



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 4 MARCH 2015
LEAD OFFICERS: SUE BARHAM (WOKING BC) / JEFF PAPWORTH (SURREY CC)

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED YOUTH STRATEGY FOR WOKING

AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Having an Integrated Youth Strategy for Woking will ensure that a mixed and diverse market of organisations and agencies that are involved in youth activity across the borough can come together under a holistic umbrella to plan, commission and deliver an integrated borough-wide Youth Offer which will deliver a number of key benefits including:

- A joined up approach for commissioning and planning services for young people which avoids duplication and double funding
- Involving partners and stakeholders in identifying young people's needs in Woking - meaning that priorities are agreed at both strategic and operational levels which will therefore have increased likelihood of delivery as a result of 'buy-in', and
- Services are planned, commissioned and delivered to meet young people's needs, secure their interest and enthusiasm and support them to achieve their aspirations and ambitions.

The Joint Committee is asked to approve the Integrated Youth Strategy (Annex 1) and accompanying Action Plan (Annex 2) and in doing so endorse the approach to a integrated Youth Offer for Woking that will improve outcomes for Woking's young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked:

- (i) To approve the Integrated Youth Strategy for Woking and associated Action Plan
- (ii) To note that a Joint Working Group will be established (reporting to the Youth Task Group) to oversee the delivery and ongoing monitoring and development of the Action Plan and,
- (iii) That an annual report be considered by the Joint Committee on delivery and proposed / amended future priorities and actions arising therefrom.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To agree an Integrated Youth Strategy and associated Action Plan that will deliver an enhanced integrated Youth Offer that Woking's young people will benefit from and will support their successful transition to adulthood.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The December 2014 meeting of Woking Joint Committee agreed the priorities of the emerging Integrated Youth Strategy following consultation with young people, practitioners and analysis of local data sets.
- 1.2 The six priorities agreed were:
 - Improving young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Reducing risky behaviour – substance misuse, smoking, anti-social behaviour and improving sexual health
 - Meeting the needs of young people that require additional support in their transition from adolescence to adulthood
 - Improving young people's experience of the local transport system – cost and safety
 - Ensuring that facilities are accessible to young people and fit for purpose
 - Promoting the Youth Offer.
- 1.3 These priorities were referred to when the recent Local Prevention (LP) commissioning was undertaken. The outcome of such commission is a separate item on the Agenda for this evenings meeting.
- 1.4 Further work has now taken place to develop the Strategy further (Annex 1) and an initial Action Plan has now been drafted (Annex 2) which the Committee are asked to approve.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The Vision that drives the proposed Integrated Youth Strategy for Woking is *Support for Young People to achieve their full potential through local partnership.*
- 2.2 In order to achieve the Vision it is proposed that we establish a local 'Youth Offer' which facilitates the integration of services. The Youth Offer consists of a wide range of provision and support for young people across the Borough. It provides all young people with access and opportunities to engage in purposeful youth activity and provision. It also targets young people that need additional support. Therefore, some services are targeted in geographical areas that experience high levels of deprivation because of the link between poverty and poor outcomes. Services are also targeted at specific groups of young people, such as those in local authority care, those that have learning difficulties and disabilities and young carers, because research demonstrates that these factors can also result in poor outcomes and a difficult transition to adulthood.
- 2.3 The Woking Youth Offer therefore incorporates: Universal Provision; Geographically Targeted Provision and Provision targeted at priority groups.

- 2.4 A critical success factor of delivering this Youth Offer will be to ensure that the Youth Offer has the following characteristics:
- Young people at the heart of planning, commissioning, delivery and evaluation
 - Providing opportunities for fun and enjoyment
 - Enabling young people to grow, thrive and develop
 - Meeting young people's needs, engaging their interest and enthusiasm
 - Meeting the needs of young people from a range of diverse backgrounds
 - Available when and where young people want and need it
- 2.5 The success of the Integrated Youth Strategy will also be dependent on the cultural attitude and behaviour of all parties to truly work together on a joint basis to deliver shared outcomes. If we demonstrate genuine belief and leadership in what we are trying to achieve and support each other along the way then there are significant benefits to be gained. Within the Strategy a number of principles are proposed to help guide the way services can be planned and delivered going forward. These include:
- Partnership – partner agencies working together within their agreed roles and responsibilities for the benefit of young people
 - Involving young people - in designing, commissioning, planning and delivering the Youth Offer
 - Educational – opportunities for young people's personal and social development and the acquisition valuable life skills through engaging in challenging and rewarding activities
 - Early intervention and prevention – engaging young people as early as possible to remove the barriers that prevent them from achieving their full potential
 - Commissioning solutions locally to meet agreed local needs and priorities
 - Co-production – all services being co-produced with young people, their families, communities and professionals
 - Equality and Diversity – all partners promoting equality and valuing the diversity of culture, heritage and backgrounds that exist in Woking.
- 2.6 It is acknowledged that a wide range of partners and providers are indeed already involved in implementing the aspirations of the Strategy and that having an integrated Action Plan will help with prioritising work and various commissions. However the intention is to extend the scope of the Strategy during the lifespan of the plan to secure the participation of a wider range of agencies and organisations that work with young people, a position which will increasingly look to support young people with complex and multiple needs.
- 2.7 It is proposed that a Joint (Officer) Working Group will lead on bringing stakeholders, including Young People together to deliver the Action Plan. This group will look to report progress to the Youth Task Group on a regular basis, and also look to advise the Youth Task Group on an annual basis of any proposed significant changes that maybe required to the agreed Priorities. It is further proposed that the Youth Task Group would report progress against the Action Plan to the Joint Committee on an annual basis.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The priorities in the Integrated Youth Strategy identify the key priorities for Woking to enable young people to achieve their full potential. Adopting a set of common priorities and an agreed joint Action Plan will enable all organisations to align their provision and, where possible, resources to ensure a collaborative approach and offer.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Both Young People and Local Practitioners were consulted and engaged with separately on the proposal for an Integrated Youth Strategy and potential priorities for Woking on 7 October 2014, at which over 70 people attended the events.
- 4.2 The priorities were taken to the Youth Task Group on 11 November 2014 and subsequently considered and approved by the Joint Committee on 3 December 2014.
- 4.3 The Priorities have since been considered by SCC Services for Young People executive management team, and their views have been integrated into the overarching Strategy document and Action Plan.
- 4.4 An Officer Working Group has jointly worked on devising the detail in the Action Plan.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Developing an Integrated Youth Strategy allows greater collaboration which will: reduce duplication; result in better co-ordination of services and the Youth Offer in general and through bringing practitioners together will enable more effective targeting of provision with shared aspirations. These factors combined will deliver better value for money as well as improved outcomes for young people.
- 5.2 Some of the Actions identified in the Action Plan will require resourcing – whether that is revenue provision and/or Officer/Practitioner’s time and resource. It is considered that the majority of Actions will be able to be delivered by means of enhanced joint commissioning/resourcing. However, the Joint Working Group will proactively seek creative means and ways of seeking resources to deliver the more resource intensive actions identified, and where appropriate will make a costed Business Case to bring forward any significant proposals for consideration.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 Developing and implementing an Integrated Youth Strategy will reduce the likelihood of duplication and allow organisations to co-ordinate delivery to best meet the needs of young people across Woking.
- 6.2 The establishment of a Joint (Officer) Working Group to oversee the delivery of the Action Plan will be critical as will be the need for key partners to ensure that they provide sufficient capacity within their organisations to enable appropriate personnel to proactively undertake the work.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The whole fundamental approach to this Integrated Youth Strategy is to ensure that the Youth Offer meets identified local need and is delivered in an integrated manner at a local level and in a manner that ensures that young people can achieve their full potential.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Whilst equality and diversity implications have been considered throughout the development of the strategy's priorities and the Action Plan, a specific EIA remains outstanding. This is in process and it is anticipated that this will be completed within the next few weeks.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
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
Evidence shows that young people who are participating in education, training, employment, and to a lesser extent, positive activities are less likely to commit crime.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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. Health and Wellbeing are priorities in the Integrated Youth Strategy.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 10.1 That further to the consultation undertaken and joint working on the Integrated Youth Strategy and Action Plan that the Joint Committee be asked:

- (i) To approve the Integrated Youth Strategy for Woking and associated Action Plan
- (ii) To note that a Steering Group will be established to oversee the delivery and ongoing monitoring and development of the Action Plan and,

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- (iii) That an annual report be considered by the Joint Committee on delivery and proposed / amended future priorities and actions arising therefrom.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 11.1 Establish a Joint (officer) Working Group to take forward the delivery of the Action Plan.
- 11.2 Consider how best to publicise and promote (and in what format) the Integrated Youth Strategy and associated Action Plan to Young People and those working with young people and their commissioners.

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Consulted:

SCC and WBC Service Users and Providers
Relevant SCC and WBC Officers

Borough Portfolio Holder

Cllr David Bittleston

County Council Cabinet Member

Linda Kemeny
Clare Curran

Annexes:

Annex 1: Integrated Youth Strategy for Woking
Annex 2: Integrated Youth Strategy – Action Plan

Sources/background papers:

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