

Scrutiny Committee for Developing Lifelong Learning

15 December 2008



Youth Provision Scrutiny Project

Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose

1. To update members of the Committee about progress to date with the scrutiny investigation into youth provision.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Committee held on 7th July, 2008, Members began the process of planning their work programme for the coming year. One of the areas identified for investigation was youth service provision.
3. The Strong Healthy and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee has previously undertaken a number of scrutiny projects where young people's issues have formed part of the investigations. These include Minding the Gap (young people with mental health issues); fear of crime; and young people, alcohol and drugs. It was agreed that the youth provision project should be undertaken jointly with the Strong Healthy and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee and would be chaired by the Chair of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee.

Project Progress

4. The first meeting of the Scrutiny Working Group was held on 2 October 2008 when members received a presentation about Durham County Council's Youth Service.
5. It is hoped that future sessions will allow young people to share their views with members. One aspect will include trying to identify those children and young people who are not currently reached by services. The Working Group will also look at provision for young people currently delivered by District Councils and the voluntary sector. The focus will be on helping children and young people to enjoy and achieve, with places to go and things to do.
5. The **draft** terms of reference (focus) for the project to be submitted to the Working Group on 11 December 2008 for agreement are, "How can the new Council and its partners develop a strategic whole system approach to service provision and development of policies which recognise the rights of young people aged 11 and upwards to enjoy and achieve, with places to go and things to do."
6. Some of the issues which will be considered by the Working Group during the investigation include:
 - Previous scrutiny investigation recommendations relevant to young people
 - What are children and young people telling us about their needs
 - What are the key policy drivers
 - Who provides services for children and young people
 - How can we join up service provision
 - Which young people don't use services and why not

- How are young people perceived by adults
- Best practice
- Recommendations (if any)

The above list is not exhaustive.

7. It is expected that the project will finish taking evidence in March 2009, with a view to producing a report (and recommendations) shortly thereafter.

Recommendation

8. That the Committee note progress in relation to the scrutiny investigation.

Contact: Tom Bolton

Tel: 0191 383 3149

E-Mail: thomas.bolton@durham.gov.uk
