

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

LEAD OFFICER: GARATH SYMONDS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SUBJECT: SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSIONS IN WOKING 2012/13

DIVISION: WOKING

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The purpose of this report is to update the Local Committee on the progress we have made towards participation for all young people in Woking in post-16 education, training and employment during 2012-13. This is the overarching goal of Services for Young People (SYP) and our strategy to achieve it is set out in 'The young people's employability plan 2012-17'.

In particular this Local Committee report focuses on how the different commissions managed by the Commissioning and Development Team have contributed to this goal, keeping in mind that these are only a part of the system that is working to increase participation. Please note that the majority of detailed performance information is provided in two Appendices to this report.

Next steps have also been included to set out how we will keep the Local Committee informed about developments and our progress during the year ahead.

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

- (i) The progress Services for Young People has made during 2012 and 2013 to increase participation for young people in Woking, as set out in detail in the appendices to this report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee has an important part to play in supporting the local development of Services for Young People, ensuring that the services provide the right support to young people in local communities. In particular they have an important formal role in relation to the Local Prevention Framework.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 This report is for information. It provides: a summary of the participation of young people in Woking; an overview of how the different commissions and Youth Support Service have performed during the year; and a brief outline of how the Local Committee will be kept informed of our progress during 2013/14.
- 1.2 The financial year 2012/13 has been a year of transition in Services for Young People, during which a range of new commissions and services that prepare and help young people to participate in education, training and employment when they leave school have been established. At the end of March 2013, this new system of services had reduced the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 12% when compared to the same time last year - a real success for young people in the county.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The appendix to this report provides a more detailed overview of the performance of Services for Young People commissions in Woking, some key headlines have been included below for information.
- 2.2 Some innovative approaches to finding out about whether young people are engaged in education, training or employment have led to Woking having the lowest proportion of young people in Years 12 and 13 whose current activity is unknown – only 1.8% in March 2012, compared to over 3% across the county as a whole. Having a lower number of ‘unknowns’ means we can be more confident that we are providing support to improve outcomes for all those young people in Woking who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 2.3 Lakers Youth Centre has achieved Level 1 of the National Youth Agency Quality Mark.
- 2.4 Due to challenges at Woking Youth Centre, it was felt by both Surrey County Council and The Youth Consortium that a better way to deliver the outcomes, would be through direct management by Surrey County Council. The Youth Centre will continue to be open and a period of intensive development will take place between now and the end of December to enable us to deliver the best outcomes for young people
- 2.5 Sheerwater Youth Centre has achieved the required standard for its observation of practice section of the National Youth Agency Quality Mark.
- 2.6 The Local Prevention Framework in Woking suffered from a slow start. There were concerns raised with The Youth Consortium who are the provider and action plans were drawn up to resolve the issues. The resulting outcomes are that 177 young people who are at risk of becoming NEET have been engaged. This exceeds the agreed performance figure of 150 at risk young people during the period April 2012- August 2013.
- 2.7 Since the inception of the Youth Support Service in January 2012, more young people are participating and the number that are NEET in the borough has reduced by 50%.

- 2.8 Since November 2012, Woking Youth Support Service has worked with 14 homeless young people, 8 have accessed supported accommodation and a further 6 have returned home. There are currently no Woking young people aged 16/17 residing in bed and breakfast. In addition to this group, a further 9 young people in the borough have been referred as Children in Need, where intensive work has taken place to avoid family breakdown and subsequent homelessness.
- 2.9 The number of first time entrants (FTEs) in the criminal justice system has continued to fall (Surrey now has the lowest FTE rate in England and Wales), largely through the successful use of more informal restorative approaches, only 1 young person in the borough has been sentenced to custody in the past 12 months.
- 2.10 2,425 young people in Woking schools accessed online Information, Advice and Guidance as part of the Youth Engagement Contract.
- 2.11 Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council are working together on plans to improve performance and achieve the desired outcome of full participation in Woking.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 There are no options in relation to this 'for information and discussion' report.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 During 2012-13 there has been wide ranging consultation with young people, staff, and partner agencies. The Youth Engagement Contract has secured feedback from more than 35,000 young people across Surrey in relation to different aspects of SYP services, the information we provide and local issues. Members across the county have been consulted through the Local Committee Youth Task Groups, Youth Steering Groups at some of our Youth Centres and were central to the review of the Local Prevention Framework completed early this year. 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 of the commissions managed by the Commissioning and Development Team in Woking is provided in the Appendix.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the local commissioning of the Local Prevention Framework, which is currently underway, will offer better value for money, as the outcomes commissioned will be more closely aligned to local needs.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:
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- 6.1 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.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 Localism is at the heart of much of the activity commissioned and delivered by Services for Young People and all our services are co-produced (developed, designed and delivered) with young people from local communities. Particular examples of localism in action are the Local Prevention Framework, Small Grants programme and, where they exist, Steering Groups at Youth Centres.

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

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.

8.2 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

Young people who are looked after are a key target group for Services for Young People

8.3 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

Services for Young People plays a key role in safeguarding vulnerable children and young people in Surrey.

8.4 Public Health implications

Services for Young People deliver a number of services that improve the health of young people in Surrey, in particular providing them with information so that they make informed choices about healthy lifestyles, including sexual health.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 This report and the information provided in the appendix have provided an overview of performance of Services for Young People in Woking.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 To keep the Local Committee informed about the progress of the Service during 2013/14, the Development Team will present one annual report to the Local Committee, attend two Youth Task Groups per year and circulate electronic quarterly progress reports to each Task Group Member.

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Consulted:

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Annexes:

Services for Young People in Woking: Commission Performance Summary 2012/13
Woking Youth Small Grants awards 2012/13

Sources/background papers:

- The young people's employability plan 2012-17

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