

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 15 June 2016

F

Subject:

YOUTH SERVICE – BRADFORD WEST

Summary statement:

This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford West Area from April 2015 – March 2016. It also gives details of the budget for the Youth Service in 2016/17.

Steve Hartley
Strategic Director
Environment and Sport
Report Contact: Bhulla Singh
Area Co-ordinator
Phone: (01274 432597)
E-mail: bhulla.singh@bradford.gov.uk

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 West Area from April 2015 – March 2016. It also gives details of the budget for the Youth Service in 2016/17.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 6 July 2014 the Youth Service was transferred from Children's Services to Neighbourhood and Customer Services and is managed through the Area Co-ordinator's Offices.
- 2.2 Area Committees received reports at their meeting on 15 April 2015 giving an update on the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford West Area from July 2014 – March 2015.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The work carried out by the Youth Service is designed to meet the following commitments:
- maintain an appropriate level of open access provision across the Area
 - deliver clear and agreed targeted work with young people aged 13-19
 - provide informal learning opportunities that support improving educational attainment and the continued reduction of the number of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)
 - maintain support to vulnerable young people through the 'early help' offer and support for young people on the edge of care
 - the development of a clear District-wide 'Offer' for young people, based on a breadth of opportunities open to young people provided by the Council and Voluntary and Community Sector youth provision and the wider leisure, cultural and arts based opportunities
 - the involvement of young people in the future development and delivery of the 'Youth Offer'
 - a focused approach to increasing volunteering that builds capacity to deliver youth services

Planning

- 3.2 The Youth Service currently plans on a quarterly basis which allows for young people, communities, partner services and elected members to feed into the process to capture emerging needs and issues.
- 3.3 The service also captures the voice of young people where they identify what they see as priorities for their neighbourhood and this is feed into the annual Ward Planning process.

Staffing

- 3.4 Each Area has a staffing compliment of: one Advanced Practitioner managing all the Youth Work staff, delivering some youth work and co-ordinating delivery; one full time staff member graded at JNC 20 – 23 delivering youth work and ensuring

effective support is in place for vulnerable and NEET young people; five full time staff graded at JNC 16-19 delivering the bulk of the face to face professional work and 144 hours of part time staffing.

Tier 1 NEET contract

- 3.5 NEET young people are those aged 16–18 years who are Not in Education Employment or Training. Tier 1 refers to young people with the highest level of need that require intensive support. They are the most vulnerable young people.
- 3.6 Local Authorities have a duty to “encourage, enable and assist the effective participation of those persons [up to 19 or 25 with LDD] in education or training.”
- 3.7 Although no longer a national service, in Bradford we have retained the brand name ‘Connexions’. Prospects Services Ltd deliver the District-wide service, which is to provide a service to all those young people in EET (schools, FE), plus non intensive NEETs (Tier 2 & 3).
- 3.8 The Youth Service has the contract to deliver a service to those who are NEET, and assessed as requiring intensive support (Tier 1) to overcome barriers to move into EET, they do this by:
- providing a named Personal Advisor for an agreed T1 NEET caseload
 - support high priority groups; long term NEETs and the most vulnerable groups, i.e. young people on the Youth Offending Team caseload, Care Leavers, pregnant/young mums.
 - Working closely with other organisations, encouraging a seamless approach within the Connexions service.
 - tracking young people and developing relationships with them to break down barriers to EET,
 - assessing need, action planning and reviewing
 - signposting referring young people to EET destinations
- 3.9 All the NEET services, including that provided by the Youth Service for Tier 1 young people, have made a significant achievement over the past year in bringing the overall NEET rate for Bradford District down to it’s lowest ever at 3.5%, with the average for England standing at 4.2% and that of West Yorkshire at 4.7%. Bradford’s performance is the 5th most improved nationally, and the lowest rate in West Yorkshire.
- 3.10 A key factor in the improved figures is the strong partnership working between the Council, Connexions (which is run by Prospects), education and training providers, and the voluntary sector. This partnership approach led to the success of initiatives such as ‘NEET-free Keighley’, where organisations worked together to share information on joint projects to reduce the numbers of NEET young people in hot-spot areas of the town.
- 3.11 A number of other factors, involving the Youth Service, have been important in reducing the figures. Among them are:
- Very focused support and tracking of the school leaver cohort.
 - Better results for the vulnerable school leaver group (one NEET Child Looked After when the activity survey was measured).

- Better tracking of out of area young people via the out of area schools and closer working with other local authorities to share information.
- The work done specifically in Keighley around 'NEET-free Keighley' which took about 60 young people off NEET.
- Emphasising the changes made to the age at which young people can leave education and training (Raising the Participation age – RPA)
- Door-knocking every week round hot spot areas to contact young people.

Budgets

- 3.12 As part of the Budget decisions taken by the Council for the financial years 2016-18 the Youth Service budget needs to find savings of £550,000 over the two years. The savings will be made in the following ways:
- removing the Senior Youth Worker posts due to their additional responsibilities to that of a Youth Worker no longer being required (i.e. Tier 1 NEET and buildings co-ordination)
 - reducing the number of professionally qualified Youth Workers
 - reducing the number of part-time Youth Workers
 - reconfiguring of the Youth Information Service as a district wide support service including the introduction of a new App based solution
 - removal of the District-wide Duke of Edinburgh post
 - removal of the District-wide Volunteering Co-ordinator post
 - removal of the two dedicated finance support posts
 - reducing the Activities and YOF budget from £35,000 per Area to £10,000 per Area
 - removal of funding for Youth Service mini-busses
- 3.13 A further £200,000 will also be taken out of the budget following the removal of the Tier 1 NEET responsibility from the Youth Service when the new NEET contract begins in September 2016.
- 3.14 Appendix A sets out the Budget for the Youth Service by Area for 2016-17. The majority of these resources are for full and part time staff in each Area.
- 3.15 Following the Council's budget decisions each Area has a reduced allocation of £10,000 to cover funding for Area-wide activities, including school holiday activities, and any grants that the Area Committee wish to make under the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF). The recommended split is an allocation of £1,000 per Ward, managed by the full time youth worker who will consult with young people from the areas to consider priorities and benefits to local young people. The remaining £4,000 to be used across Bradford West Constituency for holiday activities, enabling young people to involve themselves in community cohesion projects that bring young people together from across the six wards.
- 3.16 An amount of £10,000 is being held centrally to fund work with young people which is District-wide, for example work with LGBT young people, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Voice and Influence work. A further report detailing the various aspects of this District-wide work will be presented to Area Committees in June each year.

- 3.17 The total amount of funding available to support Youth Service buildings in 2015/16 is £132,000. The allocation of this across the Areas is linked to the costs associated with running each building.
- 3.18 The two Information Shops are currently managed by the Advanced Practitioners in Keighley (Keighley Town Hall staff) and Bradford West (Culture Fusion staff). There is also currently a dedicated post to ensure a comprehensive approach to volunteering is in place across the District and this post is managed through the Advanced Practitioner in Shipley.
- 3.19 During 2015-16 a dedicated District-wide Duke of Edinburgh post has been in place to ensure young people are offered positive accredited experiences and this post is managed by Bradford South's Advanced Practitioner. The Advanced Practitioner in Bradford East takes a lead role for the District around Young People's Voice and Influence.

Commissioning Role

- 3.20 A proportion of the Youth Service budget is held centrally to fund the Commissioner (Youth Provision) post and to implement the review of Youth Services available to young people from the breadth of providers. The Commissioner has significant involvement and a clear relationship with the delivery of Youth Work within the Area structures and, whilst being a part of Children's Services, has a role in supporting and assisting Area-based delivery in neighbourhoods.
- 3.21 The Commissioner has also led on a number of District-wide initiatives and activities including the transfer of Youth Service buildings to community groups, the Youth Offer Working Group and some key 'Youth Voice' events, e.g. consultation on the Council's Budget, consultation for the Children's Trust Board and the visit of the Children's Commissioner for England to Bradford in March 2016.

Youth Service Buildings Review

- 3.22 At its meeting held on 10 March 2015 the Council Executive considered a report from the Commissioner (Youth Provisions) detailing the findings of the Youth Service Buildings Review.
- 3.23 In accordance with the Executive's resolutions the following properties have been retained by the Council for the Youth Service to manage and fund, with further investigation being undertaken to explore income generation and increased community use:
- Shipley Youth Café in Shipley Constituency
 - TFD Centre in Bradford South Constituency
 - The Pod in Bradford South Constituency
 - Parkwood Centre in the Keighley Constituency
 - Canterbury Youth Centre in Bradford East Constituency
 - Ravenscliffe Youth Centre in Bradford East Constituency
 - Laisterdyke Youth Centre in Bradford East Constituency
 - Toller Youth Café in Bradford West Constituency
- 3.24 Furthermore, the following properties have been transferred to community management under a Community Asset Transfer process:

- Denholme Youth Café in Shipley Constituency
- Scholemoor Centre in Bradford South Constituency
- Silsden Youth Centre in Keighley Constituency
- Haworth Youth Centre in Keighley Constituency
- The Eco Pod in Bradford East Constituency
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre in Bradford East Constituency

Talks for progression towards community management are at an advanced stage in relation to the Buttershaw Youth Centre in Bradford South Constituency

- 3.25 Furthermore, with regard to the Bingley Youth Project, further exploration has been undertaken to provide a more joined up approach to services in the Bingley area with increased working with the local voluntary and community sector organisations. This has resulted in the VCS and Youth Service working together from the Bingley Youth Café premises and as there has been no interest in asset transfer of the Bingley Youth Project this has been vacated and the Council's Estates team are making arrangements for disposal.
- 3.26 Also, with regard to Highcroft Youth Centre, promotion of the building space and development of a user group has enabled an increased use of the premises. This has not yet developed to an extent whereby it is completely self-sustaining, but indications are that this should be able to be realised within this financial year.
- 3.27 Finally, extensions or amendments have been negotiated on the existing lease arrangements for:
- Addingham Youth Centre
 - Ilkley Youth Centre

Youth Offer Review

- 3.28 In June 2015 the Youth Offer Working Group was formed following the independent Youth Offer Review and reports and recommendations that were taken to the Council's Executive in March 2015. The aim of the Youth Offer Working Group is to bring people together from across the youth sector to explore the review findings, and develop closer working arrangements in order to enable recommendations from these reports to become reality. The Youth Offer Working Group has representatives from the voluntary sector, the council, the police, community and faith sectors and feeds into the Core Strategic Group of the Young Lives Bradford Network and Bradford Council's Active Citizenship New Deal Partnership. (See Youth Offer Report presented to this Area Committee).
- 3.29 In March 2016 the Youth Offer Working Group produced its report 'Delivering a New Youth Offer for Bradford District' which outlines the summary of discussions in relation to what are considered to be key elements of the Bradford Youth Offer, what this looks like now and where the opportunities are to make changes. It has used the findings of the review to formulate the recommendations in light of a changing environment in which youth work operates and the pressures on public sector funding.
- 3.30 A copy of the report 'Delivering a New Youth Offer for Bradford District' is included in the report 'District wide Youth Service provision 2015-16' which is being submitted to Area Committees in June 2016. It is intended to support the Council's budget considerations in relation to Youth Work and its future in the District. It

recognises the need to do things differently and to increase the sharing of expertise and resources across the whole youth sector.

Current Performance

3.31 The Table below shows the Youth Service membership and participant figures for the 13–19 age groups as recorded at 31 March 2016. The figures excludes young people below or above this age group worked with and does not include young people who access the Information Shops or Youth Service provision on an anonymous and confidential basis. In terms of the percentage of 13–19 year olds worked with by the Youth Service, the service target, set by Children’s Services, is 25%.

	13 - 19 Total	Total Members as at 31/03/2016		Total Participants as at 31/03/2016		13 - 19 SEND Total	Members with SEND as at 31/03/2016	
City	1854	472	25.5%	323	68.4%	34	22	64.7%
Clayton and Fairweather	1666	1032	61.9%	912	88.4%	48	28	58.3%
Heaton	2012	701	34.8%	366	52.2%	54	19	35.2%
Manningham	2336	733	31.4%	497	67.8%	41	14	34.1%
Thornton and Allerton	1435	823	57.4%	716	87.0%	36	14	38.9%
Toller	2507	1113	44.4%	833	74.8%	56	23	41.1%
West	11810	4874	41.3%	3647	74.8%	269	120	44.6%

3.32 Bradford West Youth Service team has supported 378 young people with disabilities and additional needs into youth work provision across the constituency. This year, The Star Project has seen 378 young people visit the provision, of these, 120 are active members who attended on a regular basis. In addition to this, the Youth Service in partnership with British Cycling has run Inclusive Cycle events throughout the year. In the last twelve months we have had 523 riders attend the inclusion rides and have averaged 125 young people with disabilities and siblings on each event. The project was also visited by the Children’s Commissioner who was full of praise for the Star inclusion project.

3.33 Bradford West participated in extensive work in local mosques. The project covered issues around role models self-identity, affects of bullying and racism, anti-social behaviour, environmental issues and drugs. This culminated in a successful football tournament, in which over 100 people participated.

3.34 The Bradford West Youth Service team has supported 270 young people to achieve Accredited Outcomes (formally captured by a nationally recognised form of certification) ranging from; Mayors Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Community Sports Leadership, First Aid, Food and Hygiene awards. Over a 100 young people attended a celebration event at the Dubrovnik Hotel to celebrate their achievements. The Lord Mayor and Local Councillors were in attendance. See table below for a breakdown of accreditation figures.

Youth Service Accreditation Figures – 2015/16							
Bradford South	Bradford West	Bradford East	Shipley	Keighley	Schools	Voluntary Orgs	Total
157	270	122	93	91	106	30	869

- 3.35 The Bradford West Youth Service team has worked with an average weekly Caseload of 10 vulnerable Tier 1 NEET young people spread across the team with all young people being worked with receiving a formal assessment or action plan. Bradford West Youth Service has worked with 83 young people over the last year.
- 3.36 The team has been supporting young people to take on volunteering and active roles within Bradford West provision. Currently, there are in excess of 30 young people who are actively volunteering and developing their own projects across the constituency.
- 3.37 The team has pro-actively responded to new and emerging needs in Bradford West. In particular developing new provision to address the needs of Eastern European young people. These young people are being engaged with on a weekly basis as a youth centre based and after school provision. Bradford West has engaged with over 350 young people on a regular basis.
- 3.38 Bradford West young people have benefited from a number of successful funding bids to support the development of youth provision. In addition, the Bradford West Youth Work Team has been working in partnership with other agencies and Parish Councils to further develop provision for young people across the Constituency. Bradford West Youth Service managed to secure £18,680 external funding from the following bodies:-
- Safer communities fund,
 - Places for people,
 - Clayton Parish Council,
 - West Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioners office,
 - Bradford West Play Forum,
 - Sandy Lane Parish council.
- 3.39 Bradford West Youth Service Team actively engaged in the voter registration of young people ensuring that they understand the importance of their vote and that they are registered to vote. Bradford West has completed 284 new voter registrations.
- 3.40 Fifteen young people from Bradford West attended the Bradford Youth Voice events. Young people had the opportunity to have their say and express their views on the Districts priorities. They were able to look at issues that they were most passionate about and formed working groups to look at ways of addressing these issues. Young people from Bradford West stated that maintaining youth provision within their communities was a priority. Young People have now formed a Youth Council which meets each week in Thornton and Allerton.
- 3.41 The Bradford Centre of Excellence (Positive Pathways for Young People) based at Girdlington Community Centre has opened its door April 2015. Since then they have had nearly 1200 young people who have attended the sessions. Young people

have come from a whole host of organisations including:- Schools, PRU's, LAC, Youth Service, Youth Offending Team, Bradford and Shipley College, Family First service users, local Mosques, Centre Point and the Police Camp.

3.42 Bradford West's Duke of Edinburgh Group has grown from 4 young women completing their Silver Award in May 2015 to 30 Young people participating in Bronze, Silver and Gold awards in May 2016.

3.43 Training has involved Practice Expeditions, Day Walks, Camp Craft, Map reading and equipment use. Young people are also completing the three sections of the Award, which include Volunteering, Physical Activities and gaining new Skills.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Financial

As part of the Budget decisions taken by the Council for the financial years 2016-18 the Youth Service budget needs to find savings of £750,000 over the two years (see paragraphs. 3.12 – 3.13 above for details of how these savings will be implemented). A breakdown of the 5 Area budgets and central costs for 2016-17 are contained in Appendix A.

4.2 Specific budget proposals for 2017-18 are still being worked on and, as they will include staff reductions, will be subject to consultation with the Trade Unions and the staff affected.

4.3 Staffing

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

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The implementation of the budget savings for the Youth Service is subject to the internal risk management plan of the Council and progress is reported to the Environment & Sport Departmental Management Team on a monthly basis.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The Council has a responsibility to co-ordinate and offer support for the Health and Well Being of Young People set down in Statutory Guidance issued in 2012. 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

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 to the devolution of the Youth Service 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

The specific budget proposals for 2017-18 will include staff reductions and will therefore be subject to consultation with the Trade Unions.

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

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 noted.

10.2 Bradford West Area Committee notes that the deployment of current Youth Service budgets as set out in this report meets local need.

10.3 The Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) for 2016-17 be allocated as follows:-£1,000 per Ward, managed by the full time Youth Worker who will consult with young people from the areas to consider priorities and benefits to local young people. The remaining £4,000 to be used across Bradford West Constituency for holiday activities.

10.4 That the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator submits a report on the work of the Youth Service to Bradford West Area Committee on an annual basis.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Youth Service Budget 2016/17

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Youth Service Report, Document 'D', Bradford West Area Committee, 23 July 2014.

12.2 Youth Service – Document 'AO', Bradford West Area Committee, 15 April 2015.

Appendix A

Youth Service budget 2016-17

	East	South	West	Shipley	Keighley	Area-based budget Total		Central budget	Youth Service budget Total
Full time staffing									
1 x Commissioner								£53,000	£53,000
Finance posts								£53,700	£53,700
Pension Cost								£12,100	£12,100
5 x Advanced Practitioners	£44,096	£44,096	£44,096	£44,096	£44,096	£220,480			£220,478
5 X Senior Youth Workers	£37,542	£37,542	£37,542	£37,542	£37,542	£187,710			£187,710
2 X Senior Youth Workers- Info Shop & Kly Connexions			£37,542		£37,542	£75,084			£75,084
28 X Youth Workers (inc 1 info shop)	£167,563	£201,075	£201,075	£201,075	£167,563	£938,351			£938,351
2.92 x Information officers - Info Shop & Kly Connexions			£47,776		£21,977	£69,753			£69,753
Part time staffing									
32 x 24hrs per week	£91,082	£106,262	£91,082	£106,262	£91,082	£485,770			£485,770
Buildings									
Constituency Building	£10,000	£27,000	£52,000	£29,000	£14,000	£132,000			£132,000
Rent in each Constituency	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£50,000			£50,000
Administration									
Mileage claims, DBS, Licences etc	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£30,000			£30,000
Activities and YOF	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£50,000			£50,000
District-wide support								£10,000	£10,000
Total	£376,283	£441,975	£537,113	£443,975	£439,802	£2,239,148		£128,800	£2,367,946