

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 21st March 20016

LEAD OFFICER: Ben Byrne – Head of Youth Support

SUBJECT: ELMBRIDGE JOINT YOUTH STRATEGY UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The purpose of this report is to update the Local Committee on the current status of the Elmbridge Joint Youth Strategy (Appendix 1) and the work it is doing to improve outcomes for young people in the borough of Elmbridge.

Please note that the supporting documents for the Strategy are provided in the appendices to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note:

- (i) How the Joint Youth Strategy has been working in partnership across the borough to achieve the goal of improving outcomes for young people in Elmbridge including a focus on those young people experiencing inequality and social exclusion.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee has oversight for the Joint Youth Strategy and monitors the achievement of its priorities through a reporting system to the Youth Task Group.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 This report is for information.

1.2 Through the Streets Apart Project which has been jointly commissioned by Surrey County Council (SCC) and Walton Charities, Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) and SCC have been working together with voluntary, community and faith organisations to find innovative ways to support young people experiencing inequality and social exclusion.

- 1.3 The Streets Apart project has highlighted the benefits of joining up to support young people in Elmbridge. Therefore EBC and SCC, working with a range of organisations who provide services to young people, have decided to develop a joint youth strategy to set out how we will work together to support young people in the borough.
- 1.4 In addition to SCC and EBC, a range of partners have been involved in developing the strategy including schools, local voluntary, community and faith organisations, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Xcel Leisure Centre and local young people.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 Based on consultation with young people and those who work with young people, we have identified the following priorities for action. These priorities are aligned with the outcomes set out in the Surrey Young People's Outcomes Framework and will work towards the goal of employability for all young people in Elmbridge.

2.2 **Priority 1** - Supporting young people to travel around Elmbridge, enabling them to access activities which they enjoy and places where they can develop skills needed for the future.

An online Transport guide has been developed to help young people make the best use of the transport available within the borough. This has been set up on the Elmbridge Impact website and includes a Travel Smart App. Continued work is taking place around mapping collective transport resources across the borough to explore what can be used to tackle particular transport issues for young people.

2.3 **Priority 2** - Improving awareness, availability and accessibility of activities for young people in Elmbridge.

A joint working Football Project was run during the October 2015 half term accessing the Elmgrove Recreation facilities. A joint Celebration event for Young Carers in the borough was held at Walton Youth Centre facilitated by EBC and SCC. The Lifetrain Trust's Mobile Youth Bus Service bus is now accessing Elmbridge QE2 Park Cobham, and Elmbridge George Froude Park, St Johns, Walton, providing access to youth work provision in these areas where there is no youth centre provision. The Elmbridge Impact site is being regularly updated with current provisions for young people across the borough including all details for all the youth centres and activities and Local Prevention contract activities.

2.4 **Priority 3** - Supporting young people to make informed decisions about education, training and careers.

A dedicated Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) groupwork day has been established and is running within Walton Youth centre one day a week providing open access to IAG support and pathways for all young people not in education training or employment within the borough.

- 2.5 **Priority 4** - Supporting young people to develop the independent living skills necessary for a successful transition to adulthood.

A new supported accommodation property has been identified and set up by Transform Housing within the borough, providing supported accommodation for vulnerable homeless or at risk of homelessness young people. A Supported Lodgings working group has been established to develop a post which will be filled by someone with a local role. The aim is to build on the supported lodgings options in the borough thereby offering wider range of accommodation move on and support options.

- 2.6 **Priority 5** - Improving awareness of the importance of looking after emotional and mental wellbeing, knowledge of the support available and reducing barriers to accessing support.

Partnership Emotional Wellbeing workshops (Emotions Gyms) have been set up in partnership with Surrey & Borders, CAMHS & Youth Support Service (YSS). They have been publicised and offered through the Services for Young People (SYP) Local Network Partnership enabling young people from across the borough to access this provision and set up and delivered from Molesey Youth centre. The Elmbridge Impact Website section on 'Support' has been expanded to include more support options.

- 2.7 **Priority 6** - Continuing to support young people at risk of social exclusion and inequality through the Streets Apart project.

Priority 6 is detailed in Project Overview of Streets Apart document in Appendix 2.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Not applicable as 'information only' report.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Please see Summary of Consultation and Engagement document attached in Appendix 3 for details of the consultations that led to the production of the Youth Strategy and Action plan (Appendix 4).
- 4.2 Ongoing consultation is taking place with young people and stakeholders across the partnership network around key areas of the strategy and plan.
- 4.3 A framework is being produced for establishing an ongoing consultation with young people across all priority groups within the borough.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There is no dedicated budget to support the Youth Strategy and Action plan and the work is being carried out on a voluntary basis and funded by the commitment of time and resources by the partner organisations involved within the Joint Youth Strategy.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The Youth Strategy aims to focus its resources on identifying and supporting those young people who are most at risk of experiencing negative outcomes in the future and those young people experiencing inequality and social exclusion within the borough.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The Youth Strategy is in place for all young people within the borough of Elmbridge including a focus on those young people experiencing inequality and social exclusion.
- 7.2 The community impact will be improved outcomes and better opportunities and access to opportunities for young people, specifically young people experiencing inequality and social exclusion in the borough of Elmbridge.
- 7.3 The Youth Strategy's aim is to embed sustainable change and practices within partnership organisations across the borough leading to a legacy of improved outcomes and opportunities for vulnerable young people.

8. 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

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

Surrey has achieved great measures in reducing the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system and currently has the lowest number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in the whole country. Young people experiencing inequality and social exclusion are still over represented within the criminal justice system and by addressing the needs and improving outcomes for these young people we will improve the outcome of preventing them from entering into the criminal justice system.

8.2 Sustainability implications

Not applicable.

8.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

Young people who are looked after one of the key priority groups for the Joint Youth Strategy.

8.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

The services and organisations working in partnership on the Joint Youth Strategy play a key role in safeguarding vulnerable children and young people within the borough.

8.5 Public Health implications

The actions within the Joint Youth Strategy Action Plan around emotional and mental wellbeing will improve the awareness of services supporting young people with these needs in the borough and improve access to them for those vulnerable young people.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 This report and the information included in the appendices have provided an overview of the Joint Youth Strategy and Action Plan, the goals it aims to achieve and the progress it has made to date.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 The Elmbridge Youth Strategy will continue to report back to the Youth Task group on a quarterly basis on the progress it is making and the goals set out for its next quarter.

10.2 The Elmbridge Youth Strategy will continue to work on the actions set out for achieving its goals. There will be another Youth Partnership In Elmbridge Workshop event in April 2016 and we will be re-launching the Elmbridge Impact Website in June 2016.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

As set out in the main report.

Annexes:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge

Elmbridge Youth Strategy
Action Plan for Elmbridge Youth Strategy
Summary of Consultation & Engagement for Elmbridge Youth Strategy
Project Overview of Streets Apart Project
The Elmbridge Impact website address is – www.elmbridgeimpact.co.uk

Sources/background papers:

- Surrey Young People's Outcomes Framework
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