

Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 25th November 2021

Subject:

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE – BRADFORD WEST

Summary statement:

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

The report outlines the following information:

- *An overview of youth provision and a timeline of the Youth Services response to the Covid 19 pandemic.*
- *An update on how the Youth Service continues to respond to increased demand and complexity of need.*
- *An introduction to the work of the Young Covid Recovery Ambassadors and their role in the community.*
- *An update on youth provision ward by ward and key developments.*

Appendix A – Bradford West Youth Service Baseline Provision details the current provisions being delivered within the wards in Bradford West.

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Portfolio:

Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford West Area in 2020-21.
- 1.2 The report outlines the following information:
 - An overview of youth provision and a timeline of the Youth Services response to the Covid 19 pandemic.
 - An update on how the Youth Service continues to respond to increased demand and complexity of need.
 - An introduction to the work of the Young Covid Recovery Ambassadors and their role in the community.
 - An update on youth provision ward by ward and key developments.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Bradford West 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 are aligned to the five key elements of the Bradford District Youth Offer – as detailed in the table below:

<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/detached</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.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Youth Provision

Over the last 12 months' youth provision across all six wards has continued to respond to the needs of young people. Ward teams have worked with a wide range of community partners to ensure that young people have a network of support that enables them to engage in positive relationships. This work has taken place through a range of delivery methods including; detached, outreach and centre

based sessions. This approach has enabled Youth Workers to consistently respond to issues faced by young people whilst continuing to promote key public health messages by offering information, advice and guidance.

In October and November 2020, significant Youth Service resource was used to prevent and challenge the seasonal peak in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) associated with Halloween, Mischief Night and Bonfire Night. Youth Workers engaged young people in a 'Consequences' campaign that highlighted the impact of ASB and misuse of fireworks.

Between January and March 2021 intensive detached work was delivered in all wards that specifically supported young people during the third national lockdown. Youth Workers sought to map 'hotspots' that required additional resources to ensure greater community compliance. Between April and June Youth Workers offered a menu of support to young people that supported the idea of having limited contact with others through the concept of bubbles / small groups.

Over the summer months Youth Workers offered activities in local parks and green spaces that encouraged well-being but started to prepare young people for returning to life without restrictions. In addition, Youth Workers also targeted young people making the transition between primary and secondary school and offered *Moving Up* sessions that helped build resilience.

3.2 **Responding to demand and complexity of need**

Over the last 12 months Youth Workers have responded to a significant increase in referrals from partner organisations to help address the following issues:

Domestic Abuse – young people report that they have experienced increased tension and domestic abuse within their family units.

Educational Anxiety – young people report that they are anxious and fearful of the learning that they have lost and what this means for their future.

Isolation – young people report that they have felt lonely and isolated and a significant amount of family time is spent in different rooms on individual screens and devices.

Self Harm – young people report that they have used self-harm as a means to cope with some of the issues that they have experienced.

Our service has remained focused on meeting demand and delivered the following support through local youth provision:

Youth Clubs – each ward has a youth club that enables young people to come together and socialise through a series of activities and programmes that help develop personal and social skills whilst encouraging thought and action on local area issues. Youth clubs are an essential component in developing independence and reducing dependency on specialist services.

Peer Support Groups – the Youth Service has developed a series of peer support groups that enable young people to come together and support each other for issues that are important to them. Many of these sessions have a central activity that helps young people to engage and build trust.

One to One Support – young people are supported by a local Youth Worker who will offer a home visit and a series of interventions designed to build trust. Through these interventions youth workers will set goals and targets for young people and help them assess local support networks. This work helps address complex issues such as; Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and Family Breakdown.

Volunteering – as young people become older we encourage them to take on board more responsibility in the local community. Youth Workers support young people to participate in community action projects, helping others and developing employability skills through volunteering.

3.3 **Other work targeted at young people with specific needs including vulnerable and at risk.**

Bradford West Youth Service continues to provide direct support to young people at risk of exploitation. Through building trust with their Youth Worker, young people have reported feeling less isolated, more connected with their community and safer. Bradford West currently runs a number of targeted provisions all of which offer young people a safe space to engage in positive activities. This work helps raise awareness of issues such as serious organised crime, grooming and county lines. Youth Workers work closely with the Breaking the Cycle Team and support low risk cases in the local community.

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

The Youth Service has been commissioned to deliver early interventions to young people across the district. This is a collaborative partnership with Bradford District Care Trust and Youth in Mind (YiM) which offers help to young people for their mental health and well-being and seeks to reduce demand on specialist services.

Over the last year, Bradford West has received over 300 referrals from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), School Nurses & other professionals. These referrals are allocated to Youth Workers who act as Buddies to young people, their role is to befriend them, support them using the Signs of Safety approach and navigate local support networks.

In addition, Youth Workers work closely with all secondary school in Bradford West and help identify students who need support for their mental health and well-being. Youth Workers support these additional caseload in schools, delivering 1:1 work on a weekly basis developing young people's confidence, self-belief and resilience. Youth Workers also support young people in hospital offering interventions that promote self-care and connect them to local services that offer crisis support.

3.5 **A partnership approach**

The Youth Service is supported by a wide range of partners in each community. Youth Workers work with local partners to understand the needs of the community and help build capacity to deliver bespoke projects. These projects help build stronger relationships with the local community and increase participation, action and ownership on local area issues.

Within each ward Youth Workers work alongside Ward Officers to map local area issues and develop responses. A good example of how this can be seen in the weekly Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Reports that are shared by the Police with the area office. These reports allow Youth Workers to identify where ASB is impacting on the community. Youth Workers visit the locations, engage the community and feedback to ward officers who track and monitor the impact of the interventions.

Mapping and understanding the root causes of local issues provides an opportunity to plan and develop longer term responses that local partners are supported to lead on. This enables funding to be secured and additional resources to be invested. Examples of these are included in appendix B.

New Initiates in Development

3.6 **Future Boost Trainees**

In October 2021 Bradford West welcomed two new Youth Work Trainees to the team. The trainees will be with us for 2 years and will support the development of Youth Voice initiatives that ensure young people have a greater role in shaping service delivery. The trainees will also help identify gaps in provision and develop new projects that respond to the needs of young people aged 16-25 years old. In addition, we will also support six Sporting Chances trainees in their placements within the constituency.

3.7 **Post Covid response work (Young Covid Ambassadors Project)**

The service has built on and expanded the work developed by our Young Covid Ambassadors project. We have created opportunities for a new cohort of Young Covid Ambassadors who will help develop a programme of work that focuses on Covid recovery, intergenerational activity and well-being. We believe that this could help aid groups of people to overcome some of the impacts of lockdown and isolation. The Ambassadors will help to strengthen public health messages and promote community activity through a series of events in each ward.

In late September 2021 seven young people were employed as Young Covid Recovery Ambassadors to work across Bradford West(YCRA). The Ambassadors are undertaking local Youth Work training to support them in their role and have integrated in to local teams including support for students who are anxious about returning to school. They work alongside Youth Workers to engage young people and identify local area issues. This information is then collated and analysed for

patterns and trends and then shared with Public Health Bradford. The information collected by the YCRA has been integral to responding to local issue and supporting the community to recover from the Covid pandemic.

3.8 West Wide Provisions

Bradford West currently leads on the delivery of 8 area wide sessions. These sessions are for young people to attend from across Bradford West. The area wide sessions are themed to suit young people's needs, interests and increase our Youth Offer. Information regarding the West Wide provisions can be found in both Appendix A and Appendix B.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The Youth Service base budget remains unchanged for 2021/22. The service will continue to fill vacancies and recruit additional staff to fulfil commissioned service delivery inc: Youth in Mind, Breaking the Cycles, Young Covid Ambassadors and Positive Futures. Some of this commissioned work is geographically specific which may mean that we see demand being met with additional Youth Work resources.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The implementation of the planned budget 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 West engaging in weekly sessions 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 West.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

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

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

9.3 That Bradford West 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 West Area as detailed in this report be welcomed.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Bradford West Youth Service Baseline Youth Provision

11.2 Appendix B: Bradford West – Youth Service Ward Updates

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Youth Service – Bradford West Area report. Bradford West Area Committee Meeting, 25th February 2021.

Appendix A

Bradford West Youth Service Baseline Youth Provision – 2021

MANNINGHAM WARD			
For more information contact Heather Coulton 07813992027 or heather.coulton@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday 18.00 – 21.00	Open Access	Sharing Voices	Weekly
Wednesday 17.30 – 20.30	Open Access	MYC	Weekly
Friday 18.00 – 21.00	Boys Open Access	MYC	Weekly

CITY WARD			
For more information contact Chy Burnett 07866887688 or chy.burnett@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday / Tuesday 17.00 – 20.00	Grange Interlink sports boys	Grange Interlink	Weekly
Wednesday 17.00 – 20.00	Horton Park Hub	Horton Park	Weekly
Thursday 17.30 – 20.30	Open Access	Khidmat Centre	Weekly

CLAYTON & FAIRWEATHER GREEN WARD			
For more information contact Gemma Booth on 07582103570 or email gemma.booth@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday 17.00 – 20.00	Open Access	Clayton Village Hall	Weekly
Tuesday 17.00 – 20.00	Young Leaders	Lower Grange Community Centre	Weekly
Thursday 17.00 – 20.00	Open Access	Lower Grange	Weekly

THORNTON & ALLERTON WARD			
For more information contact Peter Lawrence 07866127283 or email peter.lawrence@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Tuesday 18.00 – 21.00	Open Access	St James Church, Thornton	Weekly
Wednesday 17.00 – 20.00	Open Access	Café West, Allerton	Weekly
Friday 17.00 -20.00	Sports Session	Thornton recreation centre	Weekly

TOLLER WARD

For more information contact Bilal Suleman on 07814073902 or email bilal.suleman@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Tuesday 18.00 – 21.00	Girls Group	Girlington	Weekly
Wednesday 18.00 – 21.00	Open Access	Toller Youth Cafe	Weekly
Friday 18.00 – 21.00	Open Access	Toller Youth Cafe	Weekly

SCHOOLS WORK				
For more information contact Kamrun Haq on 07582107053 or email Kamrun.Haq@bradford.gov.uk				
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency	Target group
Monday 8.30am-15.30pm	1:1 Support	Beckfoot Thornton	Weekly	YIM
Monday 9.00 – 15.00	1:1 Support	Dixons McMillan	Weekly	YIM
Monday 9.00am–15.00pm	1:1 Support	Dixons Trinity	Weekly	YIM
Tuesday 10.00am–13.30pm	1:1 Support	St Bedes & St Josephs	Weekly	YIM
Tuesday 8.90 – 15.30pm	1:1 Support	Beckfoot Thornton	Weekly	YIM
Tuesday 9.00 -12.30	1:1 Support	Beckfoot Upper Heaton	Weekly	YIM
Tuesday 9.00 – 15.00pm	1:1 Support	Dixons Cottingley	Weekly	YIM
Wednesday 9.00am–15.00pm	1:1 Support	Dixons McMillan	Weekly	YIM
Wednesday 8.00am–11.00am	1:1 Support	1 in a Million Free School	Weekly	YIM
Thursday 9.00am -12.00pm	1:1 Support	Belle Vue Girls	Weekly	YIM
Thursday 10.00am–13.30pm	1:1 Support	St Bedes & St Josephs	Weekly	YIM

The above table provides an overview of the work that is delivered in secondary schools in Bradford West. Each youth worker will hold an average case load of 12 young people who they provide one to one support to over a half-term. This enables youth workers to work with a large number of young people over the course of a school year. The impact of these early interventions helps reduce exclusions and maintain attendance whilst also reducing the demand on specialist services. The support received is unique to each individual but often focuses on emotional wellbeing, anxiety and low self-esteem.

The impact of this '*school based support*' has been the growth of '*community based*' peer support groups across the constituency. These groups offer young people the opportunity to share the 'self-care skills' that they have learnt with others. We commonly refer to these groups as Youth in Mind – Peer Support groups.

Bradford West Wide			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday 16.00 – 18.00	Boxercise Session	Clayton Village Hall	Weekly
Monday 17.00 – 20.00	Emotions - Changes YIM	Toller Youth Cafe	Weekly
Wednesday 17.00 – 20.00	Emotion - BLM	Virtual	Weekly
Thursday 18.00 – 21.00	Inclusion - Star Club	Culture Fusion	Weekly
Thursday 16.30 – 19.30	Shade	Equity Centre	Weekly
Thursday 17.00 – 20.00	ASD Youth Shine	Media Museum	Weekly
Friday 17.00 – 20.00	Emotions – Moving Up	Common Space	Weekly
Friday 17.00 – 20.00	Emotions	Faith based settings	Weekly

The Bradford West Wide provisions have been developed across the area in response to the needs and issues raised by young people. These provisions include small group sessions, targeted groups supporting young people around LGBTQ+, wellbeing and resilience support sessions, provisions to support young people with additional needs and youth voice focussed sessions.

Appendix B

Bradford West – Youth Service Ward Updates:

Manningham Ward

Youth work in the area has gone from strength to strength with the securing of a new indoor provision in partnership with Sharing Voices. This was a direct response from detached work that was taking place in Lister Park in response to ASB in the area. Young people in this area have regularly commented on their appreciation over being 'listened to' and this has enabled a mutual respect between them and the youth workers in this session, developing a good relationship and subsequently allowing room for growth and development.

Youth workers in Manningham continue to have a strong partnership with mosques in the area, particularly Hanfia, where a weekly faith session runs. Focus in these sessions is primarily around emotional wellbeing which is of particular prevalence and extremely positive work. Staff at Hanfia also work with our youth workers on the delivery of the sessions each week, further strengthening the partnership.

Work at Manningham Youth Centre is thriving with sessions full each week, including specialist sessions in boxercise, lyric writing and rapping workshops. HAF funding was also provided via MYC over the Summer, with projects running throughout. An encouraging development in this particular provision is also the successful introduction of the open access youth provision which is seeing the levels of participation grow each week.

Heaton Ward

Sessions have restarted at Frizinghall Community Centre since the Covid regulations relaxed. Strong partnerships have been developed here with the committee for the centre. An encouraging number of young people are in attendance for this session (at least 25) with a range of opportunities and activities which include, cooking, sports, art and issue based workshops.

Youth workers also continue to run sessions at Heaton Village Hall which has predominately young females in attendance. 1-1 work, as well as peer workshops has a strong presence in this group and the young people have been producing some fantastic outcomes. Youth Workers continue to undertake detached work in the area and we are looking to developing the session further.

As well as the partnerships developed within the centres themselves, a strong connection with All Star Ents has also played a huge role in the success of sessions that are running across the ward. Staff from All Star Ents work alongside ourselves supporting the young people to express themselves through music and increase their confidence by doing so.

Detached work continues weekly in the ward focussing on the hotspot areas with particular attention in the Haworth Road Area we working over the next six months to develop another partnership provision within this area to offer a safe informal youth space for young people to access weekly.

City Ward

Through targeted work, a partnership with the community organisation Grange Interlink has been established. One of the provisions creates space for the young females within the community and through this group we have directly engaged with over 100 girls who have taken part in numerous sporting activities, specific discussions around healthy active lifestyles and support with positive wellbeing.

Targeted detached work has proved extremely beneficial to the surrounding areas of Khidmat centre, Spencer fields & Grange Interlink fields. Young people voiced their need for an indoor centre to play a range of sports that also is inclusive for everyone to attend. Working with the community a new group was created, a multi-sports open access session where we have an average of 30-40 young people attending each session.

Khidmat open access session is a new partnership provision that we have opened since the relaxing of Covid Measures the provision is growing each work with an average of over 30+ young people in attendance who are engaging in positive informal education.

Small weekly group work sessions continue to run from Horton Park Hub where we focus on engaging the young people in issue based work and educative programmes to enhance their personal and social development.

Toller Ward

Youth workers have built partnerships which have enabled creativity such as poetry events in collaboration with Girlington Community Centre. They have also established connections with McDonalds Community Engagement Managers where partnership work is been developed and together we have supported 2 young people to gain contracted employment.

Toller Youth Café operates 1 targeted girl's youth session a week and 2 open access sessions which currently have over 40 young people in attendance each night. These sessions create a positive safe space for young people to access where we deliver issue based workshops in an informal and welcoming environment.

Youth workers have maintained a strong detached presence around Scotchman Road, West Park and across the Toller Ward in order to further build on their connections with young people in the area. Moving forward we are engaging in partnership meetings with Morrisons community space, Girlington Community Centre and Prism to explore how we can further increase the youth offer in the Ward.

Clayton & Fairweather Green Ward

Open access has now resumed at the Clayton Village Hall, with the young people engaging positively, the sessions are focussed around a wide range of issues impacting the lives of the young people and the youth workers are utilising a variety of methods to aid and support young people's engagement.

We continue to undertake regular detached sessions, garden gate visits and 1:1's engaging with the young people in their community responding to issues shared and highlighted by our partners with a focus on addressing ASB.

Bradford Youth Service & Lower Grange Community Centre have worked closely with HAF (Holiday Activities and Food programme) where youth workers supported the delivery of 43 youth sessions and activities with over 800 young people in attendance. Open access provisions at Lower Grange

has seen youth workers work alongside young people who are NEET and are at risk or ASB and CCE and has formed strong partnership work with JUMP and LGCA (i.e. Pitty beck Scavenger Hunt). Voice and Influence has also increased in this area with the development of Lower Grange Young Leaders. This has consisted of litter picks, Christmas present co-ordinating and raising money in partnership with Morrison's Community Champions.

Thornton & Allerton Ward

Youth workers in Thornton have been successful over the past year in working in the local area on detached, supporting young people on the streets with issue based work including supporting young people in education and employment, providing advice and techniques to support young people's emotional wellbeing and giving information, advice and guidance around relevant issues.

Youth workers have created a new partnership to develop a youth provision at St. James' Church which is opening in November – young people from the detached groups are looking forward to having a safe environment to attend.

Youth Workers in Allerton have undertaken focussed detached work over the past few months engaging with a diverse group of young people some of which are involved in ASB and are at risk of CCE. We have established a new partnership with Café West which has enabled us to open a new open access provision on a Wednesday evening and we are in discussions with Weymouth Centre to look at re-opening small group work sessions within that space.

Thornton football sessions are now running again since Covid regulations have been relaxed. This session is delivered in partnership with Thornton school and Thornton Recreation Centre where we use sport as a tool to engage young people in issue based work. The group were gifted free tickets to a Bradford City Football Match in October which culminated into a very successful trip to the game and a wonderful experience for young people, especially those who had previously never been to a football game.

Grime Against Crime Event

We hosted a Grime against Crime event on the 2nd July 2021. The event encompasses information and guidance about choices and consequences. Looking particularly at knife crime, drug use, gang affiliation and ASB. We engaged and targeted young people to partake who were known to be at risk or involved in CCE, ASB and gang affiliation. Due to Covid restrictions we had a number of Covid safe plans in place which unfortunately impacted on the number of young people we could have present but it was positive to see over 40 targeted young people in attendance from across all wards in Bradford West.

The event was a great success with young people performing alongside rap artists and the young people responded excellently to the guest speakers; who were Pc Huss & Shane Reegan. Both guest speakers spoke about their experiences, personal choices and changes that they have made. All the young people engaged well with the discussions and the feedback from the young people was extremely positive, they explained that they had a really good time and it was beneficial to be in the same space as other community groups, where there was previous tension. They also explained that they loved having the opportunity to perform their music in front of a live audience and for it be showcased to further organisations.

We also had positive feedback from our partner organisations and we hope to deliver this programme of work and event again in the future at a larger scale.