

AGENDA ITEM

COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE
(Lewsey,Leagrave,Challney)

DATE: 24th January 2004

SUBJECT: Youth Service

REPORT BY: Youth Work Manager (Areas)

CONTACT OFFICER: Richard Jenkins 484239

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

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WARDS AFFECTED: Lewsey, Leagrave, Challney,

PURPOSE

To provide information and clarification on how the local authority youth service works in partnership.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

WEST (Lewsey,Leagrave,Challney) Committee is recommended to accept the report.

BACKGROUND

At the previous Area Committee – West on the 13th October The Youth Work Manager (Areas) was requested to and provided, a brief verbal update on Luton Borough Council Youth Service and in addition answer clarification questions by the Council members on service delivery.

Additional information was then requested by members in the shape of a written report to be included in the agenda for the next Area Committee – West. The report would cover how the local authority youth service worked in partnership.

REPORT

1. Introduction

1.1 Services for young people are undertaken by a whole range of organisations. Therefore the local authority youth service has to engage in a number of partnerships, with the voluntary sector and organisations within the private and statutory public sector to provide, enable and support youth services.

1.2 This document provides a snap shot of the partnerships that the local authority youth service is engaged in.

1.3 For clarification purposes I have enclosed sections which cover background information on the purpose of local authority youth services and the national expectations and accountabilities that the local authority youth service brings to the table when engaging in partnership working.

1.4 I have also provided information on the wider partnerships which occur outside of the WEST Area but which have a direct effect on service delivery.

2. Background Documents

2.1 Over the last few years the government has produced various documents directly effecting and shaping local authority youth services across the country. These include Transforming Youth Work - developing youth services for young people, Transforming Youth Work – common planning framework and Transforming Youth Work - resourcing excellent youth services (REYS).

2.2 The last document REYS was produced in partnership between the Department For Education And Skills and the Local Government Association. Those organisations involved in addition to LGA and DFES in this transforming youth work agenda include national Youth Agency (NYA), Association of Principal Youth And Community Officers (APYCO) and the National Council For Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS).

3. Senior Management

3.1 The youth service senior management has been in place since September 2004. They consist of Nick Chamberlain – Principal Youth Service Manager, Tracey Quinn – Youth Work Manager (Centres), Richard Jenkins Youth Work Manager (Areas) and Melanie Skyers – Youth Programmes Development Manager (Until March 31st 2005). The service is supported by an Administration Manager Janet Rolt.

3.2 Each senior manager has a portfolio responsibility on behalf of Luton Borough Council Youth Service. Richard Jenkin's portfolio in addition to the overall management of all youth projects (not including large centres) and street based work is Community Safety, Drugs And Alcohol, Youth Participation, Voluntary Youth Sector, sexual health and disability.

4. Measuring Of performance

4.1 The local authority youth services has national performance measures set out. These focus on working with 25% of the 13 – 19 population within Luton (to reflect the cultural diversity of the community). 15 % of this group would be at full participation with services. In addition to this 60% of those young people would receive a recorded outcome and 30% would receive a recognised accredited outcome.

5. Assuring Quality

5.1 The youth service is currently developing a comprehensive policies and practices to ensure clearly defined quality assurance processes.

6. Monitoring Performance

6.1 Monitoring youth service performance takes place at a number of levels and includes Ofsted inspections of youth work, self assessment, the comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), best value review and Statement 52 returns. (Statement 52 returns are financial accounting returns.) At a more local level the youth service reports to the youth service reference group.

7. Ofsted Self Assessment

7.1 The service has undertaken an Ofsted self assessment on the 22.10.04. The Youth Service Pre Ofsted Action plan has been functional from November 2004 until the end of March 2005. The plan will sit alongside the wider Youth Service Operational Plan 04\05 and the overall Youth Service Strategic Plan 03 – 06.

7.2 The overall aim of an inspection and this self assessment of a local authority youth service is to answer the question: How efficiently and effectively does the local authority ensure the provision of a high-quality youth service that meets the needs of young people? After completion of the twenty two quality statements within the self assessment the senior management team have identified the following areas to develop further as part of the Youth Service Pre Ofsted Action Plan.

7.2.1 Participation and decision making by young people

7.2.2 Accreditation and recorded outcomes

7.2.3 Curriculum

7.2.4 Quality Assurance

7.2.5 Needs analysis/MIS/Record keeping

7.2.6 Training

7.2.7 Performance and performance indicators

7.2.8 Youth Service specific policy guidance and procedures

7.2.9 Communication

7.2.10 Partnerships

7.2.11 Health and Safety

7.2.12 Best value review and youth reference group

7.2.13 Funding strategy and external income

7.2.14 Governance including work with area committees etc

8. Aim Of Youth Service

8.1 LBC Youth Service aims to support young people through their transition from childhood to adulthood, to enable them to explore opportunities to fulfil their potential and to empower them by providing opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and attitude to fully participate in society.

9. Age range

9.1 Local authority youth services have to target the 13 – 19 age range with at least 80% of resources. The youth service will also work at the margins for this age from 11 – 13 and from 19 – 25 years.

10. Curriculum

10.1 The curriculum framework is a systematic approach to the planning, delivery and evaluation of youth work. Luton borough council youth service in partnership with a number of organisations and young people created the youth service curriculum document and toolkit. It covers Personal Development: (Self Awareness, identity and self esteem, Health and well being, Achievement.) Social Development: (Communication, Engagement Rights & Responsibilities.) Political Development: (Participation, Equality and Citizenship.)

11. Youth Service Structure

11.1 The youth service can be split into three areas each area being headed up by a senior manager. Each area works with young people from Area West.

11.2 Youth programmes –

11.2.1 Youth Programmes is located within the Welbeck Centre. Young people are referred from agencies and schools. Young people then participate in accredited training courses over a number of weeks.

11.3 Large Youth Centres

11.3.1 The youth service currently has six large centres across Luton. The Welbeck, Luton Youth House, Starlight, Lea Manor, Sundon Park and Halyard.

11.3.2 Halyard Youth Centre - The youth centre is located on Halyard High school campus. It has a sports hall attached to modern youth activity area where young people can participate in the program. Working in partnership with schools both at Halyard and across Luton is a critical role for youth services.

11.4 Youth Projects And Detached

11.4.1 Youth Projects - As well as a large youth centre, area west is also serviced by smaller youth clubs and projects. One youth club is located within Lewsey Community Centre. This is currently open two evenings a week. A new youth club is planned for Chaul end and is currently in the process of opening. In addition there is also a youth club located in Hockwell Ring Community Centre on two evenings a week. Also on a Saturday afternoon outreach work has been occurring with those young people in the Lewsey area.

11.4.2 Detached – The detached team is relatively new in Luton. Their aim is to work with young people who are not engaged with services or who choose not to be engaged with services.

11.4.3 In addition to the detached team, from January 05 the youth service now has a worker within the Youth Offending Team. That worker will target known individuals and areas across Luton. The detached team also works closely with the youth inclusion teams based within Safer Luton Partnership.

11.4.4 From January there will also be a youth intervention support program (YISP) contracted via the YOT to NACRO. This will focus on 8 – 13 year olds and to ensure continuity the workers will be based alongside the youth service.

12. Staffing

12.1 From Jan 2005 all projects will have a part time youth worker in charge and at least one other assistant youth worker. Those who have area responsibilities for youth work in the west area are a senior area youth development worker and a .5 worker in training. Both workers also cover another area of Luton. The worker in training starts January 2005 with the senior area youth development worker beginning by March 2005. Until that time the existing senior area youth development worker, Bob Baker will continue to cover this area.

13. Holiday Provision

13.1 Last summer a booklet was produced titled Youth Service – Summer Programme 2004. This booklet highlighted on a day by day basis the many different activities that was occurring both directly provided by LBC youth service, those projects provided in partnership and those enabled by the local authority youth service. Examples of those partners include Youth Inclusion Programme, Sports Action Zone, Police and Connexions.

13.2 The youth service is currently in the contractual process of moving to a 52 week year which is responding to young peoples needs and to ensure sufficient youth provision is open during traditional holiday periods

14. Accreditation

14.1 The youth service is currently developing and working in partnerships with organisations which provide accreditation. One such example of this is the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. All Duke of Edinburgh's awards provision which occurs across Luton is the responsibility of the youth service, working in partnership with those organisations who provide open award centres.

15. Youth Participation

15.1 The biggest partnership that the youth service engages in is with young people. As part of the Ofsted action plan a paper on youth participation is being produced which covers how the service can increase the extent where young people are actively involved in the specification, management, provision and quality assurance of the youth service. It also covers how the service can increase the extent in which young people are involved in the planning, management and evaluation of service provisions.

15.2 The youth service also now facilitates LYTE which is the youth cabinet Standing for Luton Youth Together for Everyone. A part of this group is also the elected young person for Luton, the youth MP. This is a national project with young people being elected across the UK. Young people from across Luton are represented on this cabinet with re-elections occurring in February.

15.3 Recent work in the area of youth participation also includes the development of the soon to be released youth service youth pledge. The youth pledge is a pledge outlined in REYS where by local authority youth services develop a written pledge to young people concerning the services available to them.

16. Training

16.1 Since November the youth service has launched their nationally accredited training for part time youth workers. As soon as the pilot is finished it is hoped to ensure voluntary agencies from across the areas would be able to access this resource.

17. Voluntary Organisations

17.1 The youth service works very closely with voluntary youth organisations across the whole of Luton. The two main umbrella groups for youth organisations are Bedfordshire And Luton Council For Voluntary Youth Services (BLCVYS) and Luton and Bedfordshire Youth Association. (LUBYA). BLCVYS takes on the strategic role for all youth groups including uniformed and faith groups while LUBYA takes on a more operational frontline supporting role. LubyA is affiliated to BLCVYS. All Luton Borough Council youth service projects in the west area are affiliated to LUBYA.

17.2 Organisations affiliated with BLCVYS are varied and include church groups, faith groups and uniformed organisations.

17.3 The youth service is represented on both executive committees and meets on a monthly basis with both umbrella organisations.

17.4 As part of the Ofsted self assessment action plan BLCVYS are working with the youth service over how the youth service can improve its partnership working with the voluntary sector.

18 .Key partner Organisations

18.1 Youth Inclusion programme – As already mentioned the service works closely with the youth inclusion programme both in partnership with local issues and directly in projects.

18.2 Ballistic Zone – The service is currently working on a service level agreement to support provision for young people within the local Ballistic Zone project.

18.3 Community Development – Partnership Working with colleagues of community development has ensured that youth clubs have been set up and maintained both within Lewsey Community Centre, Hockwell Ring Community Centre and now within the Chaul End developments.

18.4 Youth Offending Team – As already mentioned the service works closely with the youth offending team and with the new appointment starting in January this will create a greater partnership in the targeting of support to those young people at risk of offending.

18.5 Neighbourhood Renewal Work – The youth service will continue to support and develop work with the neighbourhood renewal worker which crosses into the youth services area of partnership delivery. This may be through support to local youth groups or young people directly.

18.6 Connexions – Contact Craig

The youth service has moved away from providing directly contracted Connexions Intensive Personal Adviser services to young people. Connexions is

now a direct delivery model where the core services are delivered by Connexions. The Youth Service is currently working with Connexions to ensure a clear partnership agreement is developed.

19. Area Based Forums\ Meetings With Youth Service Involvement

19.1 Currently the youth service is involved in the following area forums and meetings; Hockwell Ring Action Group, Lewsey Centre Management Committee, Halyard Youth Centre Management Committee, Lea Ring Management Committee, Area Committee.

20. Area West Relevant - Luton Wide Based Forums\Meetings With Youth Service Involvement -

20.1 Youth Intervention Group, Children And Young Peoples Participation Strategy group, LAYSER (Local Authority Youth Services Eastern region – various forums), Bedfordshire Police Divisional Command Group, Youth Inclusion Programme Management Committee, Youth Offending team - Implementation and strategic group, Crime And Disorder executive Group,

21. The Community

21.1 The final partnership to include in this document is that of the community. Youth workers support young people in their transition from childhood to adulthood and hopefully for them to make a positive contribution to their local community and the wider society.

21.2 To be able to do this workers continue to engage and build partnerships with local communities through contact with parents, families and with groups or individual local residents.

21.3 For further information or to contact the youth service regarding any youth matter then please call 484239 or via email on youthservice@luton.gov.uk

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Transforming Youth Work - developing youth services for young people, (DFES)

Transforming Youth Work – common planning framework and Transforming (DFES)

Youth Work - resourcing excellent youth services (REYS).(DFES)

Inspecting Youth Work: a revised framework for inspection (Ofsted HMSO)

Self assessment schedule for youth work (Ofsted HMSO)

Youth Service Operational Plan 04\05 (LBC)

Youth Service Strategic Plan 03\06 (LBC)

Youth Service Summer Programmes 2004 (LBC)