

Report to: Scrutiny for Children's Services

Date: 11th October 2007

Report of: Director of Children's Services
Chief Executive

Report No: 13

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Report Title: **Services for Young People Offer Review**

Purpose:

To present a summary of current Council, commissioned and other services for young people in Bolton.

To suggest way forward and timescale plan for the review of services for young people and options for the future offer for young people as identified in the Chief Executive's Corporate big issues.

Recommendations:

For Scrutiny

1. discuss the principles and implications of the proposed review

Background Doc(s):

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In May, the Chief Executive in conjunction with EMT set out the corporate big issues that were presented to the Executive in June. These included the need for a review of the services for young people in Bolton.
- 1.2 This report sets out a summary of current Council, commissioned and other services being provided, as a starting point for the review and proposes a plan and timescale for the review process.
- 1.3 The review will be carried out in line with the Government Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) "Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities" which was launched in July and concentrates on provision for 13-19 age range. The strategy indicates that by 2008, local **integrated youth support services** will be:
- working to prevent problems occurring, rather than simply intervening when they do;
 - working together more effectively to support the positive development of all young people, but with a clear focus on those experiencing disadvantage;
 - providing improved information, advice and guidance to young people to support them to make better choices both in and outside learning;
 - offering a comprehensive range of positive leisure-time activities and opportunities for young people, including those offered by extended schools, underpinned by a new duty on Local Authorities to secure young people's access to them; and
 - providing targeted support for the most vulnerable teenagers involving tailored packages of education, informal learning opportunities, and personal support to help address more complex problems.
- 1.4 The review is important because of the need to strengthen the support given to young people to equip them with the skills and resources to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to them through Bolton's increasing prosperity. As a part of the Vision partners' aim to narrow the gap, services to young people need to make sure that those who are currently disadvantaged are not left behind. Young people make considerable positive contributions to their communities and this needs to be encouraged as well as channelling their energies away from negative behaviours which also impact on communities.
- 1.5 The range of services presently offered is varied and includes universal services e.g. careers advice to all young people through Connexions, targeted services e.g. YISP which targets young people who are vulnerable or at risk, and specialist services e.g. the Hospital Trust's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). This range of services means that different levels of support with varying degrees of intensity are provided requiring different levels of resources. Provision in Bolton is delivered by a range of partners from different sectors. The Council directly provides services e.g. Youth Service in Children's Services and Health Sport and Inclusion in Adult Services, but also commissions work via other organisations e.g. Bolton Lads and Girls Club and provides grants for specific activities. There is also a significant range of services being provided in the voluntary and community sector that are not directly funded by the Council but that provide activities and support to young people independently e.g. voluntary youth clubs and uniformed organisations.

2. Aim of the Review

The aim of the review is to consider what is available and offered for young people in Bolton across the range of services and develop and then implement a new 5-19 years youth offer that is fit for purpose and will deliver the Government DCSF "Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities". In Bolton this will:

- Build an integrated service around needs
- Remove age barriers/ thresholds
- Provide services around localities

It is suggested that the review covers the age range 5-19 because there is a need to join up services across a wide age range to smooth the transition between different stages of a young

person's life. The 0-5 provision has recently been reviewed so does not form a part of this review but the services will be connected.

3. Scoping

The following table provides an outline of universal, targeted and specialist services. The appendix provides overall staffing levels and budgets for young people services 5-19 through Children's Services. Additional information is still being sought for other services e.g. Health, Sport and Inclusion.

Part 1 Council and commissioned services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Services • Connexions including work with NEETs • Youth Service • Commissioned private/voluntary services • Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) • Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) • Health, Sport and Inclusion • ASB/hotspots, responsiveness • Teenage Pregnancy Service • Youth offending Team (YOT) overview/review • BME, vulnerable groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to voluntary/community/faith groups for activities for young people Part 2 Voluntary sector delivered services e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolton lads and Girls Club • Uniformed organisations • Youth groups • Sporting clubs
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Services will continue to be scoped in more detail as a part of the review.

4. Process Plan

The suggested process and time plan for the review is set out below. The timescale to develop the new strategy is fairly tight and for this reason it is suggested that the process has 2 stages: stage 1 being the review and development of the strategy up to March 2008 and stage 2 being phased implementation over around six months to September 2008. This will allow for a measured approach that works with staff and partners to implement changes.

Overall Process Plan	When
Stage 1 - Review	Sept – April
Overall briefing report to EMT – outline plan	30/8/07
Political process, Executive briefing, PDG, Executive Member Young People and Sport	Sept
Continuation of mapping/ scoping what we have now	Sept
Commission Consultant	Sept
Inform staff/partners.	Sept/ongoing
Interviews/ analysis	Oct/ Nov
Assess impact of 10 year strategy and possible additional funding	Oct/ Nov
New vision/strategy/plan/ offer	Jan 08
Final agreement in principle/ overall suggested plan to EMT	Jan 08
Political process	Feb 08
Stage 2 – Phased Implementation	April - Sept
Plan and design phased implementation	April
Work with staff and partners to implement changes	May - Sept

5. Commissioning

The plan includes the commissioning of Ian Rush to work with officers, members and partners assessing service provision as is stands and putting forward options for a new vision and offer for young people. Ian Rush is the former Head of Childcare at Lancashire County Council, the former Director of Social Services at Trafford Council, he has had a variety of roles with the voluntary sector and currently chairs Bolton's Adoption Panel. He will carry out his role within

this review as an independent consultant.

6. Ten Year Youth Strategy

As a part of the review, the Government DCSF “Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities” will be assessed, looking at the implications for Bolton services and possible additional funding.

7. Recommendations

Scrutiny is recommended to:

1. discuss the principles and implications of the proposed review

Services for Young People 5 - 19

APPENDIX 1

Financial Summary 2007 - 2008

<u>Youth Service</u>		<u>Connexions</u>		<u>Play</u>	<u>Ex. Services</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
BUDGET TOTAL	£2,573,687		£3,802,815	£1,351,800	£759,000	£8,487,302
Mainstream	£2,267,300		£0	£562,800	£0	
Grant/External	YO F £348,387	Main Grant £2,912,023		£689,000	Transition £193,000	
		Other Grants £890,792			Ex Serv £566,000	
Buildings/Capital	£480,600	N/a		£46,400	£412,000	
INCOME Gen.	£215,100	£0		100,000	£0	
COMM. OUT	£265,100	£270,061		114,000	Transition £120,000	
					Ex Serv £403,000	
Staffing	150	113		48	2	313
FTE	49	106		44	2	201
Building						
Maintain	19	1		5		
Access	3	3		3		

Please note that Grant Allocation is confirmed on an annual basis

Transition Funding 07/08 only

Budget totals include Central Charges

Staffing - some posts are funded through time limited external funding