

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17th April 2012

YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION TASK GROUP – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Derek Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Ward(s) Affected	All wards
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The report provides a summary of the findings and final recommendations that have been made on the subject of youth services by the Youth Services Provision Task Group. This Executive Summary should be considered alongside the Youth Services Provision Task Group's final report, which provides a more detailed description of the review process, the evidence basis for the group's recommendations and the implications of proposed actions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) **youth activities in Redditch should be promoted using the following communication tools:**
 - a) **a new dedicated Redditch youth website;**
 - b) **Worcestershire Plug and Play website;**
 - c) **local high schools' Frog Intranet systems; and**
 - d) **social networking platforms;**
- 2) **there should be a youth work co-ordinator for Redditch;**
- 3) **the Redditch Commissioning Group should ensure that there is a seamless transition from the old system for delivering youth services to the new commissioning framework to make sure that gaps in service provision to young people in Redditch do not occur;**
- 4) **the Redditch Commissioning Group should seriously consider the following types of bids for funding:**
 - a) **bids for youth work to be delivered using a social enterprise model; and**
 - b) **bids requesting that the funding cover the costs of employing a trained youth worker as part of delivering a positive activity to young people;**

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- 5) the Redditch Commissioning Group has been tasked with consulting with young people. We recommend that the following groups should be consulted as part of this process:
 - a) Redditch Student Council; and
 - b) a focus group of young offenders and young people at risk of offending;
- 6) the Redditch Community Safety Partnership / North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership should be invited to present information to the Redditch Commissioning Group about youth related crime and anti-social behaviour in Redditch as part of the new commissioning framework;
- 7) Redditch Borough Council should submit bids for positive activities funding in the new commissioning framework in partnership with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations that have experience delivering youth activities and should offer to host these activities at Council owned *community centres* where appropriate;
- 8) access to public transport has been consistently identified as a barrier to youth participation in positive activities. We recommend that to address this problem the following actions should be considered:
 - a) the remit of the WRVS Redditch Community Rides scheme should be extended to helping transport young people to different activities in the Borough and this pilot scheme should be extended beyond the current deadline of April 2012; and
 - b) Dial a Ride vehicles should be provided to transport young people to local events and festivities;
- 9) links should be provided directly from the Frog intranet system used by local high schools to bus companies' websites to provide young people with access to up to date information about bus timetables and routes in Redditch;
- 10) the Youth Services Provision Task Group's findings and the content of the group's final report should be considered by the Redditch Commissioning Group prior to commissioning youth activities for the Borough; and

to RESOLVE that

the report be noted.

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3. KEY ISSUES

Background

- 3.1 The Youth Services Provision Task Group review was launched in July 2011. The group consisted of six elected Members: Councillor S Chalk (Chair) and Councillors Blake, Brazier, Hopkins, Mould and Stephens. In August 2011 a local student from Trinity High School, Mr Harry Bishop, was co-opted onto the review to provide a permanent youth perspective on the subject.
- 3.2 The review was launched at a time when Worcestershire County Council was reviewing youth service provision in the county. A key component of the review therefore involved monitoring developments with changes to youth service delivery in the Borough. However, the group was also tasked with considering: the potential role of Redditch Borough Council in future service delivery; general actions that could be taken by partner organisations to improve service delivery; best practice arrangements in other parts of the country; and opportunities and barriers to promoting greater participation in youth activities.
- 3.3 As the review was taking place at the same time as a separate review of sporting participation in the Borough the group was not tasked with reviewing sports provision to young people. A separate report, outlining the findings of the Promoting Sporting Participation Scrutiny Task Group, will be published for Members' consideration in May 2012.
- 3.4 The group considered evidence from a variety of sources. Written evidence was obtained from scrutiny reviews completed by other local authorities on the subject of youth service delivery as well as the content of a report from the House of Commons Education Committee, *Services for Young People* (2011). At the local level representatives of both Redditch Borough Council and Worcestershire County Council were consulted with regard to both existing and proposed service delivery arrangements. Evidence was also obtained, through questionnaire feedback and face-to-face interviews, from local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations that already deliver youth services to young people in Redditch as well as from organisations that deliver youth services to young people in other parts of the county.
- 3.5 The primary focus of the group throughout the review was on changes to the framework for youth service delivery in Worcestershire. In November 2011, following extensive consultation, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet decided to introduce a commissioning framework for youth services in the county. In this framework Commissioning Groups, comprising the County Councillors elected to represent areas coterminous with district Council boundaries, will be required to commission positive youth activities for the district. Commissioning Groups will receive advice and guidance from Local Children's Partnerships. Partner representatives appointed to Local Children's Partnerships

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have relevant expertise in relation to existing services used by children and young people.

- 3.6 Worcestershire County Council has allocated a budget to each district for commissioning youth services. Funding has been allocated in accordance with a need/population formula to each of the districts, assessing the level of people categorised as “hard-pressed” alongside the number of 13-19 year olds living in an area. Redditch has been allocated £185,083 for 2012/13 reflecting the level of need in the Borough.
- 3.7 The County Council has introduced an outcomes based commissioning process. The key outcome targets in the new commissioning process will be at the local level on: providing young people with more chances to learn new skills; more young people in training, education and employment; and fewer young people involved with anti-social behaviour. The Redditch Commissioning Group will need to determine whether activities commissioned in the Borough would help to achieve these target outcomes.
- 3.8 The recommendations proposed by the Youth Services Provision Task Group have implications for a number of organisations which currently or may in the future seek to bid to deliver youth services in the Borough. However, the majority of the group’s recommendations are designed to assist the Redditch Commissioning Group with developing a commissioning framework that will suit the needs and priorities of young people living in Redditch. For this reason the group is largely requesting support in principle from the Council’s Executive Committee for their recommendations to be referred for further consideration by the Redditch Commissioning Group and Redditch Local Children’s Partnership.

Financial Implications

- 3.9 There are a number of financial implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Youth Services Provision Task Group’s final report. The majority of these financial implications would require investment from Worcestershire County Council as the local authority with responsibility for delivering positive youth activities.

Legal Implications

- 3.19 There are a number of legal implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Youth Services Provision Task Group’s final report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.20 There are a number of service and operational implications to the group’s proposals. In particular, there are human resources and community safety implications. The full implications are detailed, where relevant, in relation to

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each of the recommendations in the Youth Services Provision Task Group's final report.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.21 Throughout the review the group consulted with young people as the primary customers of youth services. Young people were engaged in a variety of different ways including through face-to-face interviews, consultation with students during the Redditch Local Democracy Day event in October 2011 and attendance at meetings of the Student Council. In addition, the Co-opted Member of the group, a local High School pupil, attended a number of meetings and provided a youth perspective on matters discussed by the group. By the end of the review the group had consulted with approximately 65 local young people and the evidence provided helped to inform the group's final recommendations.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no real risks for Redditch Borough Council. However, if the group's proposals are not referred to the Redditch Commissioning Group for consideration it is unlikely that the information about good practice, detailed in the group's main report, will be taken into account as part of the new commissioning process. There is a risk that as a consequence the youth activities commissioned in Redditch will not meet the needs and priorities of local young people.

5. APPENDICES

There are no appendices to the Executive Summary.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Youth Services Provision Task Group – Final Report

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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