



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2014
LEAD OFFICER(S): JENNY SMITH / JEREMY CROUCH (SCC)
 SUE BARHAM / DANIELLE TOWNER (WBC)

SUBJECT: YOUTH PROVISION IN WOKING – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2013/14 AND FUTURE JOINT WORKING

AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

In accordance with governance arrangements for the youth services commissioned under the auspices of the previous Local Committee, this report includes the 2013/14 annual performance review of Services for Young People. In addition and in support of the direction of travel for the new Woking Joint Committee, information is also included with regards activity undertaken / commissioned by Woking Borough Council (WBC) during 2013/14. This is included in the annex to this report.

The report also includes reference to future Joint Woking on youth activity across the Borough, including the writing of an Integrated Youth Strategy, which will be developed further with the assistance of the Youth Task Group and will assist with the future joint commissioning of youth services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked:

- (i) To note the Annual Performance Reports for Services for Young People, as well as WBC activity taking place during 2013/14
- (ii) To note planned activity by all partners for 2014/15
- (iii) To endorse the approach being taken to the development of an Integrated Youth Strategy, with the cost of any required consultancy support (up to the value of £5k) being met from WBC's youth service budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To assure the newly formed Woking Joint Committee of existing service provision and performance, as well as the proposed joint working approach to development of youth services across the borough.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of how participation of young people in Woking has been improved; an overview of how the different SCC commissions have performed throughout the year; an update on the range of commissions/ provision that Woking Borough Council run; an outline of the forward plan and direction of travel; and a brief outline of how we will keep the Joint Committee informed of our progress during 2014/15.
- 1.2 Historically information about certain aspects of youth related activity undertaken by WBC has been reported in the quarterly Community Safety Partnership reports presented to the Woking Partnership. This has usually included primarily qualitative information as opposed to quantitative or specific outcome measure data and has not always included reference to all youth related activity undertaken by the borough or indeed information about all partner engagements including those which are through the third sector. Whilst detailed information is not available historically for the 2013-14 period for certain activities, going forward the intention will be to look to record wherever feasible activity in a consistent manner across both partner's activities.

2. ANALYSIS:

Key Performance Outcomes 2013/14

- 2.1 This report recognises that both Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council have made significant contributions in achieving greater participation for young people in 2013/14.
- 2.2 In March 2014, only 55 young people were NEET compared to 132 in March 2013, a reduction of nearly 60%.
- 2.3 97.9% of young people were participating in education, training, employment or re-engagement at the end of March 2014, compared to 95.2% in March 2013.
- 2.4 There were 13 first-time entrants to the youth justice system in 2013/14, the same as 2012/13 and fewer than the 30 in 2011/12.
- 2.5 A more detailed analysis of performance is provided in Annex 1.
- 2.6 Whilst there are a whole host of activities supported and enabled by SCC and WBC colleagues within the borough, below is a flavour of the range and type of activity being undertaken:
- 2.7 Woking Youth Council – which meets on a monthly basis and is attended by 10-15 young people aged between 13-17 years old is representative of the diverse culture of Woking. The members of the Youth Council have been working incredibly hard to increase the opportunity for other young people across the Borough to join by:
 - a) Designing of a new logo/branding to re-establish the Youth Council and increase the numbers of young people who attend, and
 - b) Delivering presentations to increase numbers in local high schools and youth clubs

- 2.8 The young people have also given up their time to support community events which have taken place, such as; Sport Relief Mile 2014, Crime Summit, New Vision Homes Youth Council Family Fun Day and Youth Careers Fair.
- 2.9 It is increasingly important to develop the Youth Council to ensure that young people's views are actively sort and heard, and thus assure young people themselves that they have a clear and demonstrable involvement in making recommendations on future service and facility development which is 'fit for purpose' and needs the future needs of the borough.
- 2.10 Mentoring and Support – is currently being offered in a number of community settings by colleagues working directly with individual's – some of whom are Looked After Children (LAC) in care home settings.
- 2.11 Football v Homophobia Awareness Campaign – following receipt of a successful grant, a friendly football festival, open to both boys and girls under the age of 15, was hosted at Woking Hockey Club and facilitated by Woking Town FC. Over 140 young people attended to learn more about homophobia and enjoy a free non-competitive event.
- 2.12 Junior Citizenship – March 2014 saw another highly successful programme delivered at Woking Football Club with approx. 1,000 Year 6 pupils (10-11 yr olds) from 22 schools across the borough spending half a day learning about safety measures and life skills around water safety, stranger danger, fire safety, neighbourliness and recycling, anti-social behaviour, internet safety, making appropriate 999 calls and railway safety. Due to the continued positive feedback from schools and participants alike the intention is to continue to run this annual event in March 2015.
- 2.13 Woking Youth Practitioner's Group – set up in March 2014 this new group gives an opportunity for local providers (SCC, WBC and third sector) working with young people within Woking aged between 11-19 years to come together to network, share best practice and ideas as well as look to jointly promote activities – thus enhancing the offer and reducing the risk of service duplication.

3. OPTIONS:

Programme Delivery for 2014-15

- 3.1 Continual review of the existing (commissioned) services are undertaken at regular intervals to ensure the offer is relevant to young people across the borough. Depending on the activity this is either done through formal monitoring under contract / compliance arrangements or informally from feedback from young people themselves and the practitioners on the front-line. Appropriate action is taken to rectify standards / engagement with Young People where the agreed outcomes are not being met.
- 3.2 Integrated Youth Strategy – this will be a key piece of work going forward which will underpin and inform future decisions with regards commissioning and provision of services across the borough, and will benefit from the input of young people, members of the Youth Task Group and other youth practitioner's operating within Woking.
- 3.3 Whilst a fairly well-developed relationship exists in Woking between members and officers across the two authorities the reality is that both parties commission youth

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work separately in the borough, there is limited join-up between respective responsibilities for youth offending services (SCC) and crime and anti-social behaviour reduction (WBC); both authorities commission work with young people from the voluntary sector in some instances independently of one another; and there is currently no shared asset strategy.

- 3.4 As articulated in the Youth Task Group Terms of Reference, it is proposed that a single strategy be developed in relation to core young people's services. Whilst work is at an early stage, initial discussions have identified that the following areas of activity could be included in the scope of the Strategy, with some other related areas, whilst being linked, not being directly included:

In scope:

- Youth work
- Youth crime and anti-social behaviour
- Targeted preventative activity (including work with schools / colleges)
- Employment and participation (including work with schools / colleges)
- Youth estate strategy

Connected (but not within this project):

- Youth homelessness and supported accommodation
- School building / places
- Family support
- Leisure, sport and culture
- Broader estates issues / opportunities

- 3.5 It is proposed that some consultancy advice be sort to assist in the writing of the strategy, with WBC looking to meet the cost of such from existing revenue budgets for 2014/15 up to a value of £5,000. Early indications are that this should be sufficient to deliver a strategy within the timeline required such that the outcomes from the strategy can inform future decisions on the imminent re-commissioning of SCC's commissions.
- 3.6 Borough related activity – it is proposed to continue to support and enable the range of work currently undertaken by WBC and SCC throughout the year, although to increasingly do so within an integrated approach. Clearly future commissions will, as they come up for review be considered within the context of the developing Integrated Youth Strategy for the Borough.
- 3.7 Practitioner's Group – continued attention will be given to developing this group as they will play an ever increasingly role in delivery of integrated provision across the borough, and will be an important group to engage with as the Integrated Strategy is developed. Initial learning from this group has resulted in an improved co-ordinated Summer Holiday Activities programme, as well as SCC and WBC increasingly finding ways at an operational level to delivered joined up activities ie: Health Champions programme at Walton Road Youth Centre as well as provision of a Asian Women's only swimming session at Goldsworth School Pool.
- 3.8 Skilled Up Woking - Woking has a relatively high percentage of youth (i.e. 18-24) unemployment which as of July 2013 was 2.8%, compared with working age rate (16-64) for the Borough of 1.4%. This represented approx. 22% of the unemployed in the Borough.

- 3.9 In order to address this, WBC has now developed the Invest in Your Success into this new programme of activity called Skilled up Woking. This has led to a network of local training providers and businesses developing a programme of training and work experience together with additional intensive careers support, all to ensure that participants taking part will be able to enter the labour market with the right skills for the workplace. The programme started in April 2014, with funding from Travel Smart, and to date is going well.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 During 2013-14 there has been wide ranging consultation with young people, staff, and partner agencies. In particular SCC has carried out an internal evaluation of our commissions and focussed on engaging young people in our planning for re-commissioning of services for young people in 2015. Alongside this, the Youth Engagement Contract has secured feedback from more than 1,000 young people across Surrey in relation to different aspects of services, the information that SCC provide and local issues.
- 4.2 Members have been consulted through the Youth Task Group, Youth Steering Groups at some of SCC Youth Centres and as part of the internal evaluation of SCC commissions. SCC has also been involving Members in a recently commissioned external evaluation of Services for Young People, which will report its findings in the summer of 2014.
- 4.3 Consultation on existing and future planned work has been discussed with a variety of Members and Officers from both SCC and WBC, as well as importantly young people themselves in relation to certain aspects of the service offer.
- 4.4 The feedback from these different consultations has directly contributed to the development of our services during the year.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The budget allocated to each SCC commission is provided in the Annex.
- 5.2 The WBC planned activities and existing commissions for 2014/15 will be met from existing Youth Service budgets, including provision for consultancy advice required in respect of development of the Integrated Youth Strategy.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 The development of an Integrated Youth Strategy will reduce the potential for duplication of service and more importantly shape the future direction of travel according to young people's needs by involving not only SCC's and WBC's provision in an integrated manner but also by taking into account provision provided by the voluntary, community and faith sector who currently provide significant activity for young people.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 This report is intended to provide the Joint Committee with the information it needs to provide effective local scrutiny of the commissions and services outlined and as such will increase localism.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Through local commissioning and needs analysis we focus our resources on identifying and supporting those young people who are most at risk of experiencing negative outcomes in the future. This group includes young people from a wide range of backgrounds and its make up often varies between different parts of the county.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

| Area assessed: | Direct Implications: |
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| 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. |
| Human Resource/Training and Development | No significant implications arising from this report |

- 9.1 Crime and Disorder implications
The Youth Support Service provides support to young people who have offended and those who are at risk of offending. Other Commissions within Services for Young People also play an early help role in reducing offending behaviour amongst young people, in particular the Local Prevention Framework and Centre Based Youth Work.
- 9.2 Sustainability implications
Delivering services for young people locally reduces reliance on transport and minimises carbon emissions as a result.
- 9.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications
Young people who are looked after are a key target group for both WBC and SCC Services for Young People.
- 9.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications
Both WBC provision and SCC Services for Young People play a key role in safeguarding vulnerable children and young people in Surrey.
- 9.5 Public Health implications
SCC Services for Young People and WBC deliver a number of services that improve the health of young people in Woking and Surrey generally, in particular providing them with information so that they make informed choices about healthy lifestyles, including sexual health.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 10.1 This report and the information included in the annex have provided an overview of performance, progress and activity in Woking and highlighted the significant progress made during 2013/14 to improve outcomes for young people.

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| 11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT: |
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- 11.1 To keep the Joint Committee informed on progress during 2014/15, both WBC and SCC Services for Young People colleagues will work with and attend Youth Task Groups throughout the year to deliver the agreed programme of work. In addition bi-annual progress reports will be circulated electronically to each Task Group Member.
- 11.2 WBC and SCC will look to develop joint reports and monitoring information.

Contact Officer(s):

SCC: Jeremy Crouch, Lead Youth Officer East Surrey - 07968832437

WBC: Sue Barham, Strategic Director email: sue.barham@woking.gov.uk tel:01483 743810

Consulted:

SCC Service users were consulted in 2013 as part of an internal evaluation of commissions. The findings have been used to inform performance improvement activity and re-commissioning for 2015.

Borough Portfolio Holder

Cllr David Bittleston

County Council Cabinet Member

Linda Kemeny

Clare Curran – Associate Cabinet Member

Annexes:

Woking Performance Summary 2013/14

Sources/background papers:

- The Young People's Employability Plan 2012-17

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