

# Report of the Interim Assistant Director of Neighbourhood and Customer Services to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 14 January 2016

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**Subject:**

Youth Service – Bradford East Area

**Summary statement:**

This report gives information on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East area, in particular the work with NEET and young carers, and further information about the buildings managed by the Youth Service and the Youth Offer. The review of the open access provision in East is also included.

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

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives information on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East area, in particular the work with NEET and young carers, and further information about the buildings managed by the Youth Service and the Youth Offer. The review of the open access provision in East is also included.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 **At the Bradford East Area Committee on 22 July 2015 members resolved that a further report be presented including additional information about work with specific groups, youth service buildings in Bradford East and the 'Youth Offer'.**

The resolutions from the Bradford East Area Committee meeting on the 22 July 2015 are included below. Following each resolution, there is an explanation of the work that has been undertaken.

- 2.2 **That the Committee recommends that a review of the open access provision across Bradford East is conducted to demonstrate how the local authority's duty to secure, as far as reasonably practical, equality of access to provision is delivered so young people can improve their well-being.**

- Bradford East currently runs 18 weekly sessions. Of the 18 sessions 16 are open access and 2 are sports-based. Day time work is carried out in schools and youth centres, this work is targeted short term project work with the ultimate aim of improving young people's life chances. Holiday programmes are delivered in wards. In the last year we delivered the connecting communities project which enabled diverse communities to learn alongside each other. Appendix A shows the sessions delivered by the Youth Service in each Ward.
- Youth workers work alongside Ward Officers to ensure that youth work sessions are informed by the needs of the Ward Plan. The corner stones of youth work, education, empowerment, equality and participation, are used to draw up and evaluate the 12 week plan. Every quarter youth workers facilitate a planning, review and evaluation session with young people. An evaluation takes place at the end of each session with young people and then the staff team. The evaluations are used to inform any necessary amendments to the following session.
- Six ward-based meetings were held, Ward Councillors were invited to meet with the Youth Worker, Advanced Practitioner and Ward Officer. Questions were asked relating to the type of activities offered and the learning potential for young people. There were wide ranging discussions to identify the key issues and ways of responding to them. A summary of the meetings is included within Appendix A.
- Appendix A shows that there are common themes across East such as low educational attainment and aspirations, challenging behaviour, drug and alcohol use. It should also be noted that specific issues also emerged in wards such as:

Eccleshill - 13 - 16 year olds not accessing education.

Bolton and Undercliffe – Anti-Social behaviour of 13 -19 year olds.

Bowling and Barkerend – Lack of cohesion between different communities.

Little Horton – Lack opportunities for older young people aged 20 - 25.  
 Idle and Thackley – Young people congregating in public spaces.  
 Bradford Moor – Poor literacy skills of British born young people.

- At the meeting youth provision delivered by the community and voluntary sector was also considered. A list of this can be found within Appendix A. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list.
- There was a general consensus that the vast majority of the youth provision delivered by the Youth Service was to a good standard, resources were well utilised and partnership arrangements enabled better quality services for young people. It was acknowledged that some provision was not well used and consideration should be given as to the viability of the provision. It was agreed that the Monday night at Parkside should close. Bowling and Barkerend Ward Councillors agreed that outreach work should be carried out in a bid to increase take up at the Monday night session which runs at the Karmand centre. The session should be reviewed in late January and a decision made as to whether to continue with the Karmand session.
- The table included as Appendix A shows how it is proposed to respond to issues identified.

**2.3 That the Committee welcomes the reduction in the number of Tier 1 young people not in education, employment or training and requests a further report detailing how this work is carried out. The report should also include a report from Prospects Services Limited to be brought to a meeting in the autumn.**

- Bradford Council provides a careers information and guidance service to all young people, in particular supporting those that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- This service is provided through a combination of a procured service and the local authority Youth Service. The procured contract is a district-wide contract and is valued at £1,453,606.00. Some schools in the district also buy in the careers information services and contribute an additional £259,100.00 giving a total of £1,712,706.00. The current provider of the procured service to all young people is Prospects Services Ltd who operate under the title of Connexions Bradford.
- The Council’s Youth Service has responsibility for the Tier 1 NEET delivery with Youth Service staff each holding a caseload of vulnerable young people who are NEET.
- Young people are identified as being NEET at the point of leaving school and are allocated to a Tier, which tier is dependent upon their individual support needs. There are 3 tiers to the NEET service in the District, with Tier 1 being the most vulnerable group. The Youth Service support those who are Tier 1 and are also NEET, with Prospects delivering the rest of the service as can be seen below:

<b>Level of Need</b>	<b>EET</b>	<b>NEET</b>
Intensive Support (Tier 1)	Prospects	Youth Service
Extra Support (Tier 2)	Prospects	Prospects

Minimum Support (Tier 3)	Prospects	Prospects
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- The 2 services have clear targets in relation to the transitions of young people from being Not in Education Employment or Training into Education, Employment or Training (NEET to EET).
- Bradford East area has traditionally had high levels of NEET in comparison to other Constituency areas – these remain despite Bradford district overall having its lowest level ever of NEET young people.
- Appendix B provides further detail about the work carried out in Bradford East with regard to the Youth Service work to support young people who are Tier 1 NEET.
- Appendix C is a report from Prospects who are the current provider, under a procurement contract, for the delivery and support to young people who are Tier 2 and 3 NEET.

**2.4 That the Committee requests that the Executive reconsiders the funding devolved to Area Committees using a revised system of funding weighting by the population of young people as recommended in the Youth Offer.**

- This was considered by the Executive at its meeting on 15 September 2015 and members resolved that this be considered as part of the budget process for 2016 / 18.

**2.5 That the Committee requests a budget and a plan is prepared to bring the youth service buildings up to standard within 2 years and that the plan and budget is sent to the Executive requesting funding is released into the Capital Plan from the Council's Reserves to support the retention of those properties in Bradford East retained by the Executive.**

- The Executive resolved that this request be considered as part of the Council's budget for 2016 / 18.
- The Council has a strict prioritisation process that is applied to its estate. Each building is surveyed and evaluated against specific criteria e.g. a Children's/Adults Home would be evaluated higher than the needs of office accommodation. Annually this process is undertaken to inform the Council's property capital programme. Currently the Council has in excess of £64m priority 1 backlog maintenance in properties across the estate (including schools). Annual funding approved for the capital programme is approximately £2m. The Youth Service Buildings in Bradford East are captured within the process but are not currently high in the order of priority.

**2.6 That the Committee requests that the Interim Director of Customer Services and Neighbourhoods brings a report to an Autumn meeting of the Committee detailing what work has been done to generate income to ensure the youth service buildings are managed and maintained on a sustainable basis for the future.**

- The 3 youth service buildings in Bradford East (the Arc in Canterbury, Laisterdyke Youth and Community Centre and Ravenscliffe Youth and Community Centre) are managed by the Youth Service Workers in the ward and the Senior Youth Worker. There are varying levels of interest from external organisations in using these buildings.
- There is demand from organisations and community members for the use of both Ravenscliffe and Canterbury youth Centre. Appendix D shows use of the buildings from other organisations and income generated.
- Work has been carried out at the Laisterdyke Youth and Community Centre which has included a deep clean of the full site, repairs to the roof, security measures installed to prevent access to the roof top area, refurbishment and redecorating of the communal entrance area. In addition, discussions are taking place with Facilities Management and local Ward Councillors exploring options to increase the occupancy and usage of the building by making rooms and spaces available for hire by interested parties.

**2.7 That the Committee requests that consideration be given to the use of funding to support the development of innovative projects to support the development of the learning potential of young people.**

- Youth Workers are constantly challenged to think about innovative projects to engage young people in learning. Established partnerships with voluntary organisations, community interest companies and such have given access to funding streams not open to the youth service. In the last 12 months over £20,000 has been secured to enable projects to be delivered which support the learning potential of young people. Sources of funding included the Local Award, All Teed Up and POCA. £7,900 of Youth Opportunity Funding was secured by nine youth service projects. The Funding has enabled day time work with young people on the verge of exclusion from schools, residential opportunities focussed on identity and aspirations and a breadth of emotional and physical well being activities which have addressed issues of child sexual exploitation and anti-social behaviour.

**2.8 That the Committee requests that a further update is brought which details progress with the Youth Offer including how youth work is monitored and impact judged, including what has taken place to increase accessibility for disabled to open access sessions.**

- The Youth Offer Review looked at the offer to young people from across the whole youth sector recognising the offer is provided by a wide range of providers including the local authority youth services, uniformed organisations, faith groups, voluntary groups and community-led organisations. The Youth Offer Review Report and recommendations were taken to the Council Executive meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015.
- Since this date there has been the formulation of a cross sector Youth Offer Working group. The group has active membership from across the Youth Sector including representatives from faith groups, voluntary and community groups, the Police and local authority Youth Services and Neighbourhoods Services.

- This group has enabled a more cohesive communication in the sector which is starting to lead to a more joined up offer and sector-led response to the many of the recommendations from the report. The true element of partnership working of this group has required some time and nurturing, and a trust has been developed that has enabled difficult and critical discussions to take place. This in turn has allowed for the exploration of different ways of working across the Youth Sector and of the potential and strengths of more joined up working, different ways of delivering and funding services and the clearer identification of who in the sector is best placed to deliver what services.
- The group has contributed towards the Youth Offer proposition making recommendations for consideration as part of the New Deal proposals. They are exploring and considering sector strengths and capacity in the future and ways to sustain delivery across the district.
- There is recognition that the outcomes frameworks across the sector that are currently used to monitor work are diverse and disallow uniformed reporting against district priorities. Work is being undertaken to explore and suggest improvements that enable increased clarity around quality and impact that the whole sector can relate to and they feel empowered to use. The working group will lead on this development and the inclusion of the wider Youth Sector.
- A review has been undertaken of the existing providers funded under the historic Community Funding Unit grants agreements. The Youth Offer Working Group is making recommendations for consideration about how this funded work would better align to the required outcomes from the Youth Offer Report and the District and locally identified priorities.
- The Youth Service has started making steps towards empowering and capacity building the voluntary sector provides, where necessary offering support alongside volunteers in weekly run sessions and access to training that supports quality and youth work values.
- Youth voice work is developing within each project in Bradford East ensuring youth voice influences their work. There are plans to run a District wide networking event planned in Spring of 2016 that will bring together young people to share practice on increasing participation and youth voice.
- The Youth Work Team has looked to encourage disabled young people to access open access provisions. Within the district 1666 young people are identified as SEND, meaning they either have a Statement, an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) or a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA). 344 of these young people live in the Bradford East area. 75 young people have attended provisions in the Bradford East area, although this figure includes young people who reside outside of East area.

The table below outlines the attendance at open access provisions by disabled young people

SEND Attendees		01/09/2014 - 31/08/2015	01/09/2014 - 02/12/2015
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Project Type	Project Title	Attendee Total	Attendee Total
Open Access	Bradford East - FAB Youth Club	15	15
	Bradford East - West Bowling Sports Group	3	3
	Bradford East - West Bowling Youth Club	3	3
	Bradford East SORTED Church	4	4
	Canterbury Avenue Youth Centre 2012-2014	1	1
	Canterbury Youth Centre 2014-2015	2	2
	DofE Centre Wednesday Open Unit	0	1
	East – Goals	1	1
	East - Springfield Youth Club	3	3
	East Greenwood Youth Club	3	4
	East Area wide activities	0	31
	East Summer Holidays 2015	3	3
	Greenway at D of E Centre	0	1
	Laisterdyke Youth Centre	2	3
	MAPA	2	2
	Mayfield Youth Club	3	3
	Ravenscliffe Youth Centre	4	4
Open Access Total		49	84

Note:

75 individuals attended with some young people attending more than one project so are included more than once in the totals.

- A full report to update on the Youth Offer recommendations is scheduled to be taken to the Council Executive in the spring of 2016.

### 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

#### 3.1 Engagement with Young carers

- Young carers take responsibility for parents, siblings or a family member who may have caring needs including those with severe mental illness, recovering drug user / alcoholic or have a disability. It is difficult to capture the numbers of young carers across the district as young people seldom identify as carers. They will often grow up with the responsibility of caring and though they may struggle with the responsibilities they do not always recognise themselves as a young carer. Coupled with this, young people are not asked at point of membership to declare if they are a young carer and data on young carers is not collated as a matter of course. However, the Youth Service is aware that that they work with some young people who also undertake caring responsibilities at home in both the long and shorter term. Barnardos runs a group to support young carers and is currently working with 42 young people from the Bradford East area.

- In order to ensure that as many young carers as possible are supported by the Youth Service, partnerships between the Service and Barnardos Young Carers have been formalised. A worker from Barnardos has been identified as the East Teams Youth Service link. Information on regular club sessions and holiday activities are routinely passed to the identified worker and where the need is identified the workers will act as a bridge to introduce young carers to Youth Service provisions.
- Staff training for the Bradford East Youth Work Team is planned to be delivered by the Barnardos worker with responsibilities for young carers which is hoped to enhance understanding of how to best support young carers.

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

##### **4.1 Financial**

As part of the Budget decisions taken by the Council for the financial years 2014 / 2015 and 2015 / 2016 the Youth Service budget for the District is £2,430,684, with £410,282 allocated for delivery of youth work in the Bradford East Area. More detailed information was presented in the report to the Area Committee on the 22 July 2015

##### **4.2 Staffing**

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

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

A Transition Plan for the transfer of Youth Services to the Neighbourhood and Customer Services Department was implemented in July 2014. There were identified risks arising from the transfer which to date have all been effectively managed or mitigated.

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

The Council has a responsibility to ensure compliance with the statutory guidance to local authorities on services and activities that improve young peoples well-being. 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**

Equal Rights legislation has been considered as part of the detailed proposals for the devolution of services. 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**

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 by the devolution of the Youth Service allows:

- 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**

There are no implications for Trade Unions arising from this report.

### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Youth Service projects and activities support young people and communities within all the Wards in the area.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

There are no not for publication items.

## **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 and its partners in the Bradford East Area as detailed in this report be noted.

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Appendix A Summary of Youth work review in wards

11.2 Appendix B Detail of Tier 1 NEET work

11.3 Appendix C Prospects Report Tier 1 and 2 NEET work

11.4 Appendix D Use of Buildings and income generated

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

12.1 Youth Service Report, Document A, Bradford East Area Committee, 26 June 2014.

12.2 Youth Service Buildings Review, Document 'BP', Council Executive, 10 March 2015

12.3 Bradford Youth Offer Review, Document 'BQ', Council Executive, 10 March 2015

12.4 Report of the East area Committee on Youth Service 22 July 2015