

Trowbridge Area Board – Thursday 7 July 2011

ITEM 7(ii)

Chairman's Announcements

Wiltshire and Young People's Trust - Draft Commissioning Strategy for Young People Aged 13 to 19

Introduction

Wiltshire Children's Trust draft commissioning strategy for services for young people aged 13 to 19 has been issued for consultation. This is an important strategy which outlines plans for improving services for the 13 to 19 age range. The draft has sections on:

- An introduction including the purpose and scope.
- The national and local context for work with 13 to 19 year olds.
- Local needs and services.
- An analysis of the current position from the points of view of young people and staff and managers who work with the 13 to 19 age range.
- The commissioning priorities including some suggestions for the future delivery of youth work services in Wiltshire. These suggestions were developed with a range of stakeholders and wider views are now being sought.

If you would like a copy of the draft please email Pathways@wiltshire.gov.uk. The draft strategy is also available at www.wiltshirepathways.org on the home page and under "Latest News".

Developing the Strategy

Young people and representatives from a range of agencies working with 13 to 19 year olds have been involved right from the start and their views have informed the draft including the commissioning priorities and youth work suggestions.

Consultation

Consultation is taking place for 12 weeks from 13th May to 5th August 2011. The final strategy will be presented to Wiltshire Council's Cabinet in September 2011 along with a report making specific proposals on future plans for youth work. The draft includes key consultation questions. Written responses to the consultation should be sent to Pathways@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Purpose of the 13 to 19 Commissioning Strategy

The purpose of the commissioning strategy is to achieve better outcomes for young people aged 13-19 by:

- Ensuring a good range of high quality services for all young people.

- Providing an early integrated response when young people are vulnerable or at risk, as soon as problems or issues arise.
- Ensuring cost effective services by improved co-ordination and reducing any overlaps and duplication.

Priorities:

Campus Developments

The draft commissioning strategy notes that there are plans for developing a campus in each of the 18 community areas. Each campus would bring together a number of local services provided by the Council and other agencies in a building or collection of buildings.

It is envisaged that each campus will contain some space which will be used by the 13 to 19 age range. The draft includes a specific consultation question on space for young people in each campus.

Commissioning Priorities for Services for 13 to 19 Year Olds

The draft includes a number of suggested commissioning priorities outlined in the table below. The final strategy will include specific actions planned.

1	Maximising the participation and involvement of young people
2	Improving educational attainment
3	Supporting young people to move into employment and training
4	Improving access to information, advice and guidance
5	Increasing the availability of affordable housing
6	Reducing the number of young people who are unable to live with their families
7	Improving services available for young people who are engaged in risky behaviour
8	Improving services for young people with disabilities
9	Exploring options to improve transport for young people
10	Encouraging and increasing volunteering opportunities for young people.
11	Making sure information is available on services and activities for 13 to 19 year olds

During the consultation feedback is being sought on whether these are the right priorities and which, if any, should have higher priority.

Future Youth Work Services and Savings

The draft strategy also outlines 4 suggestions for future youth work services including some initial thoughts on making the savings from youth work budgets noted in the Council's financial plan. The suggestions are put forward in order to promote discussion and debate and there is not a favoured suggestion. Some of the suggestions could be combined and through discussions during the consultation period new ideas are likely to emerge.

More information on the draft 13 to 19 commissioning strategy and the suggestions for future youth work services will be provided at the Area Board meeting.