

Public Participation

New operating model for open access youth service (review of positive leisure-time activities for young people)

**Questions from Peter Williams & Responses from
Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children's Services**

Question 1

The model refers to "community-led"; what is being proposed is not a delegation to the community but delegation to the Local Area Boards. Would it not be more meaningful to refer to it a "locally-led"?

Response

Section 5.13 of the cabinet report outlines key features of the proposed community-led operating model. As stated, community area boards will be the focus for delivery and support for positive activities for young people in their community. Funding will be devolved to community area boards to develop and support activities. This is the rationale for describing the proposed operating model as "community-led".

Question 2

The proposed operating model includes the implementation of a quality mark scheme. What example has the Council in mind when putting this forward, how will it be introduced, how will it contribute to the arrangements for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the service, and how will the Council ensure that it delivers improved outcomes and contributes to the desire for continuous improvement?

Response

Section 6 of the cabinet report states that *'Local Youth Networks, a quality mark scheme and improved internal commissioning arrangements will help facilitate high quality youth work and activities across all providers, leading to improved outcomes for young people'*.

It is our aspiration that the proposed quality mark scheme will be developed as part of the implementation process by the community-led governance and impact working group outlined in section 5.23 of the cabinet report. This will be comprised of key officers from across the council. The contribution of the voluntary and community sector and other key partners will be encouraged.

As part of the quality mark scheme the council will not recommend specific providers of positive activities but will develop a directory which providers can register to be part of. As well as contact details and an outline of the activities they offer, providers will be asked to confirm they meet certain criteria covering health & safety, equalities, safeguarding, policies and governance etc.

The council has already developed a similar scheme for personalised learning providers, which schools use to select providers which meet certain criteria.

Question 3

The report suggests that the model is likely to attract additional funding (ref 11.7), implying that applications could be submitted to external bodies. How does the Council plan to assure all voluntary groups and stakeholders that it will not seek to gain funding in competition with their fundraising efforts?

Response

Section 5.7 of the cabinet report provides information on key findings from the consultation. One key finding is that the voluntary and community sector should play a greater role in the provision of positive activities, with support from the council and better coordination of local provision.

As stated in section 5.13 of the cabinet report the proposed new operating model will include Local Youth Network's seeking out opportunities for closer partnership working to avoid overlap and duplication, as well as exploit possibilities for income generation.

It is our aspiration that through the enabling function of community youth officers voluntary and community groups will be supported to maximise their fundraising efforts as well as seek out other sources of funding. We believe that the Local Youth Networks will facilitate collaboration and not competition, encouraging providers to work together for the benefit of young people.