

Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 16th January 2020

Subject:

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Youth Service Update – Bradford East

Summary statement:

This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area in the past 12 months and outlines the direction of travel for the next 12 months.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area in 2019-20.

1.2 The Report outlines the following information:

- Actual Youth Worker staffing structures in the five Constituency Areas
- An update on Youth Service Activity in Bradford East
- An update on Bradford East's Youth Service allocated base budget, current spend and projected spend for the financial year 2019-20 and 2020-21
- Outline future plans and direction of the Youth Service in Bradford East and District wide

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Bradford Council Youth Service is part of the wider Bradford District Youth Offer that aims to ensure the provision of a range of activities and services that take place in safe spaces, where young people can develop a sense of belonging, socialise with their peers and develop relationships with adults they can trust. It recognises that with the right supportive relationships, strong ambitions and good opportunities all young people can realise their potential and be positive and active members of society.

2.2 The Youth Service Vision statement is to work with partners to ensure that young people grow up healthy, happy, informed and aspiring; proud of who they are, where they come from, and actively involved in their community.

2.3 Youth Service priorities reflect the priorities of the Youth Service and are aligned to the five Key Elements of the Bradford District Youth Offer. They are KPIs

<i>Youth Offer Element 1 – Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)</i> Increase the numbers of young people accessing IAG through digital media.
<i>Youth Offer Element 2 – Voice and influence</i> Increase the numbers of young people participating in Youth Voice opportunities at all levels.
<i>Youth Offer Element 3 – Open access</i> Deliver a diverse youth offer through working in partnership with the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) and local communities.
<i>Youth Offer Element 4 - Targeted provision</i> Increase the number of specific interventions to address the needs of vulnerable young people.
<i>Youth Offer Element 5 - Active citizens and young people's contribution to community life</i> Increase the number of young people having a positive impact on their community.

2.4 In terms of staffing, the Youth Service is managed as one service. Staff are contracted to the Youth Service and are allocated to Areas. Appendix C outlines the current allocation of Youth Service staff across the District.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Open Access Youth Provisions

Open access youth provision is delivered within all Wards in Bradford East, these sessions create a safe space for young people to engage in positive informal educative activities. Young people have the opportunity to engage in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the twelve week programmes building their skills and aspirations whilst working towards achieving accreditations. Appendix A – Bradford East Youth Service ‘What’s On Guide’ details the current provisions being delivered within the Wards in Bradford East.

Bradford Youth Service East Wards Update (Appendix B) gives an overview of some of the youth work being delivered in East.

3.2 Voice and Influence

Ten young people from Bradford East have completed training to become young inspectors. The Inspectors programme involves young people going into educational establishments including schools and completing audits on the delivery of grant based projects. This gives young people an insight into grant processes, delivery of programmes, the opportunity to meet other young people whilst working within educational establishments to develop skills, gain experience, being empowered to make decisions and offer information, advice and guidance. In addition, to the Inspectors programme young people who attend all of our provisions are supported to engage in voice and influence programmes including planning of provisions, attending scrutiny committees, becoming ambassadors and the interviewing of senior council candidates, all of which develop their pathways into future educational and employment opportunities.

The Bradford East Ambassadors are supported within their local ward based youth provision. This enables the ambassadors to come together and work with their peers and share ideas. The ambassadors take turns to host one another on a regular basis and by visiting each ward they gain first hand experiences of life in that community. We have found that this creates a strong working partnership between the ambassadors and helps them draw on first hand experience when working with decision makers.

Twenty four young people from across Bradford East undertook training enabling them to set up 3 Essential Life Skills panels which were responsible for the allocation of £26,500 from the Opportunity Area fund. Applications were received from peers groups and individuals stating how the funding would enhance their life chances. The panel awarded 46 of the 58 applications.

3.3 LGBTQ+

The Bradford East team ensures LGBTQ + based work is delivered within all of our provision. We also run 4 LGBTQ+ provisions for young people across the district. Sound for 16 -21 year olds Spectrum for under 16 year olds , Phoenix for Trans young people and Colours for young people who are LGBTQ+ and POC (person of colour).

3.4 **Buddy support as part of Youth In Mind**

Building on the continued success of the Buddies Work and our partnership within the Youth In Mind (YIM) initiative the Youth Service has been re-commissioned to deliver 'Buddy Support' to young people across the district.

Youth Workers receive referrals from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), School Nurses & other professionals, the Youth Workers then act as Buddies to the young people, their role is to befriend them, support them using the Signs of Safety approach and navigate them to the various support opportunities available to them.

All full time youth workers work on a weekly basis developing young people's confidence, self belief and resilience. This supports working towards reducing the demand on specialist services.

3.5 **Other work targeted at young people with specific needs including CSE**

The Youth Service continues to provide direct support to young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. Youth Workers support the young people referred on a 1:1 basis and engage them in support opportunities available. Through engagement with the Youth Service and following the support young people have reported on feeling safer, they have an increased support network and due to engaging in local provisions young people are feeling more connected within their local communities. Bradford East runs female only provisions and YIM groups all of which offer young people a safe space to engage in positive informal educative activities. See Appendix A current what on guide

3.6 **Early Help**

Bradford Youth Service continues to work with the Early Help Team and supports the area based panels. Referrals are sent to the East team and are supported by the area Ward Youth Workers to engage in localised youth provisions, YIM groups and for those who require it an offer of 1:1 support. The young people referred have been supported around a number of issues including non engagement in education, anger management, family breakdowns, Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) & domestic abuse, all of which helps to prevent young people from entering the social care system and supports them into a positive destination.

3.7 **Changing Places and Community Integration**

The youth service plays a pivotal role in supporting cohesion of young people across the district; Bradford East has allocated a link worker to champion the Changing Places programme. Currently there are two programs running to bring young people from the Bradford Moor and Eccleshill wards together. They will attend a residential in February 2020 where they will plan an event for their peers

4. **FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 Currently the proposed budget reductions of £513,000 for the Youth Service are being reviewed. The Council's Executive Committee has recommended not to make this base budget reduction for a further 12 months until 31 March 2021. The

decision will be made at the Full Council in February 2020 that determines the budget for 2020 – 20221.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The implementation of the planned budget savings for the Youth Service is subject to the internal risk management plan of the Council and progress is reported to the Place Departmental Management Team.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

No issues.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Youth Service as part of the Council's commitment to the District has a responsibility to ensure that the service is accessible to all young people and that participation in the service reflects this approach.

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

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts was a consideration of the Buildings Review.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Young people from across Bradford East engaging in weekly open access and specialist provisions are directly and indirectly involved with supporting and developing community safety within their local area. Voice and influence is central to youth work delivery ensuring young peoples ideas, suggestions and thoughts 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

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations

below.

7.6 TRADE UNION

All budget proposals are subject to consultation with the Trade Unions.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The information in this report is related to all wards in the constituency and appendix B outlines the Youth Service projects and activities delivered across East.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

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

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

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area as detailed in this report be welcomed.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Bradford East Youth Service – What's On Guide

11.2 Appendix B: Bradford East – Youth Service Update

11.3 Appendix C: Bradford Youth Service Staffing Structures

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Youth Service – Bradford East Area report. Bradford East Committee, 6th September 2018.