

11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy

On 13 September 2011 Wiltshire Cabinet approved the Commissioning Strategy for 11 to 19 year olds. This included 7 broad priorities on

- Employment and training
 - Educational attainment
- (These were the top 2 commissioning priorities selected by young people)*
- Housing
 - Transport for young people
 - Involving young people
 - Volunteering
 - Improving integrated youth services

Cabinet also approved a Wiltshire Youth Work Offer. The key features of the Youth Work Offer are:

- Open Access Youth Work
- Higher level targeted youth work support
- Better co-ordination of positive activities for young people
- Stronger partnerships
- Increased use of volunteers

An implementation group which includes Councillor representatives has been established.

Part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer will include the formation of Youth Advisory Groups in all community areas by June 2012. Initially, Youth Advisory Groups will be piloted in Malmesbury, Melksham, Southern Wiltshire and Salisbury. The groups will play a key role in improving the co-ordination of positive activities for young people in local areas.

The groups will be set up in each local area, linked to Area Boards. Each Youth Advisory Group will be chaired by a young person under 25 and over 50% of members will be under 19 years of age. Advisory groups will plan and shape local services, making sure local young people know what is available and encouraging partnerships which avoid overlap and fill gaps. Mechanisms will be established to ensure knowledge and ideas are shared between Youth Advisory Groups.

The pilots will be co-ordinated by staff from the Integrated Youth Service and Voice and Influence Team. Terms of reference have been developed for the pilots and are available upon request. Progress with the pilots will be reported on a regular basis to the Youth Services Implementation Group, which is chaired by Julia Cramp (Service Director, Commissioning and Performance). Pilots will be evaluated in early 2012 and the learning from these will be used to support the roll out of Youth Advisory Groups to other community areas.

For further information on Youth Advisory Groups please contact:

Sally Willox (Locality Team Leader, Integrated Youth)

Sally.Willox@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel: 01373 822335

or

James Fortune (Lead Commissioner, 11-19)

James.Fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel: 01225 713341