



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(Mole Valley)**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN MOLE VALLEY
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE IN MOLE VALLEY
11 JUNE 2008**

KEY ISSUE:

To give a summary of the current work of the Youth Development Service in Mole Valley and to seek endorsement for the 2008-09 Youth Development Service delivery plan for Mole Valley.

SUMMARY:

It has been a more encouraging year for the Youth Development Service. A number of vacancies have been filled, including the three full-time posts, although staff turnover and recruitment still pose challenges. The uncertainty of the future of some buildings, specifically Mulberry and Bookham Youth Centres has been unsettling for young people, staff and the local communities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report
- (ii) Endorse the delivery plan for 2008-09

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The direction of work undertaken by the Youth Development Service (YDS) is driven by the government papers 'Every Child Matters' and 'Youth Matters' which is also encompassed in the 'Children and Young People's Plan for Surrey 2006-2009' and has become the planning framework for the YDS. There are five key outcomes:

- Being healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Achieving Economic Well-being
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2.0 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2.1 The past 12 months have been more encouraging for the Mole Valley Youth Development Team:

-The number of vacancies has reduced, although it remains important that we replace the two full-time workers who are due to leave, and the Leader in Charge at Capel. Interviews are in June and July.

-The recruitment freeze reduced the YDS's capacity to deliver during the year.

-The policy decision by the YDS to core fund only work with 13 – 19's will impact on young people in September 2008. In Mole Valley the YDS is honouring its commitment to those under 13's who are already members. In September however, we will not be able to offer provision for the rising Year 7's (11 – 12's) unless funded externally.

-Gypsy Skills has been remarkably successful in re engaging young Travellers in education. The new challenge is now to gain core funding from Surrey for its continuation.

-A team of young people are currently making a short film, with professional help, to reflect the full range of youth work by the YDS in Mole Valley. This will hopefully be finished by September.

-YDS currently has a number of staff who are temporarily filling vacancies as 'casual' workers or by working additional hours. We can therefore be reasonably confident that the vacancies will soon be filled by these staff (or other applicants who may be more qualified). The remaining vacancies, which may prove to be more challenging are:

Full time	2	Projx and Bridge
Leader in Charge	1	Capel (4.5 hrs)
Assistant Youth Worker	3	Mulberry, Bookham, Capel

(New and externally funded posts have not been included)

2.2 Current Picture of Youth Work in Mole Valley

2.2.1 Ashtead

The Youth Centre remains open on Mondays (14 – 17's Project night) and Tuesdays (14-17's Open Club). The Monday Project nights include Rally Karting, decorating and sessions that are 'practically run' by trained senior members for 11 – 13's.

Due to successful recent funding bids to the Youth Opportunities/Capital Funds and the Mole Valley (crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), the very successful Rally Karting project is now sustainable for at least another year. Participants gain Open College Network accreditation over a two year period.

The YDS has been working with young people and a wide range of partners to improve relations and to increase the social and recreational opportunities for young people in the village. Developments include:

- Churches Together in Ashtead are currently seeking to raise funds to appoint a full-time professionally qualified youth worker for three years to work mainly within the YDS team.
- Linking local young skaters with community and MVDC to form Ashtead Skatepark Partnership. Despite sufficient funding (mainly from MVDC), the debate about the site continues.

2.2.2 Bookham

Uncertainty over the future of the building has presented a formidable challenge to both young people and staff. The new leasing arrangement has been agreed in principle and it will be a great help when the actual date for this is set. YDS is already working with the future Management Committee. The youth club now has an acting Leader in Charge who is applying for the permanent post. Wednesday night is Open Club (11 – 17's) and Monday is Project night.

Projects include 'Facelift' – improvements to the building, currently involving decorating, the materials having been funded by the Local Committee. A recent residential was planned by the young people themselves. New project is likely to be creation of a sound studio and learning how to run it (partnership with new management committee).

Attendance is high but the young people who travel into Bookham present a challenge as they overlap with a group that has engaged in anti social behaviour in the village. Related priorities for the youth club therefore include drugs/alcohol education, promoting respect for the community and railway safety.

2.2.3 Capel

The Leader in Charge has resigned after 12 years service and the role is being covered temporarily by the Neighbourhood Youth Worker based at the Mulberry. The Open Club continues to run on Wednesdays for a group of about 15 young people (13 – 17's) who have quite high needs.

With support from YDS the young people have formed 'Capel Youth Action Team' along with several local adults who represent the main stakeholder groups. CYAT exists to strive for better facilities for young people in the village. So far funds have been raised to staff the youth club for a second night for a year. In addition the top priority of the young people is to establish a multi sports pitch. They have raised about £40,000 (mainly Youth Capital Fund and Local Committee) towards this so far and are working with the adults to identify the best possible site.

Street art, DJ'ing and fishing are strong themes within the club.

2.2.4 **Dorking**

The Mulberry continues to run open youth club nights on Tuesdays (11 – 13's) and Thursdays (14 – 17's). The 'Youth Café' (11- 16's) still thrives on Wednesdays after school and is funded by Youth Opportunities Fund for the rest of 2008.

Most of the young people who attend on Tuesdays first came to the Mulberry through the work of Projx in Goodwyns. DJ'ing and sports are main activities. The older group on Thursdays at first presented a lot of challenging behaviour to the new full-time worker, much of whose initial work was simply about establishing boundaries and respect. The club is now much more peaceful and focussed. Themes include cooking, basic food hygiene training, photography, street art and DJ'ing. The 'under 18's nightclub' events on some Fridays have just been re started by the young people and staff (with Local Committee funding).

On Wednesdays a Projx group from Chart Downs uses the centre. The Mulberry team has also undertaken one to one work with a number of very vulnerable individuals.

Uncertainty over the building continues to be detrimental.

2.2.5 **Leatherhead**

The Bridge has been fortunate to recruit two very capable and reliable volunteers, and so is back up to two nights of Open Club: Tuesdays (11 – 13's) and Thursdays (14 – 17's). YDS provides a youth worker (funded by MVDC) to support Live & Direct music project on Mondays. Some project work has been run on Wednesdays including dance, football (male and female sections) and fantasy role-play games.

Successful programme has included cookery, football tournaments, trip to Mulberry and a BBQ. Several older members have trained to become very useful helpers with the younger ones. Some of the young people are keen to create a small sound studio at The Bridge.

Four young people from the youth club have joined Youth Voice and have become trained 'grant givers' for the Youth Opportunities/Capital Funds. One of these young people has also represented Mole Valley on the Surrey Youth Parliament.

We hope to develop an Internet radio station at The Bridge. This will dovetail with SCC's and MVDC's young people's websites. Eight young people will have the opportunity to learn how to set this up and operate it. When running it will provide scope for all groups to 'broadcast'.

The full-time youth worker is leaving in July, so recruitment is now a priority. We hope to appoint a successor before the current worker moves on.

2.2.6 ProjX

The appointment of a Youth Development Worker at the start of the year has been key to the development of Projx, which will be fully staffed for the first time in June. This will provide for six sessions weekly so there will be more scope to respond to 'hotspot' nominations from partners – providing that the full-time worker can be replaced fairly soon after she leaves.

Projx has defined its role and purpose more clearly for partners this year. Essentially it is a short or medium-term change agent, rather than a long-term gap filler.

A new 18.5 hr/week Leader in Charge post has been created for three years with the support of the Projx Steering group. Interviews will be in June.

Most work has been in the south, although Projx welcomes referrals from across Mole Valley. Examples of work include mobile provision in Beare Green, Capel Youth Action Team, accredited Babysitting course and young mens group (Goodwyns) and detached work in Bookham.

2.2.7 Targeted Youth Work – District wide

Inclusion work has been undertaken by the YDS in all four secondary state schools in Mole Valley, and in Howard of Effingham that serves many young people from the district.

Unique Stage theatre project has been effective in engaging young people who have been excluded or are at risk. Partners include Leatherhead Theatre, Alternative Education Service, Starhurst and other Schools.

Streetwise Project aims to help young people who have been victimised to develop the skills and confidence to avoid being bullied. One successful pilot session has run and funding (North MV Confederation and Positive Activities for Young People) is in place to offer eight more in July to targeted pupils from different schools. In conjunction with MV Anti-bullying Partnership.

Gypsy Skills has been remarkably successful in re engaging young Travellers in education. This is largely because it was initiated and has been developed in consultation with the Gypsy community of all ages. It is also significant that it is delivered on a Traveller site with young people from seven other sites also attending. YDS has recruited one particularly committed members of the Gypsy community to work on the project delivery and in liason with families. This has made a real difference. About 80% of

young Gypsies normally drop out of school by Year 11. Most of them leave around Year 8.

15 young people (12 – 15's) who would otherwise be out of education attend regularly on Tuesdays at Salvation Place. This could rise to over 20 this year.

The new challenge is now to gain core funding from Surrey for its continuation.

The CIAG Youth Worker is now in post on a one year contract (funded by CDRP), until December 2008. The work is mainly one to one with young people who are referred by CIAG to support them in developing skills and attitudes needed to avoid an ASBO and find a positive direction in their life. Integrate - a small group project of a similar nature was piloted in March, but is unlikely to be repeated without external funding as the CIAG post is only 7.5 hrs per week.

2.2.8 **Partnership Work**

Partnership work has developed with the appointment of the CIAG Youth Worker (CDRP funded), Gypsy Skills Travellers education project (Surrey Traveller Relations Forum and Youth Justice Service), Unique Stage theatre project (see above), Costa Coffee Youth Night (MVDC and Dorking churches), Mulberry Youth Café as well as stronger links with Housing.

Developments in Ashted (Churches Together) and Capel (Parish Council, MVDC, police and others) are firmly rooted in partnership.

In addition to services mentioned above, active links have been developed with: Connexions, Anti-bullying Strategy Group, Drug Action Team, Health Promotion, Extended Schools networks, individual schools, Fire Service, Community Development Workers, Local Integrated Team and Youth Justice Service.

We have a very strong partnership with MVDC on several fronts, including Mole Valley Youth Voice.

Partnership working is developing with B@ttitude and is well established with Liquid Connection in Leatherhead. This year we have provided community placements for youth work students who are based with Bfree Café and a Dorking church. Support is being provided for the Youth Worker recently appointed by the Westcott Churches. Further networking with other voluntary groups will be a priority when we have a full staff team.

2.2.9 **Youth Development Service Delivery Plan for Mole Valley 2008 - 09 (See Annexe B)**

The delivery plan for 2007-08 meets the objectives of the 'Children and Young People's Plan for Surrey 2006-2009' and has been produced following consultation with a variety of stakeholders including young people. The plan is achievable within the establishment capacity of the Mole Valley Youth Team, however there are significant risk factors in being able to

deliver the plan in its entirety if we are unsuccessful in recruiting to our vacant posts.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The district youth team has progressively gained strength over the past year. There have been a number of creative developments within the targeted work as well as consolidation of the work in the youth clubs. The recruitment freeze, staff turnover, recruitment and sickness have presented challenges. Partnership arrangements are stronger.

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