



# **Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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## **Subject:**

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:**  
**Neighbourhoods and Community Safety**

**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:
  - An update on Youth Service activity in Bradford East and
  - An update on Bradford East's Youth Service allocated base budget, current spend for the financial year 2020-21.

## **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 During the pandemic the Youth Service has refocused its resources on street detached work and on one to one and small group support for vulnerable young people. During the pandemic it has not been possible to run open access youth work sessions.
- 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 KPIs reflect the priorities of the Youth Service and are aligned to the five Key Elements of the Bradford District Youth Offer. These are the 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.

- 2.5 In terms of staffing, the Youth Service is managed as one service. Staff are contracted to the Youth Service and are allocated to Areas.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **3.1 Open Access Youth Provisions**

Due to the pandemic open access sessions have not been able to run and face to face sessions have been limited. The services delivered have shaped themselves in line with government guide lines. A flexible team has ensured the best delivery of service in line with overnight changing guidelines. There has been a huge increase in detached and outreach work, garden gate visits and walk and talk sessions enabling face to face contacts with young people. Self-care and well-being packs were put together and delivered. Online group work sessions have taken place when guidelines permitted and small group work sessions for the most vulnerable have been run.

See Appendix A for activities and case studies

#### **3.2 Voice and Influence**

In response to the pandemic the Youth Service has developed a group of Young Covid Ambassadors (YCA). This is organised District wide with links into all the engagement taking place in specific areas.

The YCA are the 'voice' for young people across Bradford. Their broad remit is to prevent the spread of Covid19, educate young people on how to be safe throughout the pandemic and finally, to respond to the impact that Covid19 has on the diverse communities within Bradford.

Their slogan is 'YOUth lead the way' - reflective of the invaluable contribution they have made as role models and influencers to change young people's behaviour towards CV19 and to keep themselves, their families and their communities protected from the virus.

Our current focus is the 'Hands-Face-Space' safety messages and testing and is directed at 3 main identified youth groupings: the fearless (those that are not adhering to guidance); the fearful (those who believe the virus to be very real and are afraid of it) and the alert (those that are aware and interested in complying). We bespoke our messages for each of these groupings as we're acutely aware that not 'one shoe fits all'...

This pioneering project is fundamental to beat the spread of the coronavirus. The YCA are creating, shaping and delivering campaigns, strategies and direct outreach work with the young people of our district. They, better than anyone, know the barriers faced by young people; critically what does (and doesn't) resonate with their audiences and how they might gather momentum to control any further outbreaks.

In addition to a comprehensive induction training programme, the YCA have received social media; culture change training and a behavioural science workshop too.

Three young people from East are part of the Young Covid Ambassador group. They have been proactive in talking with their peers in East and communicating back and

forth ensuring the worries and solutions of their peers are taken forward for consideration. One of the East Ambassadors is from the EU community; the work she has done has been instrumental in the shaping the way forward with the EU community. See Appendix A Covid Ambassadors

### 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 Shade for young people who are LGBTQ+ and POC (person of colour). All these sessions initially moved online and then ran face to face and are now back on line.

### 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 Criminal 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 Youth Workers work closely with the District wide Breaking the Cycle Team. This enables an approach where - working closely with partners - we both prevent young people getting involved in serious organised crime and protect those that are already being exploited by criminals.

### 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) and domestic abuse, all of which helps to prevent young people from entering the social care system and supports them into a positive destination.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 Currently the proposed budget reductions of £513,000 for the Youth Service are on hold. The Council's Executive Committee has recommended not to make this base budget reduction for a further 12 months until 31 March 2022. The decision will be made at the Full Council in February 2021 that determines the budget for 2021 – 2022.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

No issues.

#### **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 sessions as permitted with Covid government guidelines 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 people's ideas, suggestions and thoughts are heard.

The strengthened approach to the devolution of the Youth Service allows 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 and
- 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 A outlines 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: Work carried out across East

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 12.1 Youth Service Bradford East report. Bradford East Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.