

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 20 April 2016

AA

Subject:

District wide Youth Service provision 2015-16

Summary statement:

This report gives an update for 2015-16 on the Bradford District wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service, which includes, but is not specific to any one constituency area.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director – Environment & Sport

Portfolio:
Neighbourhoods & Community Safety

Report Contact: Jonathan Hayes
Keighley Area Co-ordinator
Phone: (01535 618008)
E-mail: jonathan.hayes@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives an update for 2015-16 on the Bradford District wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service, which includes, but is not specific to any one constituency area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 22 July 2015 the Bradford West Area Committee resolved:-

- That the district wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service, as detailed in Document “F”, be noted.
- That a letter of thanks be sent to each Advanced Practitioner, congratulating them, their team and the young people for the invaluable efforts in their creative and wide ranging youth offer provided to the young people across the Bradford district.
- That an update report be presented in January 2016 from staff and young people directly involved in the projects focusing on key outcomes, impacts and progress against future plans, as detailed in Document “F” in the meeting of July 2015.

- 2.2 Whilst being a devolved service and mainly working in Area teams, the Youth Service maintains elements of district wide provision that are considered to be either best provided at that level, or address common needs/issues to all young people across the District.

- 2.3 Each Advanced Practitioner takes on a district wide responsibility as follows:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award Project – Bradford South
- Equality and Diversity - Keighley
- Information, Advice and Guidance (Bradford West)
- Voice and Influence (Bradford East)
- Volunteering and Accreditation (Shipley)

- 2.5 Appendix A-E describes the work that has taken place during 2015-16 in regard to each of these areas of work and some plans for developing this work during 2016-17.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 On 25 February 2016 Bradford Council approved a budget which included proposals in relation to the Youth Service to make savings by: reducing the numbers of full-time and part-time youth workers, moving from a model of providing Information, Advice and Guidance through two Information Shops to a District-wide Information service, reducing the amounts available to Area Committees for allocation to activities and Youth Opportunity Fund grants, removing the budget for Youth Service vehicles and reducing Youth Service Finance administration.



3.2 The outcome of these savings over the next two years will mean that the capacity of the Youth Service to support District-wide work will be reduced.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 Financial provision to adequately resource district wide provision has been allocated within the budgets devolved to the respective Area Committees with responsibility for that aspect of district wide provision.

4.1.2 In 2015-16 an amount of £2,000 was reserved centrally from each Area budget in order to provide some resources for district wide provision in a consistent and transparent way, thus ensuring an equitable spread across the five constituencies.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

No risk management and governance issues within the context of this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

No legal issues apparent within the context of this report.

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 has a responsibility to ensure that the services are accessible to all young people and that participation in the service reflects this approach. Specific targeted work takes place to encourage participation from under represented groups.

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

No Greenhouse gas emissions apparent within the context of this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Providing positive experiences for young people helps to build self-confidence, raise aspiration and can provide and encourage 'diversionary activities' that builds and helps to support safer and stronger communities.



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

District-wide Youth Service work and activities support young people and communities within all the Wards in the Bradford District.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

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

9.2 That Bradford West Area Committee seeks additional information on aspects of these services that are delivered at a district wide level by the Youth Service.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the district wide provision undertaken by the Youth Service as detailed in this report be noted.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A: Duke of Edinburgh Award Project
- Appendix B: Equality and Diversity
- Appendix C: Information, Advice and Guidance
- Appendix D: Voice and Influence
- Appendix E: Volunteering

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 District wide Youth Service Provision, **Document F**, Bradford West Area Committee, 22 July 2015.



Appendix A

Bradford MDC Duke of Edinburgh Award Project

Outcomes met in 2015/16

- The project has increased access by young people with additional needs through a partnership cultivated with Bradford Council's specialist Inclusion Project.
- The project has expanded the camp store by 25% to increase this offer to even more young people who would otherwise be excluded.
- In partnership with the DofE National Charity, Bradford has seen an increase of 8 new schools this year.
- Through the development of a new volunteers group we are expecting a large increase in recruitment and support of volunteers. Additionally, the project is also planning a young volunteers program, where young people would gain tangible outdoor qualifications and contribute to a greater increase in capacity for the city.
- Between the period of February 2015 to March 2016 the project has delivered seven training courses to help skill up new and existing staff involved in The Award across the city, including a new Bradford Leaders Course.

Increase in numbers

2015/16 has seen the highest levels of enrolment of young people onto the DofE Award programme. With the Bradford MDC Project and schools who have direct licences with the DofE the regional office has reported that Bradford currently has over 1500 new young people enrolled on the Award.

Campstore

Bradford DofE award project maintains and manages a large camp store to help remove a financial barrier to participation and ensure that all young people are equipped appropriately for the expeditions as part of the award.

Individually, an expedition kit would cost over £300, however, the camp store provides access to items such as boots, rucksacks, waterproofs and tents for a cost of £3 per person, per use (regardless of amount of equipment borrowed).

This store is used primarily for DofE award expeditions, but also helps support other activities and groups, such as the Piccadilly project, Hanson School's International trips and Youth Service camps.

Over the last year the camp store has been able to meet the demand and has continued to replace and grow its stock with the help and support of volunteers. This year volunteers have taken steps to expand the camp store, from 40 sets of equipment to 50 + sets.



Voluntary organisation

In line with the 'New Deal' and 'People Can' initiatives, currently there is a group of volunteers undertaking training and forming a constitution for a charity in order to support the Award and provide wider access to the outdoors and outdoor education.

Ultimately, this group will support the Award across the city, recruit and train volunteers and take responsibility for the camp store.

Change of Licence

Working in partnership with the DofE Award National Charity the project is currently assisting schools to take direct licences with The DofE Award National Charity. For the 20 schools that was part of the Bradford MDC licence this now means that they will have to take a more independent way forward away from the local authority. These schools will be supported by the DofE Award Charity directly.

The Council has committed to retain a licence for delivery to the Youth Service and other voluntary partners. This will ensure that for those young people who either don't want to or can't participate in schools there is an alternative way to access the award.

Future Plans

Looking to next year, despite the clear changes in the way the Award will be delivered across the city; there are some clear goals for the project in its new structure:

- Achieve at least one open-access Award centre managed by the Youth Service in each Area.
- Achieve an increase of 25% in new enrolments within Council provision.
- Increase the number of volunteers involved in the project, this will be achieved by:
- Working in partnership with the newly formed 'Bradford Adventure Support Enterprise' (volunteer's charity) to recruit, train, retain and reward volunteers.
- Implement a Young Leaders programme



Appendix B

Equality and Diversity

The Youth Service continues to promote equality and diversity across the district by giving every individual the chance to achieve their potential, free from prejudice and discrimination. This year has seen an increase in project work across the district, particularly with young men and women, LGBT young people, new arrivals, migrants and refugees.

Provision and Projects

- The Youth Service continues to raise young people's awareness throughout youth club provision by encouraging healthy debates and discussions on a range of subjects including the global migrant crisis and adopting a tolerant and accepting approach.
- Inclusion projects are delivered weekly in each of five constituencies. Recently Young people with disabilities from Bradford West attended the Star residential. This involved team building challenges at Nell Bank aimed at raising aspirations and self-esteem. The weekend was subsequently evaluated at 'Outside the Box' in Ilkley town centre. Outside the Box is a dynamic, community café which is run by adults with learning disabilities. The weekend was instrumental in showing the group that it is possible for someone with a disability to lead a more fulfilled and independent life.
- Regular sessions are delivered across the district to encourage participation of new arrivals, migrants and refugees.
- Sound sessions are delivered specifically for young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender or who are questioning their sexuality and /or gender. A Sound residential took place in October, which attracted young people from across the district and enabled them to explore issues around gender and sexuality. This has made an active contribution towards the development of the Youth Voice agenda and the development of the new transgender youth group in Bradford.
- Build a Girl Project (Bradford South), the Power Girls – 12 week course building resilience with vulnerable young women at risk. (.Bradford East) and gender work with young people (Shipley) where the film Suffragette was used as a tool to raise issues and awareness about the history of women getting the vote in Britain and the importance of voting as well as issues around the discrimination of women.
- Boy's nights (Bradford East) to encourage positive self esteem.
- Boys in the Woods – 12 week course which re-engages newly arrived pupils on the verge of exclusion from school. (.Bradford East)
- The Young Advisors Project is a group of 12 young people who are representative of the diverse communities of Keighley. These young people are aged 16+ and are currently involved in a programme of training where they meet with other Young Advisor groups from across the country. This is complimented by local training and development, such as volunteer training and young people have received inputs around equality and diversity and now they are in the process of identifying social action projects to work on in their local communities.
- Various community cohesion residential opportunities have taken place across the district, which has brought young people together. These have given young people



a platform to meet people from other areas and explore the cultures, experiences and identities of the diverse population of Bradford in a safe, supported and positive way.

Events

- The Youth Service, in partnership with British Cycling and Sky Ride Local have delivered a programme of cycling events throughout the year aimed at young people with disabilities and their family and friends. Bradford West has enhanced their fleet of bikes to ensure that even more young people are able to access cycling opportunities district wide.
- International Women's Day was celebrated with events at TFD and MAPA on the 19th of March delivered by Patwah Media and Community Arts, which involved inspirational speakers and role models.
- Involvement in the Black Heritage Project which had positive outcomes where young people were supported by role models from African and African Caribbean backgrounds.
- Various activities were supported and delivered such as the Star Project Christmas Celebration Party for young people with disabilities.
- A variety of activities took place during February 2016 to mark LGBT history month such as awareness workshops, discussions about positive role models
- Training has been delivered to the Youth Service team on Transgender awareness, 9 equality and diversity sessions were delivered as part of the volunteer training programme. Prevent briefings in addition to training on Ideologies and radicalisation. 30 young people have attended transgender awareness training.

The Youth Service continues to collaborate and strengthen links with partner agencies, such as the Equity Centre and Bradford Disability Sports. This work takes place in a variety of contexts and settings and is enhanced by its partnership approach with schools, partners, community and voluntary organisations to ensure that the needs of young people are creatively addressed. The aims for the forthcoming year:-

- The Youth Service will continue to respond to the new and emerging needs of young people, in particular facilitating and supporting the new arrivals and refugees.
- To ensure that the district wide Youth Service continue to engage with young people and promote a sense of belonging across all communities, particularly focusing on taking in the diversity of the local population.
- To work with Workforce Development to improve equality and diversity training for Youth Service staff.
- To continue involvement and promote engagement in various themed months and events such as Black History Month, LGBT History, PRIDE, and International Women's Day etc.



Appendix C

Information, Advice and Guidance

The Youth Service runs two Information Shops for Young People which provide a district wide service for all young people aged up to 25.

The Shops are located in Culture Fusion, Bradford and Keighley Town Hall. They provide information, advice and related services on anything that affects young people's lives. The service is free, confidential and runs on a drop in basis.

The number of visits to the Shops by young people over the past 4 years was as follows:-

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-2016
Culture Fusion	9,333	9,785	10,019	7,464
Keighley Town Hall	7,233	5,978	5,318	4,289

Young people are helped directly or guided towards the best place to get help. The delivery of the service to young people is done within the principles of youth work practice, including voluntary engagement, confidentiality, making informed choices and accessibility. Whilst footfall in the centres has decreased young people have been supported with issues. In 2015-16, 11,379 customer enquiries were dealt with in achieving positive outcomes and interventions for young people, enquiry times can range from 5 minutes to 3 hours. These can be face to face or telephone enquiries.

The majority of contact with young people is face to face and on a one to one basis. When a young person comes in to use the service, staff members engage with them, establish the reason for the visit and identify ways in which they can be supported.

As well the above, 14 school and college visits were carried out during the course of the year to undertake outreach work. The Youth Service were also involved in numerous events - the City Park Youth Event, Prince's Trust Programme, Pride Event, Skills House Launch, Bradford People Event, Apprenticeship Event, Youth Centres and the Queensbury Youth Event.

Depending upon their enquiry, in-depth one to one support, signposting to key agencies and access to information resources are available. Resources include; information that is available in a variety of formats plus access to computers and telephones that young people can use, for example, to apply for jobs or benefits.

To complement the provision, a number of partner organisations work from the Shops to deliver drop-in specialist services, including: support for young offenders, contraception and STI testing; benefits; housing and debt and also health for young men. Young people are able to access sensitive services in a confidential and non-clinical environment.

The Youth Service continues to work and network with numerous organisations including:-



Bradford Nightspot, Blast Project, City Training Services, Health Inclusion Project, Bradford Counselling Services, BetterStart Project, Broadway Shopping Centre, Bradford Hate Crime Alliance, Youth Clubs, NEET Youth Contract, Public Conversations Information Session, Local Sexual Health Service Launch, Community Public Health and Digital Communications Working Group.

Events at the Keighley Information Shop have included open days, Voter registration events and a pop up week long health event. Visits were also carried out at Oakbank School and Leeds City College – Keighley campus. As part of our remit as a district wide provision an outreach session was set up at Shipley Youth Café. A member of the IAG team attended a weekly drop in session specifically targeted at NEET1 clients in Shipley and for those young people who needed IAG support. Young people got help with CVs, housing issues, personal statements for university and job search and training opportunities.

Partnerships have also been developed with a wide range of organisations and agencies across the district to ensure that young people can be referred appropriately. Other partners use the general Shop area or one to one rooms to see young people who need a city centre based provision, where they can access other services of benefit to them. One of the major benefits of this partnership working has resulted in a project called NEET free Keighley been developed which, alongside other projects, resulted in Bradford recording its lowest ever number of NEET young people.

Link work is carried out with the Youth Service to ensure that their information and advice provision is up to date and relevant.

An important part of ensuring that young people know about the services of the Shop is to constantly promote the services to young people and the adults they come into contact with. Apart from the usual mail outs and stands at events, recent publicity has included: the development of an Information Shop Bradford Facebook page, which is updated regularly; development and updating of an Information Shops entry on the Council App; holding apprenticeship and other events at the Centres and the development of a PowerPoint presentation on the Shop's Services.

Future plans include:-

- Training for Youth Workers across the Youth work Sector in Information and Advice.
- Increase the use of social media.
- Maintaining information pages for the Youth work sector.
- Development of a Youth information App to allow increased access to IAG services.
- Sharing IAG resources to increase accessibility in locality areas.

The IAG Annual report (2015-1016) will be circulated to the Bradford West Area Committee when it has been produce.



Appendix D

District wide Voice & Influence work

Youth Voice & Influence Mechanism

The Commissioner for youth provision has played a pivotal role in bringing together key partners from across the district to develop a mechanism for youth voice. Prospects, Barnardos, young Lives and Youth Service have come together as a think group to facilitate a mechanism which would enable young people to have open dialogue with decision makers and engage in decision making processes.

In February half term over a hundred young people attended a world café event where they were able to discuss, education, employability, housing, health and active citizenship. During the world café young people were asked if they would like to further engage by acting on the findings of the world café. These young people have been invited to a further event which will take place in the Easter break. The findings will be presented & young people will action plan how they move forward and represent the voices of young people.

Future plan

- Continue to increase the numbers of young people on this virtual bank of youth voice.
- Offer training to increase young people's skills and knowledge base.
- To hold a district wide youth voice event each school break which young people will drive
- To publicize the youth voice 'brand' 'logo' and encourage all people working with young people to take ownership and use the brand/ logo making young people's voice more visible.

LGBT Youth Voice

The planned residential with Calderdale's Identity youth group to learn from their success took place in August last year. Fifteen young people from Bradford attended with 11 from the Calderdale group. The residential has been the Springboard to the development of the transgender youth group. Transgender young people on the residential spoke of the need to develop a transgender youth group, the need for transgender awareness raising amongst professionals working with young and the urgent need to review good practise guidelines to meet the needs of transgender young people.

As a result young people have worked with youth worker:

- A youth group has been set up in partnership with the Equity centre
- All youth workers have undertaken a days transgender awareness training delivered by the Gendered Intelligence

Future plans

- Train young people as peer mentors to deliver workshop in schools for both students and teachers
- Put together a awareness raising session which can be delivered in youth clubs



- Deliver transgender awareness training to all part time youth work staff
- Develop young peoples skills and knowledge base enabling them to further engage with decision making bodies

Budget Reduction Proposal

In February, youth workers consulted 2470 young people about the Council's budget proposals. This information was fed into the Budget planning process.

Children and Young People's Plan

In February, over eighty young people from across the district participated in a consultation with the Children's Trust board feeding comments into the Children & Young People's Plan.

Voter Registration

The partnership with electoral services continues with youth workers running sessions across the district in youth clubs, schools, & colleges to raise young people's awareness of democratic processes & the importance of voting.

Youth Can

A number of local initiatives have taken place across the District

- Laisterdyke youth club – young people are undertaking volunteer training and will pilot running a junior youth for 4 weeks in the summer
- Greenway youth Centre – young are undertaking volunteer training and will be co running a residential this summer for their peers
- Canterbury the Arc – young people delivered a presentation to ward councillors in December about life on Canterbury. It was agreed that Councillors would invite young people to a walk about with the police to discuss issues in the area.
- Springfield youth club has recently opened its doors on a Wednesday night. The session is focussed on build a youth committee for the club.
- Greenwood young people lost their provision before Christmas due to the community centre closing down... The young people feel strongly that they want their youth session to reconvene. Workers have been doing detached work in the area, building skills & confidence in preparation for young people to articulate their hopes.
- In the Easter break 50 young people who have engaged in voice and influence activities will attend a 3 day residential. The residential will begin by exploring Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Right of a Child. Young people will focus on their rights and responsibilities and begin to identify how they can engage in decision making processes to make a difference



Appendix E

Volunteering

Volunteer Development

- A comprehensive system for recruiting, training and providing placements for volunteers has been developed over the past year and issues around completing DBS checks have been ironed out and so these checks are being completed in a timelier manner.
- Six training programmes have been run throughout the year as well as an additional full day session which was run specifically for volunteers on the befriending programme in Bradford West.
- 42 volunteers have been trained with 26 of these being young people, 16 have been adults and two of the young people have disabilities.
- Out of the 42 volunteers that have been trained, 4 young people went on to University, 2 moved into paid work and only 2 went off the radar and did not complete the training.
- 19 young people and 5 adults are currently volunteering in Units across Bradford.
- Each of these volunteers completes around 3 hours per week volunteering with some volunteers undertaking more hours and offering their services for larger events. On an average of 3 hour per week for each volunteer, there are a minimum of 72 hours per week undertaken on a voluntary capacity in the Youth Service which equates to 3,744 hours per annum.
- In financial terms, at the lowest rate of pay for an unqualified youth support worker, this equates to some £28,941. In real terms, this amount is much higher as this equates to the volunteers that have been recruited through the Volunteer Co-ordinators and does not encapsulate the work of senior members and already existing volunteers in the different constituencies.
- Two of the young volunteers that have been trained have won awards as a result of their volunteering.
- Some feedback from volunteers that have been trained includes,

'Thoroughly enjoyed the training, just wanted to learn more and more.'

'So looking forward to working now as a volunteer having been given all the training which has equipped me with knowledge.'

'I have been helped so much by the Youth Service; I can't wait now to give something back. My knowledge and confidence has just grown.'

'The course was pitched at just the right level.'

'Thank you for providing this opportunity for clients currently working with Families First. It has helped them gain access to vital opportunities.' (Families First Key Worker)



Volunteering Promotion Work

The Volunteer Co-ordinators have attended the following events to promote volunteering opportunities and to promote the work of the Youth Service,

- Bradford Pride
- Take over Day
- Shipley College Volunteering Fair
- Bradford College Volunteering Fair
- Bradford University Volunteering Fair#
- Bradford Urban festival
- Shipley Celebration Event
- Youth Voice event at Bradford College

Networking

The volunteer co-ordinators have networked with and provided information around volunteering to a range of agencies including,

Bradford Trident	Families First
Centre of Excellence	Stronger & Safer communities
Christians Against Poverty	Bradford Festival
Information Shop	Leaving Care service
Youth Offending Team	Active Citizens
Saffron Residents Association	Hand in Hand
Barnardos	Shipley and Bradford Colleges
Bradford University	Centrepont
Social Care	Ministry of Food
The Arch (drug project)	Prospects
Holy Family School	The Hive
Victim Support	Advocacy, Advice, Action

The Future

The volunteering programme has now been well established and plans are now being put into place to help support other agencies with their volunteering requirements. The following training will take place over the next couple of months:

- Training for Centre of Excellence volunteers
- Bespoke Training for a group of 20 young people in Keighley
- Training for volunteers, the police and fire service who run the Police Holiday Activity Camps.

Although financial cutbacks to the Youth Service may compromise the Council's ability to sustain a dedicated Volunteer Co-ordinator post, the Youth Service will continue to encourage and support youth and adult volunteering over the coming year.

