

# Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 September 2016



## Youth Support Review Consultation Process

---

### Report of Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

---

#### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with background information relating to the presentation on the Youth Support Review consultation process. The presentation will be given to the committee by Julie Scurfield, Strategic Manager, Children's Services Reform.
2. The accompanying presentation seeks to provide reassurance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a robust public consultation process has been delivered and also that a thorough Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and the implications considered as part of the review.

#### Background

3. On 13 January 2016, the Council's Cabinet took the decision to hold a consultation about the future of Youth Services across County Durham.
4. The public consultation ran for 12 weeks from 1 February 2016 and ended on 27 April 2016. The 3 proposals that were consulted on were:

**Proposal 1:** A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham

**Proposal 2:** Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service

**Proposal 3:** Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and allocate funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

#### Youth Support Review

5. The Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) requires efficiency savings of approximately £257m from 2011/12 until 2019/20. Savings targets for Children and Adults Services (CAS) are currently £17.3m for 2016/17 and £20m for 2017/18, with further budget reductions expected for the service in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
6. If approved, and in accordance with the Council's commitment to review all services, a MTFP target of approximately £1 million savings are expected to be achieved by this review.

7. The review and subsequent proposals have been developed in relation to young people aged 13 – 19 years. County Durham has a 13 – 19 years population 41,551, of these 17,536 live in the top 30% most deprived Super Output Area<sup>1</sup>. This represents over 42% of the total teenage population.
8. Prior to consultation, a range of information and research was used to inform and shape the proposed strategy and new model of service delivery. These are as follows:
  - The extent to which youth service resources are currently allocated according to need in County Durham;
  - The requirement of a £1million MTFP reduction;
  - Changes in Policy since 2010
  - Analysis of need relating to deprivation, using the Index of Deprivation 2015
  - Analysis of need relating to Pupil Enrolments Numbers Academic Year 2014/15;
  - Current Performance of the Youth Service;
  - The 2015 County Durham Children and Young People’s Student Voice Survey for Secondary Schools;
  - Outcomes for young people, particularly vulnerable young people;
  - The availability of a range of provision for young people delivered by the VCS.

## **Consultation**

9. Three key proposals formed the consultation. The proposals were based on the delivery of a targeted youth support model. These are set out below:

### **Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham**

10. The consultation sought endorsement of the above Strategy which set out the Council’s vision as:
  - Ensure those young people who require additional help are identified and supported to achieve good outcomes; and
  - Work in partnership with other providers, including the Voluntary and Community Sector, to ensure young people can access universal provision and activities
11. The Strategy sets out the Council’s aim to ensure all young people negotiate their teenage years successfully and achieve their full potential.

### **Proposal 2: Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service**

12. The consultation sought support for the delivery of a Targeted Youth Support Service.

---

<sup>1</sup> Super Output Areas are a geography for the collection and publication of small area statistics. SOAs give an improved basis for comparison across the country because the units are more similar in size of population than, for example, electoral wards.

13. The review demonstrated that only a small proportion of young people attend open access youth clubs, despite clubs being universal access. At the same time, outcomes for vulnerable young people need to improve.
14. It was proposed therefore, that Council resources should be redirected, according to need, so that a targeted youth support service can be provided.
15. The consultation made clear that universal, open access youth work will no longer be funded through the One Point Service budget. Instead following the £1million MTFP efficiency saving, the remaining resource will be reconfigured to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service.

**Proposal 3: Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and the allocation of funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.**

16. The consultation sought views on the deployment of the current Youth Work Support Grant to the Area Action Partnerships.
17. The Youth Work Support Grant funds a range of organisations and supplements the staffing allocation provided by the Council for the delivery of universal open access youth work sessions.
18. Current allocations of this grant are historical and not based on any assessment of need. Levels range from £430 to £27,768.
19. It was proposed that the 2015/16 grant budget of £194,684 will be reduced by a minimum of £56,000 in order to deliver the MTFP requirement. However, this amount is dependent upon the successful asset transfer of Youth and Community Centre buildings. If all centres are not transferred the Youth Support Grant will be reduced further prior to distribution to AAPs.
20. The consultation ran for 12 weeks from the 1 February 2016 – 27 April 2016 and the presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee will describe this in detail.

**Recommendation**

- 10 Members of the Children and young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
  - a. Note the presentation on the consultation process and the Equality Impact Assessment and comment accordingly.

**Background Papers**

- Review of Youth Support Services in County Durham - Cabinet 13 January 2016

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance** - The proposals would enable efficiency savings in line with the County Council's Medium term Financial Plan (MTFP). The specific proposals in this report would deliver approximately £1 million from a rationalisation of buildings and a restructure of the staff resource designed to maximise savings whilst minimising reduction in the number of posts.

**Staffing** - A re-configuration of the staffing resource through a full HR exercise will be undertaken in 2016 in line with the County Council's Policies and Procedures.

**Risk** – The Council risks being unable to deliver its duty to support vulnerable young people if it continues to offer a predominantly universal service.

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will form part of the final Cabinet report.

**Accommodation** - The proposals to reduce the number of Youth Centre buildings could result in changes to accommodation arrangements for some staff. These staff could be accommodated in the One Point Hubs.

**Crime and Disorder** – Support to young people at risk of crime and disorder would be available through the model proposed.

**Human Rights** - N/A

**Consultation** – A full 12 week consultation has taken place between 1 February and 27 April 2016 involving all internal and external stakeholders. The consultation plan, delivery and analysis were all approved by the Consultation Officers Group (COG). The consultation process was also approved by Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Group on 1 April 2016.

**Procurement** - N/A

**Disability Issues** - A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed following the consultation and consideration of the recommendations on all stakeholders, regardless of their ethnicity, disability, etc.

**Legal Implications** - A full consultation programme is proposed that aims to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations.