



Report of the Area Coordinator to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee to be held on Thursday 19 March 2020

AA

Subject:

Petition – request for youth provision in East Bowling

Summary statement:

The report considers a request from residents living in East Bowling requesting provision for young peoples' activities in the East Bowling area. It provides an outline of current activities delivered to benefit young people by Bradford Council's Youth Service and partners as well as future programmes of work. It also outlines actions undertaken by the Police.

Louise Williams
Bradford East Area Coordinator

Portfolio:
Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

Report Contact: Ishaq Shafiq
Phone: (01274) 431066
E-mail: Ishaq.shafiq@bradford.gov.uk

**Overview & Scrutiny Area: Children's
Services**

1. SUMMARY

The report considers a request from residents living in East Bowling requesting provision for young peoples' activities in the East Bowling area. It provides an outline of current activities delivered to benefit young people by Bradford Council's Youth Service and partners as well as future programmes of work. It also outlines actions undertaken by the Police.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on Tuesday 16 July 2019 received a petition in respect of better services for East Bowling. The petition requested support from Bradford Council to deliver youth provision across the East Bowling area and highlighted residents views of local priorities. The Council referred the petition to the Bradford East Area Committee for consideration.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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 Youth Offer Element 1 – Information, Advice and Guidance(IAG) Increase the numbers of young people accessing IAG through digital media. Youth Offer Element 2 – Voice and influence Increase the numbers of young people participating in Youth Voice opportunities at all levels. Youth Offer Element 3 – Open access Deliver a diverse youth offer through working in partnership with the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) and local communities. Youth Offer Element 4 - Targeted provision - Increase the number of specific interventions to address the needs of vulnerable young people. Youth Offer Element 5 - Active citizens and young people's contribution to community life Increase the number of young people having a positive impact on their community.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

31. Open access youth provision is delivered within all Wards in Bradford East including East Bowling part of the Bowling and Barkerend Ward. 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 various activities and projects building their skills, aspirations and supported to take part in positive social engagement activities. Staff from the Bradford East Neighbourhood Policing Team attend youth provision sessions across the area including Bowling ward including delivering educational awareness sessions.

- 3.2 The Youth Service have undertaken weekly drop-in sessions over the past 18 months weekly on Thursday evenings based at St John's Hub. This has included a mix of information, advice and guidance, activities and social cohesion activities. This provision has now been moved to Bowling Park, Bowling Park Lodge following a mutual agreement between St John's Hub, The Lodge Café and Bradford Council's Youth Service.
- 3.3 E-merge a youth provider are active in the BD4 area and deliver weekly after school open access drop in youth engagement sessions in Bowling Park in partnership with Friends of Bowling park. The sessions include a mix of sports-based interventions term-time. In addition, E-merge in partnership with Friends of Bowling Park, The Lodge Café, Primetime and other partners provide events, sports and positive social action projects. For example, a group of local young people have participated in a programme exploring community issues, team building, educational workshops and life-skills development as part of a young leader programme. Young people as 'leaders' through this work have gone onto working alongside groups to organise and deliver community based events in the local community. The young leaders now help organise three large scale events including the Winter Wonderland and Summer fun days in Bowling Park.
- 3.4 During summer holidays E-merge with partners deliver a variety of youth based events in Bowling Park which are known locally as X-sport and Park Life. The programmes provide a minimum of 2 weeks activities with sports, education and positive diversionary activities.
- 3.5 Bradford Academy also work alongside the Council's Neighbourhoods Service and Youth Service team. In December 2020 a partnership event led by East Bowling Pensioners Club in association with the Council and Bradford Academy delivered an intergenerational festive fun event. Further activities including community fun days and social cohesion events involving young people are planned amongst other projects.
- 3.6 The Council's Neighbourhoods Service works closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team in areas of need. They have jointly delivered a number of days of actions including cleaning up grot spots, home visits and distributing information to raise profile of how to report issues and in order to try and identify specific areas of community safety across the East Bowling area. Council and Police

staff have taken part in attending community events, parents evenings and regularly patrol East Bowling.

- 3.7 Place based problem solving meetings are held across all wards in the district. The meetings are facilitated by Neighbourhood Officers from the Council's Area Co-ordinators Offices and include attendance of staff from the Police, Fire Service, social housing landlords and other key partners. Information about emerging issues and hot-spot areas are discussed and joint interventions are agreed to tackle issues highlighted. The issues outlined in the petition have been discussed at the Bowling and Barkerend Place meetings with partners. Calls for service for East Bowling received by the Police and Council were also reviewed and did not highlight any patterns and / or key hot-spots of concern. However, a number of actions were still progressed including focused action days carrying out home visits and distributing anti-social behaviour distributing packs, attendance at community events to engage with member of the public to try and gather more information attempting to identify key issues and hot-spot locations, rolling out of 'dark nights' campaigns promoting home safety tips and advice and school gate surgeries in conjunction with partners. In addition, detached work has also been undertaken in East Bowling focusing on areas identified through public consultation and home visits to target, engage and positively divert young people by the Council's Youth Service team which is on-going.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 5.1 There are no financial implications related directly to this report.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 6.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 7.1 There is no legal requirement for the Council.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 8.2 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.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 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.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

8.3.3 There are no direct greenhouse gas omission impacts arising from this report.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.4. 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

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

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

8.6 TRADE UNION

8.6.1 There are no implications for Trade Unions.

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

8.7.1 The report relates to the East Bowling area within the Bowling and Barkerend Ward.

8.8 NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.8.1 There are no not for publication documents.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The committee notes the report

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 None.