



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL

SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE BOROUGH YOUTH PLAN FOR 2009/10

17 December 2009

KEY ISSUE

The key issue is the way in which the County Council, Borough Council and other agencies, notably YELL (the Borough Youth Forum) and Connexions, are working together to improve services for young people and to encourage their participation in democratic processes.

SUMMARY

This report summarises the actions against the Borough Youth Plan for 2009/10.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee is asked to note:

- (i) the progress against the Borough Youth Plan for 2009/10 [Annexe 1 update on actions, quarter 2 July-Sept 2009], and
- (ii) consider ways in which it would wish to support the development of any particular initiatives and identify any specific priorities it would like to see taken forward in the future

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Young people's issues have been high on the national agenda since the publication of documents such as *Every Child Matters* and *Youth Matters*, which aim to secure sustained and beneficial participation of young people

and encourage continual improvements in the activities of organisations providing services for them.

- 1.2 Whilst the Borough Council has no statutory responsibilities to provide services for young people beyond the general well-being duty, Improving Services for Young People continues to be one of the Key Priorities for the Borough Council and is highlighted in the Corporate Plan for 2007 to 2011.
- 1.3 The Borough Youth Plan was first developed in 2007 following a Best Value Review of young people's services in 2005. The plan identified improvements across key partner agencies including the Borough Council, Connexions and Surrey County Council's Youth Development Service. This was an annual action planning process for the partnership, which contained a series of specific actions for the principal agencies working on services for young people.
- 1.4 In early 2009 the key partners delivering the Borough Youth Plan agreed to mirror the planning cycle of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. For this purpose the Borough Youth Plan was developed to identify priorities for the next 4 years with specific actions identified for each individual year. The identified priorities mirrored those of the Surrey Commissioning Partnership Children & Young People's Plan and include the following:
- Reduce health inequality and make healthy choices easier
 - Improve family safety, child protection and prevention
 - Improve education, training and employment outcomes, with a particular focus on the lowest achievers
 - Enhance things to do and places to go, particularly for the vulnerable and disadvantaged
 - Improving behaviour at home, at school and on the streets.

It was further recognised and agreed that, whenever appropriate, the principal partners will seek to engage with and involve other relevant bodies notably the voluntary sector, Surrey Police, Surrey PCT and Rosebery Housing Association.

- 1.5 The success of the Borough Youth Plan 2008 – 2012 will be largely dependent upon the involvement of young people themselves, both as a broader group and through YELL, the Borough's Youth Forum. There will be ongoing discussions and consultation exercises to ensure that the Borough Youth Plan best meets the needs of young people.
- 1.6 The Local Strategic Partnership has also included Young People as one of its priority areas. It is currently looking at ways to extend the scope and enhance the arrangements for partnership working.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Whilst not providing a comprehensive picture of all the work by the individual partner agencies relating to young people, the Epsom & Ewell Borough

Youth Plan sets out the work which involves two or more of the partners in the delivery of service improvements or initiatives.

- 2.2 Since the last report to the Local Committee, in December 2007, the Borough Council in partnership with YELL, re-designed and published Borough Youth Insight in February 2009 and soon after published the newly branded Read Me Cos U Need Me booklet.
- 2.3 Some of the highlights of progress against the Borough Youth Plan 2009/10 targets include:
- Developed and delivered a new look Youth Leisure Day, '**YLD Extreme**', in Rosebery Park attracting over 1000 young people aged 11-17yrs.
 - '**Hanging About**' was a Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) funded project delivered across the summer holidays in targeted parks and open spaces. The project engaged over 180 young people through sports activities via a mobile sports van.
 - Delivered '**Mythbusters**', a sexual health inequality project funded by Pfizer UK. Young people from Court and Ruxley areas designed and developed information leaflets highlighting issues around sexual health and were educated and trained to become 'peer educators' themselves.
 - Achieved the highest number of participants (nearly 200) as part of Epsom & Ewell's entry into the **Surrey Youth Games (SYG)**. The Borough had the highest percentage of participation from young people attending a state school and also achieved the highest percentage of young people experiencing their first countywide competition as a result of their involvement in the Games.
 - Made 7 successful bids to **Sports Unlimited** and have delivered 7, 10 week coaching courses in Judo, Netball, Basketball, Boxing, BMXing, Street Dance and Girls Football between April and December 2009.
 - Delivered a new arts project through the **Creative Communities** programme involving over 120 people from all ages across the Longmead Community. An exhibition of the work entitled 'Beneath the Surface' took place on the Longmead in October.
 - Piloted a successful **Street Art Campaign** in Long Grove Skate Park. Over 40 young people engaged in cleaning and re-painting one of the skate ramps in partnership with students from the UCA.
 - The **mentoring scheme** continues to expand with 12 new fully trained mentors, the majority of which are actively working with young people.
 - The **Schools Consultation survey** was carried out in 3 secondary schools and in Nescot with a total of 561 surveys being completed. The results have been shared with all the participating educational establishments.
- 2.4 Work is currently taking place to develop events for a Local Democracy campaign in February linking with the forthcoming general election. This will include a Youth Conference being delivered by the Youth Development Service. Planning is also underway to deliver a new MEND health programme within the Borough and early discussions have begun around establishing a new Children & Young People's partnership (detailed below) as well as re-establishing the Longmead Kickn Steering Group. The latter will focus on more of a social inclusion angle to the successful football project and how the group can best provide support to the young people involved.

- 2.5 The Surrey Youth Games 2009 benefited from a contribution from Members' Allocations, which lead to a full programme of activities being delivered and an increase in the number of participants from Epsom & Ewell.
- 2.6 One of the underlying principles in drawing up the Borough Youth Plan was the commitment to involve young people. Officers have worked specifically with YELL as well as ensuring significant consultation with young people across the Borough.
- 2.7 Other information regarding specific projects and services has been provided to young people via the Text4U and Email4U service as well as the Youth Information Packs and Read Me Coz U Need Me booklets.

3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 3.1 Epsom & Ewell's Local Strategic Partnership has identified children and young people as a priority area of work.
- 3.2 In a move that mirrors the partnership arrangements at County level, a new thematic delivery group is in formation. This will build on the joint working encompassed by the Borough Youth Plan whilst extending the scope of Borough-level partnership working to look at the younger age range (under 11s) and the interventions and support for specific individuals and families.
- 3.3 One significant step to establishing this new arrangement took place at the Epsom & Ewell LSP Conference held on 2 December which some members of this Committee will have attended.
- 3.4 Given that the interests of the partnership will impinge on a variety of statutory Surrey County Council functions, no doubt this Committee will want to monitor its development.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Consultation with young people has continued to be a key strand to this work either through the annual school-based questionnaire, events (such as Youth Leisure Day and Local Democracy Week) or via work with YELL.
- 4.2 Consultation and engagement is therefore an on-going process, with one of the key objectives being to facilitate and improve the ways in which young people themselves are consulted and involved in decision-making.
- 4.3 Specific examples of consultation with young people in 2009/10 include:
 - The schools consultation exercise in March identified a number of issues to take forward some of which have been addressed through the Sports Unlimited activities.
 - A youth steering group was established to focus on delivering activities for YLD Extreme.

- Further consultation opportunities existed at YLD Extreme as part of the consultation tent.
- A consultation exercise on the Longmead is currently being evaluated and the results will inform year 4 of the Longmead MUGA Development Plan.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Youth Services budget has to accommodate any County contribution to the costs associated with the work under the Youth Plan. Other work will only be carried out if alternative funding sources can be identified.
- 5.2 The Local Committee has historically supported work with young people, for example by the use of Members' Allowances to help YELL develop their website, the purchase of a new trampoline for disability trampolining, funding to continue Tennis for Free, the new MUGA at Longmead (the fourth year development plan currently being implemented), new flooring at the Stephen Woods Centre, a Young People's Arts award and the delivery of Youth Leisure Day. The Local Committee may wish to continue to build on this level of support in future.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Borough Youth Plan supports the national priorities of the five outcomes for all children and young people and the specific duties under the Children Act 2004.
- 6.2 The delivery of activities takes into consideration the needs of young people with special needs or those from minority groups.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The lack of diversionary activities and the general disengagement of some young people probably contribute to some of the problems seen locally.
- 7.2 The Borough Youth Plan enhances services for young people and provides opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities. This increase in provision will help address issues of anti-social behaviour.
- 7.3 The Borough Youth Plan refers to work undertaken by the Borough Council's Community Safety Team, which works to address crime and disorder issues. Specifically it details the work of the Youth Diversion Coordinator in providing support to targeted individuals.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The key to success relies on:

- the effective co-ordination of the various agencies involved in delivering services to young people and a common evaluation of those services to inform further development.
 - the involvement of young people to shape the services that they want and need
- 8.2 The partnership-based approach to helping young people to achieve their potential has been shown to be effective in a number of areas, evidenced by the activity under the Borough Youth Plan.
- 8.3 The Committee is asked to note the actions under the Borough Youth Plan and the improvements this is delivering for the young people of the Borough. The Committee might wish to consider how this work could develop in future, through its influence on the work that is undertaken by the Youth Development Service, the Borough Council and others, bearing in mind that any activity will have to be within the constraints of the available budgets. The Local Committee is therefore invited to identify any particular issues or areas of work that it would like to see included in future plans.
- 8.4 The Committee is invited to monitor the exciting developments in relation to the LSP and the formation of a Borough Children & Young People Thematic Partnership which mirrors the County level structure.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.5 The partner agencies will continue to work together to deliver activities against the Borough Youth Plan. Following discussions at the recent Local Strategic Partnership Conference, a new Children & Young People's Partnership will be established to ensure a more integrated approach to the services offered to children & young people.

LEAD OFFICERS: Sam Beak, Leisure Development Manager (E&EBC)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: Sam Beak - 01372 732460

E-MAIL: sbeak@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: As above
TELEPHONE NUMBER:

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Epsom & Ewell Borough Youth Plan 2008 - 2012 (not attached)

Version No. Date: Time: Initials: No of annexes: