

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
YOUTH OFFER**

Appendix 2

We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where Young People feel respected and have their voices heard; where they can take part in lots of fun and exciting activities; where they can find information and get advice about things that are important to them; and if things aren't going as well as they could be, they can talk to someone who understands what they are going through and get the support they need.

EXPLANATION OF THE OFFER

This statement has been developed with Nottinghamshire's Young People's Board and draws on consultation with nearly 500 Nottinghamshire young people. It is due to be reviewed and updated by the Young People's Board in early 2013.

The Nottinghamshire Youth Offer entitles all young people to access service which ensures that they:

Feel respected and have their voices heard:

To provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved in the democratic processes that affect them, to have their views heard and to participate as active citizens in their communities.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring Nottinghamshire County Council staff listen and respond to children and young people's views, ideas, comments and complaints
- Consulting children and young people as service users on the quality of provision
- Actively supporting children and young people to be involved in the design and delivery of local activities and premises, including giving them the power to influence how some of the local budget is spent
- Implementing NCC participation strategy and standards
- Providing a structure of participation across Nottinghamshire for all children and young people to access
- Providing support and training for young people attending youth forums and the Young People's Board
- Organising local elections to the UK Youth Parliament and supporting nominated members to carry out their duties

Can take part in lots of fun and exciting activities:

All young people can access a wide and varied range of fun, exciting and challenging activities, which encourage young people to develop a sense of achievement, to be healthy, to stay safe, and to be better prepared for adult life and that supports their personal and social development.

This will be achieved by offering activities that:

- Are available at times that young people want them – evenings, weekends (including Friday and Saturday nights) and school holidays

- Take place in premises that are accessible, welcoming, safe, warm, attractive and equipped to deliver a wide range of high quality activities appropriate to the needs and interests of children and young people
- Are offered free of charge or at an affordable cost to young people
- Are located in places accessible to children and young people and takes into account safe and reasonable travelling
- Are culturally appropriate, celebrate diversity, promote respect for others and strengthen community cohesion
- Reflect and respond to the needs of the local children, young people and their communities
- Are planned, delivered and evaluated in partnership with children and young people
- Are well publicised – children and young people know when and where activities are taking place
- Meet recognised quality standards

Can find information and get advice:

Children and young people will be able to access information on activities in their local area and get access to services that can offer information support and guidance.

This will be achieved by:

- Managing a single website that provides up to date information on what activities are available locally and links to other services, support agencies and information providers
- Ensuring information is fully accessible to children and young people and available in a variety of formats
- Offering support to access confidential, impartial and non-judgemental information, advice and support from any of the Young People's Service units
- Working with partner agencies and young people to provide a co-ordinated and effective response to young people's information, advice and support needs

Can talk to someone who understands what they are going through and get the support they need:

To provide services that are relevant to the additional support needs of young people, and a skilled workforce who understand and who can respond to a wide range of issues that impact on the lives of children and young people.

This will be achieved by ensuring that:

- Children and young people know where to go or who to speak when problems arise
- Children and young people are included in any action plans that involve them
- Relevant policies and procedures are followed to ensure the safety of children and young people
- Vulnerable groups of young people will be offered the opportunity to engage in tailored interventions and activities
- Where appropriate, children and young people (and their families) will be offered the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to establish the best package of services and support
- Professionals work together to provide whole packages of support and facilitate smooth transitions between services