



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

**Epsom & Ewell Local Committee
30 September 2002**

KEY ISSUE:

The report gives an outline of the Youth Service on a County and Borough level.

SUMMARY:

The report outlines the current youth service and the impact of the Learning & Skills Act 2000 that created the new Connexions Service. It gives an over view of the provision of the Youth Service in Epsom & Ewell.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree

- (i) The Committee is given an opportunity to contribute to the production of the Youth Service Plan for 2003/4**
- (ii) A Borough Plan for the Youth Development Service is produced, following consultation with the Local Committee. This plan will demonstrate the activities and facilities that will be provided locally together with the anticipated outcomes.**
- (iii) The Committee will offer a view on the utilisation and management of the network of local youth centres.**

The County Council has a statutory obligation to provide a youth service, although current legislation allows local authorities some discretion on the range of services they provide and the level of resources they allocate. Within Surrey, the service is aimed at all young people aged 11-25. Much of the traditional emphasis has been on the generic, more broadcast aspects of youth work through, for example, open “drop in” sessions at youth centres but the service has also become more responsive to the specific needs of young people in a variety of project-based ways.

The Learning and Skills Act 2000 created a new Connexions Service for all young people aged 13-19. The overall aim of the service is to help young people achieve their potential and make a successful transition to adulthood; the service is required to be universal and to offer integrated advice and support, through a network of personal advisers, to every young person between the ages of 13 and 19. The legislation does not precisely specify how statutory youth services should align with the Connexions Service although there are clear expectations that some form of alignment will take place, that a significant part of the youth service will focus on the requirements of 13-19 year olds and that, over time, an increasing amount of the resource allocated to this provision will be aligned to the Connexions service. In April 2002, The Executive approved a paper on the Connexions strategy, which proposed an initial 40% alignment of the youth service, rising to 80% by 2003/4.

The County Council has also recently conducted a Best Value review of Opportunities for Young People and the report was presented to the Executive in April 2002. The review made a number of recommendations concerning the service and its future development, including the need for greater strategic

direction, more effective budget management, a re-examination of the management of youth centres and a changing role for Management Committees, which could become local advisory groups.

In order for the youth service to respond effectively to these developments, to be increasingly relevant to the lives of young people and to maximise the opportunities to access external sources of funding, a detailed draft transition plan was produced and this plan was approved by the Executive on 22 July. As part of the plan, it was proposed that the service becomes the “Youth Development Service” and that the range and limits of activities supported and provided by the Service will be defined through a costed “menu of options”. In this way, it will be easier for a service level agreement to be entered into with the Connexions Partnership, which defines the level, range, cost and anticipated outcome of each specific activity and to define the range of provision that can be offered at a local level. It will also enable the service to be far more explicit about the parameters of the provision that it offers. The menu will define each core area of activity, work that is currently taking place, anticipated outcomes and the current cost associated with that provision.

The present network of buildings will be crucial to support the core objectives of the service and of the Connexions partnership, but many buildings will need to be given a fresh focus, youth workers will need to be freed from the responsibilities of building management, and existing management and financial arrangements will need to be reviewed and modified.

In making its decision on 22 July, the Executive set a strategic framework for the Youth Development Service but it also recognised the importance of local consultation, particularly with local Committees, in order to ensure that the service is as relevant and responsive as possible to local need and that there is effective utilisation of local buildings. In order to assist the process, Borough profiles are being produced which indicate the resources available and level and range of activities taking place within the Borough. The attached report provides further detail on local provisions.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (Epsom & Ewell)

Over view of the provision in Epsom & Ewell

Buildings

SCC owned; Edge Youth Centre
 Yoyo Drop in, (SCC owned, but jointly purchased by Surrey
 County Council and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council).

Leased: Lintons Lane Youth Arts Centre

Partnership

The Stephen Woods Centre, (Longmead) is rented from the Trust that owns the Youth Centre,

Staffing

Youth Workers Full Time

1 Youth Development Worker (Epsom & Ewell).
 1 Neighbourhood Youth Worker, based at the Edge
 Total of 2 Full Time Youth Workers

Youth Workers Part Time

4.0 FTEs

There are approximately 31 part time youth worker posts with the majority being for 3 to 4 hours per week. 1 post is an exception i.e. 30 hours per week,

The total youth worker provision is therefore 6.2. FTE.

At this time there are approximately 8 vacancies out of 31, i.e. 25 hours. A number of existing workers are covering as many vacancies as is possible to ensure units can stay open.

The Edge Neighbourhood Youth Worker Full Time post has been vacant since June 2002. An advert attracted one applicant who was very skilled and would have been very suitable, but after offering the post and it being verbally accepted he decided to stay with his present employers as they offered enhanced job profile, terms and conditions of employment and salary.

Self financed workers

Drugs worker - fixed term contract

Administration

There are 2 Administrators 1 employed for 20 hours per week the other for 15. The 35 hours therefore represents a FTE of just under 1

Population

11s to 24s 11000

13s to 19s 5900

Recruitment and Retention

- Recruitment and retention is one of the main issues facing the service, it is difficult to recruit both full and part time youth workers to offer the quality services we would wish to.
- A new police clearance scheme has been introduced by the government with the introduction of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), but due to the number of clearances required and the complexity of clearances the guaranteed time scale for clearance i.e. 3 weeks is not possible and the quoted times for clearances is now 8 to 12 weeks.

Pattern of Provision

Youth Work provision at The Edge aims to operate a mix of Youth Club style sessions along with specific projects designed to meet the needs of particular groups or to tackle particular issues (eg graffiti project, schools projects etc). The Youth Development Service also have a team who run a Youth Club session at the Stephen Woods Centre using a range of different activities to build relationships with young people and provide a safe place to meet.

YoYo Drop In Centre offers a shop front coffee bar style provision designed to link young people into a range of different services. This is an exciting and ground -breaking project in Surrey where the aim is to develop effective multi agency working that reflects a young person centred approach to services.

Lintons Youth Arts Centre offers project based youth work to support the work of the other centres and acts as a base for borough wide initiatives. Lintons is also the base for Yell, KT17+, Deaf YK, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Epsom Phab. In addition the Youth Service provides funding for Phab and a number of other voluntary organisations in the borough through a Service Level Agreement system.

Examples of Recent and Current Developments

Yell is the Epsom & Ewell Youth Forum; it is very active locally providing a voice for young people. The group are participating in moves to create Surrey wide structure for 'giving young people a voice' and two members of the group represented Surrey young people in Leicester at the National Sitting of the UK Youth Parliament.

Young people are keen to see more leisure opportunities particularly music events and an alternative to pubs and clubs accessible to under 18s. **KT17+** is a youth magazine run for and by young people in Epsom & Ewell.

Temptation is a Healthy Lifestyles residential that has been run twice for young people in the Epsom & Ewell. Temptation brings together staff and young people from all of the clubs in the borough and offers a mixed programme of activities and workshops that look at issues ranging from healthy eating to drugs awareness to knowing your rights to careers information.

First Gear and the Basics of Babysitting are examples of two courses that can be used to address a number of different issues. Both courses have a youth work approach to learning and the structure is designed to achieve high levels of participation and to build relationships with young people that facilitate personal and social development.

Arts form a central part of much youth work delivery and the specialist team at Lintons are Youth Arts Workers who have been involved in projects all over the County. The Century 21 Arts Document sets out to explain role that the arts can play in delivering youth work outcomes – copies can be made available.

Detached Youth Work has been identified as a gap in current provision and we are following the Youth Service Quality Framework to design a response that fits the specific needs of Epsom & Ewell and to identify the resources needed to introduce detached work into the area.

An audit of current provision in Epsom & Ewell that has an out reach or detached dimension to the work is being undertaken (Arrest Referral, Breaking the Cycle, Drugs and Young People all have an out reach or reach out aspect to their work). The audit will include training, policy, procedures and operational guidelines for workers.

Examples of good practice and different models of delivery are being identified by looking at detached work projects both locally and nationally. An interim report will be available later this year with recommendations for a way forward that is best suited to the needs of Epsom & Ewell.

The Young People and Drugs Worker Post is the result of joint funding by Health Service, Drug Intervention Programme Supporting Youth (DIPSY) and Youth Service. The pilot project runs until the end of the financial year and further funding will be needed for the post to continue.

Opportunities to hear more about the projects or any aspects of the work listed above or to meet young people who have participated in them can be arranged. Epsom and Ewell has a good range and mix of provision and the priorities are to maintain and develop existing provision alongside the introduction of new initiatives.

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