

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)****DATE: 24th February 2014****LEAD OFFICER: Keir Schiltz Elmbridge Team Manager****SUBJECT: Elmbridge Youth Support Service****DIVISION: All****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report provides an overview as to the work being carried out by Surrey Youth Support Service (YSS) in the Elmbridge area. In particular it clarifies the importance of the Service in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable young people in the borough, through both its casework and group work approaches.

It provides a team structure with their broad responsibilities, gives an insight into the impact of the work through two case studies and details some of the significant statistics relating to both the challenges faced by the team alongside some of the notable achievements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note**

- (i) The challenges and achievements of the Youth Support Service team in Elmbridge.
- (ii) The positive impact of the team on vulnerable young people through the provided case study examples and the description of their wider work.
- (iii) The locally identified needs relating to, mental health, drugs and alcohol, employability, transport/social isolation and lack of accessible mentoring programmes.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations are based on the detailed knowledge of the young people currently being worked with by the Youth Support Service. This knowledge is supported by the keeping of written assessments of need and allied action plans for each young person and where required their wider family. The recommendations are also supported by the partnership work fostered within the Elmbridge team and the additional information, resources and opportunity this work makes available to individual young people, their families and the local community.

Where appropriate local and county statistics are provided to highlight an issue or achievement and these have been provided by the commissioning team from within the Services for Young People Directorate.

The work of the Youth Support Service proactively seeks to reduce the barriers to young people achieving well being, be that emotional, physical, intellectual or economic and the recommendations detailed above reflect the barriers most commonly being presented by young people.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Youth Support Service promotes participation for all young people and seeks to ensure that all young people regardless of circumstance have the opportunity to access the services to which they are entitled, and have the support necessary to thrive. It works primarily through a casework approach where a single lead worker takes responsibility to assess and meet the needs of an individual young person. Because of the diverse referral routes to the team, (more detail of these are provided in the analysis section), this role itself requires each worker to have a highly developed range of professional skills that are supported by a robust supervision process. The casework approach places the young person at the centre of a wrap around provision that is either delivered directly or through negotiated and agreed partnership delivery.
- 1.2 The Youth Support Service recognises that not all the assessed need can be met through individual 1:1 casework and that group work approaches are also required to develop or strengthen particular skills and attributes. Such group work can consist of both peer and/or family networks. In Elmbridge there is a strong group work ethos that delivers opportunities to young people through an accredited Ready for Work programme (R4W). This programme provides the opportunity for young people to develop emotional, literacy and resilience skills alongside, establishing work routines and gaining experience in carpentry, horticulture, painting and decorating, Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) card, nail art, bicycle maintenance and through a partnership with Young Enterprise, business skills. The range of the programme is supported by high quality partnerships with Surrey Police, Walton Charity, Neils Wheels bike shop, British Cycling and Elmbridge Borough Council. The R4W programme primarily operates from the Walton Youth Centre, with the core days being Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 3.00 pm; additional sessions for nail art are on request, CSCS card on Thursday mornings at Molesey Youth Centre and specialist paired work on Tuesdays. The two case studies attached in Appendix A illustrate how casework and group work combined benefit young people.
- 1.3 The group work programme has recently expanded to include a specialist Young Parent group based at Molesey Youth Centre on Tuesdays, which is being established to support the very particular needs of this group. The emphasis of the group is less about a quick return to work and more around reducing social isolation, maintaining a capacity and enthusiasm for learning, establishing a positive relationship with their child and the services that affect them. It will also seek to promote health and well being in the broadest sense but pay particular regard to their sexual relationships. The YSS team are also currently developing a specialist group to support those young people who have or are being sexually exploited.
- 1.4 The Youth Support Service in Surrey has identified the Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) figures and their conversion to Participating in Education, Training and Employment (PETE) as a key indicator for success

as it signifies a measurable change in the circumstances and behaviour of young people.

The key achievements and issues are identified in a report card compiled by the commissioning team for Elmbridge

Achievements

- i) Although not the highest PETE proportion in Surrey, year on year progress in the borough is impressive 97.8% in 2013 compared to 95.4% last year.
- ii) Elmbridge has the joint 2nd lowest proportion of NEET in the county who have been NEET on at least one occasion before, 23.2% compared to 29.3% countywide.
- iii) As from 10th October 2013 there were 43 young people classed as NEET in Elmbridge compared to 72 at the same time last year.

Issues

- i) Elmbridge has the highest proportion of young people identified at year 11 as being at risk of NEET actually becoming NEET at 9.5%

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 The current caseload for the YSS in Elmbridge stands at 119 referred young people, who are the most vulnerable at the current time in the borough within the specified age range, and the work is divided amongst the YSS borough team according to the initial presenting needs and the relative skills and experience of the team members. Work with young people varies in contact time from 1 or 2 hours per week on a 1:1 basis through to over 25 hours per week. The allocation of work takes place each week as the result of discussion between the Team Manager and Senior Youth Support Workers. The Elmbridge team consists of the manager and 3 Senior Youth Support Officers (YSO) each with a lead specialism. This does not mean that either they or their team members only take on that area of work, but they do lead on ensuring the work is placed with the best possible team member bearing in mind current individual caseloads and other demands on their work time.

2.2 Elmbridge Team Structure

Team Manager

Keir Schiltz

Senior Youth Support Officer - Youth Justice – Paula Desai

Youth Support Officer – *Jaydee Peters*

Youth Support Officer – *Sarah Blunden*

Youth Support Officer – *Amanda Tully*

Senior Youth Support Officer – Employment and Learning – Joanne Adams

Youth Support Officer – *Jill Stanton (21 hrs per week)*

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge

Youth Support Officer – *Maria Holmes (28hrs per week)*

Senior Youth Support Officer – Family and Groupwork – *Linda Melham*

Youth Support Officer – *Steve Carr*

Youth Support Officer- *Lee Galletta*

Youth Support Assistant – *Lucy Earle (30 hrs per week)*

Business Administrator – *Christine Hawkins (30 hrs per week)*

2.3 The Youth Support Service in Elmbridge takes the lead for young people aged between 16 and 19 where they have been identified as NEET, in addition young people are also referred where they have committed an offence, are designated as a child in need (CIN) and are over the age of 15 without younger siblings (a reduction to the age of 13 or 14 is currently being finalised), have an identified unmet mental health need or have been or are likely to be made homeless under the age of 18. The referral strands are not exclusive and we have a number of young people who are, homeless, NEET, CIN, within the criminal justice system and have a recognised mental health need.

2.4 Key Issues arising from the current data with regard to our NEET cohort are;

86% of the young people who have been identified as being at risk of becoming NEET have some form of Learning Disability or Difficulty. This is highly significant in terms of the level of support and development necessary to enable these young people to access mainstream opportunities and does in some way explain our higher than the Surrey average conversion figures for young people actually becoming NEET after being identified as being at risk in year 11. The other key characteristics of this group in Elmbridge are income deprivation, low school attendance and low attainment in Maths and English during key stage 2 exams.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 The model of delivery is still developing within Elmbridge, as the team recognise and understand their local area and community more effectively. We are also continually adapting to new legislation and processes alongside the altering financial environment. The YSS team in Elmbridge are keen and able to respond to ideas and suggestions for improvement and are happy to meet with interested professionals and elected members to discuss issues or raise awareness.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 This report has been compiled from local records, conversations and input from young people and staff team members and the statistics gathered by the commissioning team. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of writing.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The YSS in its current form was developed just over two years ago to both provide better value for money and provide better services for the most vulnerable young people in the community. It is anticipated that future analysis will evidence this, particularly in relation to the preventative approaches being used in Elmbridge.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 There has not been an Equality Impact Assessment specifically on this report as the entire premise of the YSS is to identify and alleviate inequality.

6.2 The service is trained and supervised to manage the most complex and vulnerable young people towards receiving their full entitlement and attaining their aspirations and full potential.

6.3 The team members undertake equality awareness training within their roles.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 Particular communities affected by the work detailed are;

Cobham, Molesey South, St Johns (Walton, Ambleside), Field Common, Lower Green, Hersham North and Weybridge.

This is primarily due to the geographical isolation and/or relative deprivation. The majority of the caseload comes from these identified communities.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.
Public Health	Set out below.

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

The current caseload contains 12 young people within the Criminal Justice system. This includes Youth Restorative Interventions (YRI) where a young person has admitted a low level criminal offence and accepted this intervention as an alternative to a court appearance. The YRI's once

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge

discharged do not count as a conviction and is a very effective way of dealing with young people who have made mistakes without unnecessarily criminalising them. Analysis shows that YRI's are much more likely to reduce further offending than traditional sentencing and criminalisation.

8.2 Sustainability implications

The targeted work of the YSS underpins the equality of access for our most vulnerable young people through the provision of skilled appropriate interventions that address behaviour issues, access to additional resources, the ability of the team to engage with and advocate for challenging young people and the capacity to provide safe developmental group work opportunities. The intensity of the interventions relies on effective and well maintained partnerships without which the YSS would not be able to sustain its work, key partners include;

The third and charitable sector
Surrey Police
Children's Services
Housing Providers
The local business community
Elected members at parish, borough and county level
Employment services
Education providers
Family Support services
Elmbridge Borough Council
Mental Health Services
Probation Service
Local GP's

8.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

Current caseload identifies 6 Young People who have been or are currently a Looked after Child (LAC). The LAC young people are prioritised wherever possible within the delivery of services by the YSS in Elmbridge due to the particular difficulties and disadvantage they experience.

8.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

Current caseload contains 16 Child in Need cases, 10 homeless or homeless prevention cases, 9 young parents or expectant young parents.

8.5 Public Health implications

Current work impacts significantly on the Mental Health and the general well being of referred young people, this reduces both the demand and cost of more expensive clinical services. The current R4W cohort contains 10 Young people who are or have been with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and/or with a diagnosed psychological condition. Our work also encompasses the wider concerns of drug and alcohol use, healthy eating and

physical health and activity. This is delivered either through the casework or group work models and may involve one or more partner agencies.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 The YSS is fulfilling its primary role in reducing the number of young people who are NEET and working ever more effectively towards full participation.
- 9.2 It is forming positive partnerships with individual young people, their families, the wider community and other providers to better meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people
- 9.3 It is a service that is safe and professional in its principles and processes, with a skilled and committed workforce.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 The YSS are currently aiming to continue to develop their offer to vulnerable young people in Elmbridge and move closer to full participation for all young people over the next year. We will be working hard to better address the needs of young parents, young people who have experienced sexual exploitation and young people with identified learning disabilities and difficulties.
- 10.2 In addition to the current YSS delivery we are hoping to establish at least one social enterprise providing a protected work based environment for our most vulnerable young people. The three initiatives currently be developed at Walton Youth Centre are a community cafe run by young people, a carpentry cooperative and a bike repair workshop.

Contact Officer: Keir Schiltz, Team Manager YSS- Elmbridge

Consulted: Young people, commissioning team, YSS,

Annexes:

Two brief young person case studies

Sources/background papers:

- Services for young people - Elmbridge performance report card
 - Services for Young People participation needs assessment 2013
-

This page is intentionally left blank