide responsibility as follows:
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Project – Bradford South
 - Equality and Diversity - Keighley
 - Information, Advice and Guidance (Bradford West)
 - Voice and Influence (Bradford East)
 - Volunteering (Shipley)
- 2.5 Appendix A-E describes the work that has taken place during 2014-15 in regard to each of these areas of work and some plans for developing this work during 2015-16.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No other considerations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 Financial provision to adequately resource district wide provision has been allocated within the budgets devolved to the respective Area Committees with responsibility for that aspect of district wide provision.
- 4.1.2 In 2015-16 an amount of £2,000 was reserved centrally from each Area budget in order to provide some resources for district wide provision in a consistent and transparent way, thus ensuring an equitable spread across the five constituencies.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

No risk management and governance issues within the context of this report.



6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

No legal issues apparent within the context of this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Equal Rights legislation has been considered as part of the detailed proposals for the devolution of services. The Youth Service has a responsibility to ensure that the services are accessible to all young people and that participation in the service reflects this approach. Specific targeted work takes place to encourage participation from under represented groups.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Youth Service delivery enables local initiatives to be supported, encouraging groups and individuals to undertake activities that improve the social, economic and environmental well being of their communities.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No Greenhouse gas emissions apparent within the context of this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Providing positive experiences for young people helps to build self-confidence, raise aspiration and can provide and encourage 'diversionary activities' that builds and helps to support safer and stronger communities.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no implications for Trade Unions arising from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

District-wide Youth Service work and activities support young people and communities within all the Wards in the Bradford District.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS



9.1 That the Bradford East Area Committee notes the recommendations outlined in this report.

9.2 That the Bradford East Area Committee seeks additional information on aspects of these services that are delivered at a district wide level by the Youth Service.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the district wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service as detailed in this report be noted.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A: Duke of Edinburgh Award Project
- Appendix B: Equality and Diversity
- Appendix C: Information, Advice and Guidance
- Appendix D: Voice and Influence
- Appendix E: Volunteering

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Youth Service Report, Document A, Bradford East Area Committee, 26 June 2014.



Appendix A

Bradford MDC Duke of Edinburgh Award Project

The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) is a national award that gives young people an opportunity to accredit the activities they do in their leisure time. Known as a tough award to complete, it is well respected in both education and employment (no. 1 extracurricular activity looked for by employers, Independent United Learning Trust research) for the skills the award teaches and the effort the young people have to put in to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) award.

The DofE in Bradford is an extremely busy project. Below are some snippets of the good work currently been undertaken and the highlights of some of the achievements from the past year.

Best DofE year to date.

This year The DofE in Bradford had its best ever growth of completed awards. We grew over 30% on last year (206 Completions) and this is expected to grow again next year.

More provisions

This year 4 new schools and 1 new Voluntary sector organisation have started to offer the DofE; Buttershaw Business and Enterprise college, Grange technology college, Dixons Trinity, Feversham Girls and E:merge. Next year we are expecting the addition of Immanuel College and Bingley Grammar. Additionally Feversham Girls have also agreed to accept girls from the local community who wish to take part exclusively as part of an all-girls group.

With this year's additions the total number of provisions running under the Bradford Council DofE Licence, and therefore receiving support from the Youth Service, is 32 as detailed below:

Secondary schools

Appleton Academy
Beckfoot School
Belle Vue Girls' School
Bradford Academy
Bradford Girls' Grammar School
Bradford Studio School
Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College
Carlton Bolling College
Dixons Allerton Academy
Dixons City Academy
Dixons Trinity Academy
Feversham College
Grange Technology College
Hanson Academy
The Holy Family Catholic School
Oakbank School

St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College
Thornton Grammar School
Bradford Christian schools
Southfield School

Voluntary Organisations

1st Guisley Rangers
3rd Bingley Sea Scouts
Aire Valley Explorers
Burley Explorers
E:merge
Saltaire Explorers

Youth Service Provision

Culture Fusion
The DofE Award Centre
Burley in Wharfedale
Menston



Award Ceremony

This year at the Banqueting Suite in City Hall the DofE hosted its first annual award event, attended by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress. The event gave a chance for families to share in the success of their young people and also for volunteers to share some of their favourite moments.

Cycling

Recently the project was able to purchase a small fleet of accessible bikes. These will be available for young people to complete their DofE expedition section on. This will help remove boundaries for some young people and links in with the wider Bradford cycling push at a prime time for cycling across the country.

Lane Fox Challenge

In October Bradford held its 31st Lane Fox Challenge event. This event is a highlight in the DofE calendar for Bradford and epitomises many of the good aspects of DofE across the district. Run predominantly by volunteers it gives young people a chance to compete in a range of team challenges. Over 80 young people took part, coming from a range of backgrounds organisations including; Scouts, Youth Service, Schools and Cadets

Sustainability

DofE is looking to establish a cost neutral business plan over the next 5 years with an emphasis on an ethical and fair cost recovery system.

Future

Looking forward the project aims are as follows:

- Expansion of the camp store to facilitate more young people on expedition at one time.
- More opportunities for young people to complete expeditions via other modes of transport (E.g. Canoe)
- More provision aimed at young people with additional needs
- 100% uptake by schools
- More engagement of volunteers
- More training offered to potential and existing Leaders
- The incorporation of complementary projects and accreditation e.g. John Muir Award and environmental education.



Appendix B

Equality and Diversity

Equality work is core to Youth Work practice across the district where each youth project/session includes a programme of diversity and cohesion. Over the past year, young people have been afforded a number of opportunities to raise their awareness and knowledge of living in a multicultural district, embracing the range of communities of interest and new arrivals. Young people have been supported and encouraged to attend constituency and district wide events, enabling them to gain new experiences and encouraging them to adopt a more tolerant and accepting approach to peers from different backgrounds and lifestyles. For example:

- In October 2014 the Youth Service contributed to Black History Month throughout the district.
- In February 2015 a range of activities took place across youth projects to celebrate LGBT History month.
- In May 2015 a group of young people participated in the IDAHOT event.
- In June 2015 the Youth Service had a youth tent to highlight the groups and support available to young people across the district at Bradford Pride.
- In June 2015 the Keighley Youth Service, working in partnership with the Diversity and Cohesion Department, planned a football tournament for young people in order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia Herzegovina. The 8-3-7-2 Football tournament formed part of a Nationwide push to bring together 8372 (which signifies the number of men and boys who were killed during the genocide) young people and men. This event had over 150 young people participating.

Two Sound Groups are in operation in Bradford and Keighley, specifically for young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender or who are questioning their sexuality. 'Sound' provides a safe, confidential space where young people can meet others, access support and information, build their confidence and engage in group work, one to one support and activities such as arts, health and well-being sessions, residentials and conferences on a range of issues relevant to LGBTQ young people.

For example, one young volunteer commenced with the group when she was 18 and now regularly leads activities and assists the Youth Workers with tasks. She was introduced to the group by a foster parent via an all age LGBT Networking Group that meets in Keighley once a month. She met the Sound Youth Worker at this event and was supported to attend Sound. She had never attended a Youth Club before due to her having Aspergers and finding it difficult to socialise and work with others that she did not know very well. At that time she was questioning her sexual orientation and had endured several years of bullying at a local high school, eventually leading to her being tutored 1:1 at home while still enrolled at the school. She is now 21, a confident group member and is getting involved in many volunteering opportunities such as helping in the youth tent at this year's Bradford LGBT Pride. She is hoping to attend an upcoming Volunteer Training Course with the Youth Service and hopes to continue volunteering in addition to taking up a place at University in September.



Across the Bradford district, there are a number of inclusion projects working in partnership to deliver activities and opportunities for young people with disabilities. These projects are built on the strength of ongoing partnership work with the Specialist Inclusion Project, Bradford Disability Sports, Wednesday Leisure and the many other voluntary groups that operate across the district. The majority of the Youth Service led projects work on the reverse model of inclusion. These projects have seen young people grow from points of isolation and vulnerability on initial contact to happy, social and confident young adults who are more able to engage in the wider community.

The Youth Service has been successful in developing a peer befriending model so that young people who are not accessing services because they have a disability are supported. In practice this means that young people with disabilities are matched with their able-bodied peers who have similar interests so that their isolation is reduced and engagement increased.

The Youth Service has embraced cycling as an activity to engage young people and communities and as such has developed a programme of cycling days which have enabled us to increase our involvement with a range of different groups across the district. These include groups specifically aimed at young women only spaces, which has enabled us to encourage their involvement and participation.

In each of the constituencies, the Youth Service is pro-actively responding to the new and emerging needs of young people. In particular, the Youth Service is addressing the needs of Eastern European young people and their respective communities. Young people are also being worked with both in schools and evening provision.

The aims for the coming year:-

- The Youth Service will continue support for the Black Heritage Project which is young people led and will subsequently present it's stories and findings at the Black History Month launch in October 2015. The young people involved in this project will all gain accreditation and be supported by positive role models from an African and African/Caribbean background.
- To ensure that partnerships are strengthened and the capacity of local young people is developed further to enable vulnerable young people to access provision and facilitate work on confidence building and self-esteem.
- To ensure that all constituencies engage with young people, particularly focusing on taking in the diversity of the local population.
- To work with Workforce Development to improve equality and diversity training for Youth Service staff.
- To target 600 young people with disabilities to have a cycling opportunity/journey.
- To continue involvement and promote engagement in various themed months and events such as Black History Month, LGBT History, PRIDE, International Women's Day etc.



Appendix C

Information, Advice and Guidance

The Youth Service runs two Information Shops for Young People which provide a district wide service for all young people aged up to 25.

The Shops are located in Culture Fusion, Bradford and Keighley Town Hall. They provide information, advice and related services on anything that affects young people's lives. The service is free, confidential and runs on a drop in basis.

The number of visits to the Shops by young people over the past 3 years was as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Culture Fusion	9,333	9,785	10,019
Keighley Town Hall	7,233	5,978	5,318

Young people are helped directly or guided towards the best place to get help. The delivery of the service to young people is done within the principals of youth work practice, including voluntary engagement, confidentiality, making informed choices and accessibility.

The majority of contact with young people is face to face and on a one to one basis. When a young person comes in to use the service, staff members engage with them, establish the reason for the visit and identify ways in which they can be supported.

Depending upon their enquiry, in-depth one to one support, signposting to key agencies and access to information resources are available. Resources include; information that is available in a variety of formats plus access to computers and telephones that young people can use, for example, to apply for jobs or benefits.

To complement the provision, a number of partner organisations work from the Shops to deliver drop- in specialist services, including: support for young offenders, contraception and STI testing; benefits, housing and debt and also health for young men. Young people are able to access sensitive services in a confidential and non clinical environment.

Events at the Keighley Info Shop have included open days, Voter registration events and a pop up week long health event. Visits were also carried out at Oakbank School and Leeds City College – Keighley campus.

Partnerships have also been developed with a wide range of organisations and agencies across the district, to ensure that young people can be referred appropriately. Other partners use the general Shop area or one to one rooms to see young people who need a city centre based provision, where they can access other services of benefit to them.

Link work is carried out with the Youth Service to ensure that their information and advice provision is up to date and relevant.



An important part of ensuring that young people know about the services of the Shop is to constantly promote the services to young people and the adults they come into contact with. Apart from the usual mailouts and stands at events, recent publicity has included: The development of an Information Shop Bradford Facebook page, which is updated regularly; development and updating of an Information Shops entry on the Council App; holding apprenticeship and other events at the Centres and the development of a PowerPoint presentation on the Shop's Services.

Future plans include:

- training for Youth Workers in Information and advice,
- further development of the Bradford Facebook page and Facebook development for the Keighley Shop,
- development of information pages for the Youth Service Website
- development of Young Ambassadors for IAG,
- review the service delivery location at Bradford to ensure that the service has a wide reach



Appendix D

District wide Voice & Influence work

Voter Registration

Working closely with electoral services, youth workers have ran sessions across the district in youth clubs, schools and colleges to raise young peoples awareness of democratic processes & the importance of voting. As a result 1,078 voter registrations were completed by young people enabling them to vote in the 2015 Elections.

Future Plan

- Meet with electoral services to understand the voting pattern of 18 -25 year olds and develop a strategy to increase the awareness and interest in democratic electoral process.
- A work plan has been agreed to make contact with a all secondary schools across the district and engage year 11 students in citizenship sessions raising their awareness of how democratic decision making process work, their right to vote, and the impact of voting or not voting. At the end of the session all young people will be encourage to register to vote. The vision is that this program is carried out annually which will in time give all young people across the district an informed opportunity to register to vote.

Youth Voice & Influence Mechanism

Eighteen young people attended the Yorkshire & Humber Voice & Influence Training weekend in Doncaster. The training enabled them to look at different models of engagement & build on their skills base.

The group has met several times since the residential and are beginning to explore setting up a youth body.

A partnership has developed between the voluntary sector and Bradford Council to support the group and work towards a strategy which will enable young people to be able to engage & influence decision making bodies.

Future plan

- Continue to support the young people to develop the group
- The partnership between the voluntary sector & council to continue to work towards a strategy which supports the development of young people's group

LGBT Youth Voice

Fifteen young people from across the district attended a 3 day residential to begin to focus on identity and needs of LGBT young people.

The group meet on a weekly basis to skills build and support each other.

The group ran the youth tent at Bradford Pride.



A partnership has developed with the Equity Centre to support the development of the group as an independent body.

A joint bid for Local Awards has been submitted between the Equity Partnership & Youth Service to facilitate the development of the group.

Three members of the group have undergone volunteer training.

Future plan

- A residential has been organised with Identity, the Calderdale youth group to learn from their success. They have secured funding for 3 full time workers who work with the youth group, schools & families
- Continue to develop the young peoples skills base & support them as a group who can represent LGBT young people
- Continue to build on the partnership with Equity partnership
- Support the development of a Young Advisors group in the Keighley Area linked to the Keighley Youth Co-op. Young Advisors is a national charity which works with young people to help engage them in community life, local decision-making and improving services.



Appendix E

Volunteering

Between November 2014 and March 2015 a review of volunteering procedures within the Youth Service was undertaken.

The review led to the following:

1. The establishment of systems and procedures to support volunteering as well as the establishment of a comprehensive volunteering database for the Bradford & Keighley District.
2. The development of a volunteering training course for all potential volunteers aged 16 years and above. This course is a basic introduction to working with young people and covers such elements as what is youth work, equality, professional boundaries, safeguarding and child protection.
3. The decision to group the constituencies into 'clusters' of South, East and West and Shipley and Keighley to ensure that all areas are able to receive training for volunteers at all times.
4. The establishment of ongoing support mechanisms for volunteers including visits by the Volunteer Co-ordinators and twice yearly support meetings.
5. The establishment of wider partnerships/networks with external organisations to enhance opportunities for volunteering.
6. The idea to produce an accredited booklet for young people who are not quite ready for volunteering, but are ready to take on a bit more responsibility. This will be a pre-cursor to volunteering and will be completed and ready for implementation by September 2015.
7. Agreed training dates for April 2015 – March 2016 with scope for additional training sessions as necessary.
8. Recruitment and publicity of Bradford Youth Service's volunteering opportunities through a series of events.

The first cohort of potential volunteers for the 2015/16 financial year completed their training in April and are now either working in units, or have been matched up with units ready to start placements following the receipt of DBS clearances.

The second cohort have now commenced training and dates have been agreed for further training courses up to March 2016. The dates for volunteer training courses are flexible and may be changed depending on the individual needs of the potential volunteers. The venues for training are also flexible with the main venues being St Peter's House for South, East and West and Bingley Youth Café for Shipley and Keighley. Again, the venues for training can be flexible in order to meet the needs of potential volunteers.

The Befrienders Group in Bradford West undertook the volunteer training on Sunday 7th June and also a further weekend training session is planned to train current volunteers at the Positive Pathways for Young People.

The Volunteer Workers have attended a number of local events in order to promote and advertise volunteering opportunities. These events include, Bradford Trident Volunteer



Fair, Bradford Pride Event, Shipley College Employment event and Bradford University's Volunteering event.

They have also built partnerships with a wide range of agencies including Families First, The Centre of Excellence, Leaving Care, Incommunities, Bradford Festival, Christians Against Poverty, Barnardos, Centrepont, Keighley Voluntary Services. It is hoped that these partnerships will increase the volunteering opportunities available both for the Youth Service and within external organisations.

Between April to June 2015, some 25 volunteers have been trained with most of these now working in various youth provisions across the District.

Future Plans

- Creation of a leaflet that can be made widely available to publicise the benefits of volunteering with the Youth Service.
- The development of an accredited booklet to be completed with the support of youth workers and within youth work sessions. This will be a pre-cursor to volunteering for those young people aged 16 – 19 years who are not quite ready for volunteering. This will be a Young Leaders accreditation.
- The further development of partnerships in order that the Youth Service might train volunteers for other organisations that work with young people. This is in line with recommendations from the Youth Review in terms of supporting the voluntary sector and raising quality standards in the voluntary sector.
- Quarterly update report on volunteering to be produced.

