

17 October 2012

Agenda Item: **5****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE****NEW STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON SERVICES
AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING ISSUED IN
JUNE 2012****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report summarises the implications for the delivery of youth work by Nottinghamshire County Council arising from the Statutory Guidance and provides accompanying detail that sets out the current position of County Council funded youth work provision in respect of this (*in bold italics*). A full copy of the Statutory Guidance, along with copies of Nottinghamshire's current Youth Offer and Delivery Standards for Youth Work, are included as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this report.

Information and Advice

2. In December 2011, the Government published 'Positive for Youth; a new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13-19 in England'. This sets out a co-produced vision for a society in which all young people have the supportive relationships, strong ambitions and good opportunities they need to realise their potential. It adds that educational attainment is key to young people's success, but their experiences at home and in their community are also crucial to helping them form and pursue their ambitions. Most young people get all the support and opportunities they need from their families, communities and from school or college. However, a wide range of other services, including youth work, can play a key role.
3. In June 2012, following a nationwide consultation that Nottinghamshire County Council contributed to, the final Statutory Guidance was issued, which set out the following responsibilities of local authorities:

Involving young people

Local authorities must take steps to ascertain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them, in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). They should establish and maintain structured arrangements for doing so. To inform continuous improvement, these arrangements should enable young people to inspect and report at least annually on the quality and accessibility of provision. As appropriate they should also be involved actively in service design, delivery and governance. Young people should receive the support they need to participate, ensuring representation of the full diversity of local young people, and those who may not otherwise have a voice.

The current structure of children and young people's participation in Nottinghamshire is facilitated by the Young People's Service. This includes local district based Scrutiny, Advisory and Development Boards, alongside Countywide special interest groups including the Nottinghamshire Pioneers Disability Forum and the Children in Care Council, which in turn feed into the Young People's Board and the Members of the National Youth Parliament. This has been recently enhanced by the development of a team of young people as mystery shopper inspectors of youth service provision.

Local authorities should do all that is reasonably practicable to secure a sufficient local offer for young people

Nottinghamshire's 'Youth Offer' (Appendix 2), which was developed in 2010 after consultation with a wide range of young people and approved by both the then Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Young People's Board, sets out the range of provision that the Council secures for Nottinghamshire's young people.

The Council provides a comprehensive open access Young People's Service, which delivers positive and challenging fun activities to young people through: 28 purpose built Young People's Centres (the 29th will open in West Bridgford in March 2013); 10 bespoke mobile youth facilities; 10 Youth Clubs in partnership with the voluntary sector; the management and coordination of Nottinghamshire's large Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme along with programmes that ensure disabled and Looked After young people throughout the County gain access to youth provision.

Securing access to sufficient services and activities

The Government will not prescribe which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. They should take the strategic lead to work with young people; the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector; health and wellbeing boards; schools and colleges; and agencies including health and police.

The Young People's Service currently works alongside the Nottinghamshire Voluntary Sector Youth Partnership, which includes all of the major umbrella organisations in Nottinghamshire including Guides, Scouts, Boys' Brigade, Church groups, Cadet Forces, Young Farmers, NAVO and Nottinghamshire Clubs for Young People, to coordinate open access youth provision for young people across the County and to avoid duplication and share resources where appropriate and beneficial.

Currently, through its formula funding model for youth work, the Young People's Service has a system in place that delivers an equitable split of locality based youth work resources. This fulfils the sufficiency requirement of the guidance. The formula funding model is supported by Nottinghamshire's Youth Work Delivery Standards (Appendix 3) and quality assurances systems including mystery shopper visits by young inspectors.

4. ***The Young People's Service engaged the National Youth Agency in a 'free' consultancy to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council adopts the most appropriate delivery model for cost effective youth work to meet the needs of Nottinghamshire's young people.***
5. ***This work commenced with the National Youth Agency consulting with Nottinghamshire young people, the Nottinghamshire Voluntary Sector Youth Partnership and the Nottinghamshire Young People's Board in September and October 2011. This was followed by a stakeholders contestability workshop in November 2011 which included representatives of local and national, private and voluntary sector providers.***
6. ***The findings of these events were used to inform a final Options Appraisal event, attended by a representative group of stakeholders including the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People with responsibility for youth services on 24 February 2012.***
7. ***This workshop explored the range of options for the future delivery of youth work in Nottinghamshire, based on the following three criteria: quality, cost effectiveness and efficiency. These options included:***
 - ***keeping the service in-house***
 - ***outsourcing the service***
 - ***phased outsourcing***
 - ***a mixed delivery of services***
 - ***a shared service with another local authority***
 - ***setting up a Youth Trust***
 - ***establishing an employee spin-out organisation.***

Conclusions of the National Youth Agency

8. ***The National Youth Agency felt that exploring all these options had provided the Council with a greater understanding of the commissioning process and may inform future developments. However, at this time, the consensus was that the option of keeping the service in-house was the best option for the young people of Nottinghamshire. It was recognised that youth work provision across the County was enhanced by the wide range of voluntary and community sector providers.***

Other Options Considered

9. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The Council, through its recent repositioning of the Young People's Service to maximise the delivery of open access youth work opportunities to young people, alongside the creation of the Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service and the Early Years and Early Intervention Service to deliver targeted interventions to young people and families in need of additional support, is in a positive position to meet the responsibilities of the

Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being.

11. The Service may need to revise its monitoring systems, once clarity on the new Outcomes Framework for Young People's Services has been released. This may include the collection of 'case studies' of a selection of individual young people's learning to support the robust attendance and participation management information in the current reporting process. Outcomes and other qualitative performance measures are currently monitored through formal operational visits by either young people or senior managers within the Service. This is achieved through a formal system of written assessments of the practice seen during observations at individual units, which is measured against the Nottinghamshire Youth Work Delivery Standards, and is followed, where necessary, by the development and implementation of an agreed improvement action plan by the unit leader. The final stage of this process is a re-inspection after three months has elapsed to ensure improvements have been embedded.
12. The recent consultancy, which engaged the National Youth Agency, in seeking to support the Council to deliver quality, cost effective and efficient youth work, has assisted the Young People's Service to prepare for any future changes in policy direction or budget reductions through the scoping of alternative delivery models for youth work in Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

14. This report supports the Council's drive to deliver exciting and fun best value services to the young people of Nottinghamshire in their leisure time that meets current statutory requirements. The open access work of the Young People's Service provides young people with both diversionary activities and a safe place to be which assists in the reduction of anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

15. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (NDR 25/09/12)

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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