

Report of the Bradford South Area Co-ordinator to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on Thursday 23 October 2014

AA

Subject:

Youth Service Provision – Bradford South

Summary statement:

This report outlines the work undertaken by the Youth Service in Bradford South.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director of Environment and Sport

Report Contact: John Breen
Bradford South Area Co-ordinator
Phone: (01274) 431155
E-mail: john.breen@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:

Safer and Stronger

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate



1. SUMMARY

This report outlines the work undertaken by the Youth Service in Bradford South.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Following the agreement of the 2014/15 Council Budget the Youth Service has been designed against the following principles:

- Maintaining capacity in front line youth work work.
- Maintaining a youth work base in each of the five constituency areas – and allowing further capacity to be developed by the Area Committee through informed use of Activities' Funding and Youth Opportunities Funding.
- Devolved activity funding to Area Committees to stimulate the voluntary sector to respond more flexibly to local need.
- Offer capacity building for young people through volunteering opportunities, Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) work and ensuring that the voice and influence of young people remains embedded in the work.

2.2 The Service is designed to meet the financial requirements in 2014/15 and 2015/16 going forward to secure:

- open access provision
- clear and agreed targeted work with young people aged 13-19
- informal learning opportunities that support improving educational attainment and the continued reduction of the number of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people
- maintaining support to vulnerable young people through the 'early help' offer and the 'step up/step down' support for those young people on the edge of care.
- the development of a clear strategy for youth, based on the breadth of provision open to young people in the youth sectors and wider leisure, cultural and arts based opportunities as well as working relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
- securing the co production of services with young people through a focussed approach to increasing volunteering that builds capacity to deliver youth services
- responsibility for the Youth Service front line staff moved from the Children's Services Directorate to the Department of Environment and Sport to become part of the Neighbourhoods and Customer Services.

2.3 This work outlined in this report is undertaken at Youth Service Settings in Bradford South to support and develop Young People in line with decisions of Bradford South Area Committee in the implementation of the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2014-17.

2.4 Restructure

In July 2014 Bradford Youth Service retained six professionally qualified youth workers who hold responsibility for ward based provision throughout Bradford South. In addition to this Bradford South Youth Service now takes line management responsibility for the district wide Duke of Edinburgh Award which is also run by a professionally qualified

youth worker. Bradford South Youth Service now operates without an Area Youth Work Manager and has lost two professionally qualified full time youth workers. Part time staff, be they contracted or casual employees, support ward based youth provision throughout Bradford South. Each full time worker has an allocation of 24hrs of part time staff which is used to provide up to four evenings of youth work. Typically, sessions are supported by two workers who work for three hours per evening.

As a result of operating an average of five evenings of youth work provision we have started the process of reducing the number of additional and casual hours in order to operate within our current budget. This process started in earnest in September 2014 with a commitment to ensure a managed reduction in service provision. Staff have supported young people to understand these changes and explored with them opportunities for alternative ways of running youth work sessions. Ward leads have started to look at how our partnerships with the voluntary sector can help ensure that youth work is sustainable and moves forward in line with a new deal for the district.

Doing more with less is a key challenge and one that sees us reviewing how we use our buildings, the costs that we pay to rent delivery space and how much youth work we deliver. There has been a significant change in culture that has started to happen within our team and this has started to sow the seeds for our clubs about how they can do more for themselves. However, more formalised partnerships and ways of securing additional resources will need to be developed over the coming months in order to ensure that a sustainable future is created for methods of early intervention and prevention.

2.5 Open Access Youth Provision

Each ward in Bradford south is different and which means there are a wide range of young people's needs.

Royds Ward youth work provision sees us supporting a number of local community based organisations to deliver youth work. As a result of youth service partnerships with the Princes Trust, Sandale and Eden; an average of 160 young people access youth work sessions each week. These sessions are run mainly from Buttershaw Youth Centre but also sees us delivering in Sandale Community Centre. Throughout the summer a large number of young people from across Royds Ward accessed summer activities in Buttershaw Beck as a result of a youth service partnership with the early years play team. Buttershaw is an area of high challenge and sees youth workers working closely with Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Officers in order to identify areas of need and individuals who require early intervention and prevention.

Queensbury Ward youth provision runs from the Victoria Hall three evenings a week and continues to go from strength to strength. An average of 40 young people access provision each week and participate in positive activities with accredited outcomes. Our partnership with Queensbury Schools allows us support students through our Teenage Information, Teenage Advice Centre. Each week an average of 10 students engage with our service and receive support and guidance on a wide range of issues. This one to

one support has resulted in the school asking us to deliver group work sessions with students who require early intervention and prevention.

Wibsey Ward provision is split between large open access sessions run in partnership with Wibsey Rugby Club and smaller targeted sessions based in the Pod on Smith Ave. These sessions have seen a significant change in membership from an older core group to the emergence of a young and more vulnerable group. Our partnership with Ward Officers has seen youth workers identify and respond to emerging needs and build relationships with key individuals that have been identified as needing early intervention in order to avoid an increase in anti-social behaviour. Our partnership with local business and the influence of older youth group members has seen young people respond to the challenge of funding educational trips and visits.

Great Horton Ward provision continues to grow with the emergence of our partnership with Grange Technology College, our use of Great Horton Village Hall and our continued commitment to Scholemoor Beacon. Within Great Horton Ward the demand for our services continues to grow with new arrivals and Eastern Europeans communities making up a significant percentage of membership. This need has been met by our youth work team who have been able to engage hard to reach members in youth work relationships. As a result we have seen a significant change in behaviour and attitude with young people willing to engage in positive activities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Wyke Ward provision is a fantastic example of partnership working which sees us run low cost provision from a wide range of community buildings supported by a variety of partner organisations. Our ward lead has developed and maintained working partnerships with St Marys Church, Westfield Church and the Delph Hill Centre. Working alongside community volunteers to provide a sustained commitment to service delivery over 90 young people attend provision each week. In addition to this our partnership with Appleton Academy has allowed us to provide information, advice and guidance to over 30 students each week through regular lunch time 'contact points'.

Tong Ward has some of the highest levels of work with young people in Bradford South as a result of a unique partnership with West Yorkshires Police and Crime Commissioner. Our partnership has grown and changed over the last decade but has maintained a focus on early intervention and prevention of crime. As a result our open access provision is complimented by targeted intervention work with key individuals and small groups. Our partnerships with Tong School and Bradford Academy provide us with the opportunity to work with young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and develop a relationship that helps change attitudes and behaviour. In addition to this our partnership with Bierley Life Centre and Step 2 has seen a reduction in the root causes of anti-social behaviour through our weekly work with 35 young people. A significant development has been the levels of integration between Holme Wood and Bierley young people. The partnership feels that that has created less tension and served to form the basis of future collaborative working.

2.6 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Work

One to One work with young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – is a major responsibility that our workers hold. Intensive support is provided to 16-19 year olds who are from high priority group such as Looked After Children (LAC), Youth Offending Team, Teenage Pregnant, Young Mums and Six months plus NEET. Our workers find these young people, build a relationship and support them to deal with issues such as drugs and alcohol, family breakdown, mental health, homelessness and domestic violence. We have made a number of significant changes to how we manage this work since August and this has become a key area of delivery. Each ward worker now holds responsibility for a localised case load which connects intensive support to local services. As a result we have seen a significant increase in contact with these young people and progress being made in changing their status and ensuring that they are work-ready. This work sees our youth workers work in partnership with Social Care, Youth Offending, Prospects and a wide range of community based training providers such as Prism, On Track, Aspire-I.

2.7 Specialist Projects:

Inclusion – the constituency wide provision is in its third year and continues to support a wide range of young people. Over 70% of the young people that attend this weekly provision are disabled. The club attracts young people from Wyke, Queensbury, Royds, Wibsey, Great Horton and Tong Wards. In addition to providing a wide range of positive activities the club also supports parents by providing them with a place to meet and share experiences. The club is built on the strength of a three year partnership formed between the youth service, the specialist inclusion project, community artists and community volunteers. The project supports referrals from social care, local schools and individual families. The project has seen young people grow from points of extreme isolation and vulnerability on initial contact to happy, social and confident young adults who are more able to engage in the wider community.

Child Sexual Exploitation - over the last nine months girls from Holme Wood and Buttershaw have come together to form a project designed to educate others about the issue of child sexual exploitation. Working in partnership with GW Theatre group and Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) the girls have produced a DVD that provides information, advice and guidance on how young people can seek support and talk about sexual exploitation. In addition to this the group have helped design a poster, wrist band and consequence card under the heading 'Safe in Bradford and Keighley'. These promotional materials will be distributed throughout local schools and centres following the performance of the play 'Someone's Sister, Someone's Daughter' by GW Theatre which has been commissioned by BSCB.

Duke of Edinburgh Award (D of E) –continues to provide support to a wide range of groups from across the district who are undertaking bronze, silver and gold level awards. Key to achieving these awards are the expedition stage and as a result the

summer has seen an intense period of support provided by our DoE worker that has resulted in 18 expeditions being completed. In line with a trend by other local authority DoE licence holders we have now started a new process of partial cost recover which sees schools and local groups paying a fee for registration and support costs to the scheme. As a result it is anticipated that the scheme will generate an income of £20,000 per annum. These funds can be used to restock expedition kit and cover the DoE licence fee and key delivery costs. Within Bradford South we were pleased to host the 32nd Lane Fox Challenge which saw 16 groups from across the district participate team challenges. The event was supported by a total of 22 volunteers on the day and provided a clear example of the DoE's enduring legacy in creating volunteering opportunities.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no "other Considerations"

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Financial

The Youth Service Budget devolved to Bradford South Area Committee for 2014-15 is £475,975.00.

4.2 Staffing

The Bradford South Area Co-ordinator now has the responsibility for directing the staffing and resources of the Youth Service in line with the wishes of the Area Committee, local communities and young people.

The team in Bradford South comprises of an Advanced Practitioner, 1 Senior Youth Worker and 6 Youth Workers (including one who has a District responsibility for The Duke of Edinburgh scheme).

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 There are no significant risks and governance issues arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 This work relates directly to the Local Government Act 2000 and to the Duty of Well-being placed upon the Council to promote and improve the well-being of the District.

6.2 The Council has a responsibility to coordinate and offer support for the Health and Well Being of Young People set down in Statutory Guidance issued in 2012. The duty is to secure equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being. This includes youth work and other services and activities that:

- Connect young people with communities so they contribute to society including through volunteering and ensure they have a voice in decisions affecting them
- Offer young people opportunities in safe environments so they develop a sense of belonging, socialise safely with their peers, enjoy social mixing, experience time with older people and develop relationships with adults they trust
- Support the personal and social development of young people to build capabilities needed for learning, work and the transition to adulthood
- Improve young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- Help those at risk of dropping out of learning or not achieving their full potential to engage and attain in education or training; and
- Raise young people's aspirations, build resilience and informs their decisions – particularly to address risky behaviours.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Youth Service in Bradford South promotes fairness and inclusion while supporting Bradford South Area Committee's commitment to equal opportunities for all and participation in the Service reflects this approach.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The work undertaken to empowering and support young people, described in this report, will support the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2014-17, and will directly support the sustainability of communities within Bradford South.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts are a consideration in Service delivery.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 A number of youth projects are either directly or indirectly concerned with improving community safety within local communities. The increased involvement of young people in local decision making has the potential to improve community safety. The Youth Service plays a key role in ensuring that young people's voices are heard. The strengthened approach to the devolution of the Youth Service as will allow for:
- an increased sense of local democracy for both young people and communities
 - young people to be more active in democratic, decision-making processes alongside their political representatives
 - the voice and influence of young people to remain central, meaningful and paramount in identifying and addressing needs and issues in their communities
 - the requirements of the localism/devolution agenda to be met effectively and efficiently
- 7.4.2 A key aspect of this work relates to supporting the Safer Communities Strategy, the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998 and the work of the Safer Communities Partnership.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1 No direct implications arising from the Human Rights Act.

7.6 TRADE UNION

7.6.1 No direct Trade Union implications arise from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1 The activities outlined support Young People in the Great Horton, Queensbury, Royds, Tong, Wibsey and Wyke Wards.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

8.8.1 The activities outlined in this report contribute to priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee's Action Plan 2014-17.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.

9.2 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.

9.3 That Bradford South Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the work of the Bradford South Youth Service be noted.

11. APPENDICES

None.