

Children and Education Select Committee

Item under consideration: Creating opportunities for young people: Re-commissioning for 2015-2020

Date Considered: 10 July 2014

1. The Children and Education Select Committee considered a report outlining the proposed approach to re-commissioning of Services for Young People.
2. Officers informed the Committee that:
 - The service was setting out proposals for changes to the current model of delivery for Centre Based Youth Work, with a view to ensuring the quality of provision was improved and to make services more accessible, as well as enable future innovation.
 - Time banking was a volunteering scheme for young people; the example was given of young people volunteering to support Adult Social Care services, and so help to breakdown the intergenerational divide and lead to improved outcomes through the Family, Friends & Community Support initiative.
 - There was scope to share resources and improved outcomes with other services; the co-location of Public Health sexual health advice provision in youth centres was cited as a specific example.
3. The Committee expressed concerns regarding the implications that may arise from changes to Centre Based Youth Work, in particular the risk of affecting the quality of services as a result of uncertainty for staff. Officers responded that staff and partners are excited about the developments and that they were working with the team in question to ensure positive change.
4. The Committee made the following recommendations:
 - That the Cabinet support the proposal concerning bringing in-house the provision of Centre Based Youth Work, but also note the need to ensure continuity and employment security for the high quality staff that deliver these services.
 - That the Cabinet support proposals concerning social enterprises and time banks, and that consideration is given as to how community business expertise and experience can be utilised to support these activities.
 - That, in order to build an evidence base for how public savings are shared across services within the Council:
 - Officers bring a future report to the Committee demonstrating the benefits in improved outcomes through engaging with Health & Wellbeing partners, such as Public Health, in sharing youth centre provision and resource.

- Officers explore with Adult Social Care how the benefits of time banks can be evidenced as impacting on the savings required as part of the Family, Friends & Community Support project.

Dr Zully Grant-Duff
Chairman of the Children & Education Select Committee