

Update - Integrated Youth Support Services – West Neighbourhood

Children & Learning Department

Restructuring has taken place and from April 2012 there will be a Prevention and Early Intervention Service and a Specialist Family Support Service to support children and families across Luton. The Early Intervention Service will consist of youth workers, personal advisors, education welfare officers, and family support workers and will continue to work within the local neighbourhoods. The aim is to provide a range of both universal and targeted services to support vulnerable children and families to enable them to achieve improved health, social, emotional and educational outcomes.

The above restructuring has had an impact on the west neighbourhood youth work team and changes to the team are taking place going into the new model of working. Changes to programmes of work are being developed across the areas three main youth facilities in line with resources and are outlined below.

Barnfield West Academy/Youth Zone

We are in discussions with the school and planning to re –open the youth centre with a varied programme of youth work sessions. An outline of this work will involve three lunch clubs, two after-school clubs, two evening clubs and weekly joint group work targeting young people with behaviour or anger management concerns.

All young people accessing the youth centre provision will become registered. An Easter holiday project will take place and involve a variety of activities such as dance, arts/crafts, music, golf and day trip out to Thorpe Park.

It is hoped the positive relationship with the academy will continue to strengthen over the coming months with a consistent youth work facility developed and sustained for local young people.

Challney Youth Zone

The youth club will continue to operate three lunch clubs and the Friday night club for local young people. It is planned that once the staff team is increased further sessions at Challney will be developed. The Young Voice group will continue to meet at Challney YC.

Hockwell Ring Youth Club

The weekly club night at Hockwell Ring YC has recently been reviewed due to concerns with some local young people displaying anti social behaviour. This has resulted in a temporary closure whilst changes take place.

A programme of activities will now be planned for a 10 week period targeting 11-16yr olds and the club will also use the latter part of the evening to do sports in the centres sports/play area.

The 10 week programme will be a pilot project and evaluated at the end to see if young people are interested in continuing this or may have other ideas for work over the summer months in the area local to the centre.

A new agreement with the community centre is being drafted and clearer lines of responsibility have been agreed so that the club can be developed for the benefit of local young people.

There are also plans for the LTown youth bus to continue to work in the area one evening a week to target older young people 16-21yr olds.

Youth Work Targets

Youth work teams annually have targets to meet with the work they do with young people in the form of accredited learning and recorded outcomes that young people gain as part of being involved in youth work activities.

The west team have over the year has achieved these with examples of work with young people through short course, awareness workshops and youth club programmes as follows:

Money Matters, Heart Start, First Aid skills, Dance/drama, Paddle Power, Peer Mentoring, Alcohol, Crime, Food Hygiene, Save a Life, Junior football organiser and Duke of Edinburgh award.

Tracey Quinn
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