

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



1 April 2016

Review of Youth Support Consultation

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell Assistant Chief Executive and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director Children and Adult Services and

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to introduce to members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee a power point presentation on the current Review of Youth Services Consultation. The presentation will be given to the committee by Carole Payne the Head of Children's Services.

Background

- 2 On 13 January 2016, the Council's Cabinet took the decision to hold a consultation to present three proposals to all stakeholders in relation to the future of Youth Support across County Durham.
- 3 Historically, the main focus of council-funded youth services has been the provision of universal youth sessions which any young person aged 13-19 can access through attendance at youth clubs and projects across the County. This provision is in addition to a wide range of diverse opportunities for young people delivered in and through voluntary and community sector organisations, some of which receive additional support from the Youth Work Support Grant and Area Action Partnerships.
- 4 This provision has evolved overtime and has not been based on any strategic assessment of need to inform where it is most needed.
- 5 Additionally, the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) requires efficiency savings of approximately £260m from 2011/12 until 2019/20. The Council anticipates that further savings of £37m will be required in 2016/17 and 2017/18. 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.

- 6 A robust and objective review of current youth service provision is in line with local and national policy drivers and the requirements of the Councils MTFP.

Consultation

- 7 The consultation exercise began 1 February and will run until 27 April 2016 and is focusing on three key proposals as follows:-

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 the allocation of funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

- 8 The proposed consultation exercise will run for 12 weeks, following which a full analysis will be undertaken and a be reported to Cabinet in Autumn 2016 incorporating all of the information gathered during consultation and presenting final recommendations.
- 9 The consultation process will involve a range of stakeholders who have an interest in this review and a range of consultation methods will be used to maximise involvement and participation levels from all interested parties.

Recommendation

- 11 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the presentation and comment accordingly.

Background Papers

- Review of Youth Support – 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 delivery its duty to support vulnerable young people if it continues to offer a predominantly universal service.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – An initial screening of the Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be complete following the consultation and will be updated as the Project progresses.

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 – None

Consultation – A 12 week consultation programme will be undertaken which would involve all internal and external stakeholders.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – An initial screening of the equality Impact Assessment has been fully completed. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be complete following the consultation and will be updated as the project progresses. It takes consideration of the proposals on all stakeholders, regardless of their ethnicity, disability etc.

Legal Implications – A full consultation programme is proposed that aims to ensure that we meet our statutory obligations.