

**North Wiltshire District Council
Youth Strategy
2007-2009**

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Introduction

Children and Young People's services nationally continue to go through extensive reform, underpinned by the Every Child Matters and the subsequent Youth Matters agenda. This Youth Strategy sets out the needs for the young people living in North Wiltshire.

The strategy covers the priorities identified by young people themselves through active engagement and consultation and reflects the services and opportunities for young people aged 13-19. This is not a Children's plan and does not reflect the entire scope of services available for children and young people, their parents and carers. It is a demonstration of the commitment of North Wiltshire District Council to listen to and value the voices of local young people and respond to their suggestions on how to increase opportunities and positive outcomes for the young people of North Wiltshire.

North Wiltshire District Council aims to embed the needs of young people throughout strategic and policy development and therefore further information on services for young people can be found in the:

- Play Strategy
- Community Strategy
- Local Community Plans
- Community Safety Strategy
- First Active Strategy

Actions set out in the Youth Strategy will underpin the Council's corporate priorities for Young People through the Corporate Plan and the Transition Plan towards One Council for Wiltshire.

Young People in North Wiltshire

Following extensive consultation most young people agreed with the statement, 'North Wiltshire is a good place for young people to live' in comparison to other parts of the country. They felt it was a relatively safe place to live and socialise. Many young people however, felt there was very little for young people to do, very few youth clubs and facilities. There is a feeling amongst young people that having in place appropriate and easily accessible facilities would impact on anti-social behaviour.

Young people in North Wiltshire face:

- Isolation and boredom
- Lack of choice around choosing to live in the area independent of their families, due to lack of affordable housing
- Negative perception of young people due to them 'hanging around' and 'being a nuisance'
- A high fear of crime especially after dark

What Young People said they wanted

Good Public
Transport

The
Environment

Improve the
facilities that we
already have

Having more
places to go
and things to
do

Promoting a positive
image of young
people and breaking
down barriers
between different
age groups

Having opportunities to
give your opinions and
having those opinions
listened to and acted on

Education

North Wiltshire District Council Pledge to Young People

- We will make North Wiltshire a place that's safe and healthy for Young people to live in
- We want young people to have access to a range of activities and places to go
- We want young people to have opportunities to get in involved in your local community, in local democracy and know what is said will be valued and have an impact on service development and delivery
- We want young people to have a positive image and to be respected and have equality in the community
- We will make sure that our services and buildings are easy to access and suitable for young people

National Context

Every Child Matters (2003)

In 2003 the Government publishes 'Every Child Matters', in response to unprecedented debate and consultation on the needs of and service provision for children and young people, their families and carers. The guidelines set out also secured increased welfare and protection of children and young people by outlining better ways of working for professionals through multi disciplinary teams. In March 2004 the Children's Bill was published alongside 'Every Child Matters: Next Steps', together these documents direct a co-ordinated approach to services for children and young people.

Following the consultation five headline areas were identified by children themselves and adopted as the '5 ECM' outcomes:

- Be healthy: enjoying good physical and mental health and living a health lifestyle
- Make a positive contribution: to the community and to society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour
- Enjoying and achieving: getting the most out of life and developing broad skills for adulthood
- Staying safe: being protected from harm and neglect and growing up with independence
- Achieve economic wellbeing: overcoming socio-economic disadvantages to achieve their full potential

Achieving what is set out in ECM will need Considerable amendments to policy at both a national and local level , this should include:

- Better prevention
- A stronger focus on parenting and families
- Early intervention
- Improving accountability and integration
- Workforce reform

The introduction of Wiltshire's Children's Trust and it's subsequent Children's & Young People's Plan has began to address the following:

- Strategic level involvement from the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Strategic level value to the vies of children and young people
- Establish locally agreed outcomes for children and their families
- Shared planning and workforce reform
- Creation of multi disciplinary teams and co-ordinated services, operating within Children's centres, extended schools, and other community based locations
- Joint assessment of need, leading to joint commissioning of services
- Sharing information, pooling resources and budgets to aid development of shared services

Implementing the recommendations set out in Every Child Matters effectively will depend on the integration of other legislation that impact on children and young people.

The Local Context

Many of the services in North Wiltshire for young People provided by North Wiltshire District Council are delivered at the discretion of the political administration at the time.

The District Council works closely with the County Council to fund and provide services along with other statutory and voluntary organisations in partnership.

Because of the fragility of funding for youth provision many projects and services have a short life span and securing funding for their continuation is key to their survival.

North Wiltshire has had an active Young People's Council (YPC) since 2004, the YPC area group of 24 young people aged 13-19 from across North Wiltshire, meeting once a month to discuss issues facing young people:



- We campaign to change the negative views of Young people
- We put forward young people's views at important meetings e.g. LSP
- We talk to local politicians and decision makers
- We consult other young people through events, our schools and youth centres

The YPC links to the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) the Countywide youth forum, which is elected by their peers from within schools and youth groups to, champion young peoples issues across the County.

There is one young person elected to represent North & West Wiltshire and one young person elected to represent Salisbury and Kennet on the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP).

North Wiltshire District Council is the only District in Wiltshire that has a designated Youth Involvement Officer who provides a co-ordinated approach to youth participation and ensures collaboration between the District and the County Youth Development Service Voice and Influence team.

Youth Development and Involvement in North Wiltshire continues to be hailed as demonstrating best practice across the District. Research carried out to support the five Councils integration of equality standards highlighted it as exemplary in their research and was also highlighted at the recent, Equality and Quality consultation day held in Devizes Dec 07

Actions for Youth

North Wiltshire District Council works with Public, Voluntary and Community sector organisations towards individual and shared government targets to develop and deliver services for young people.

North Wiltshire District Council works in Partnership to deliver comprehensive services through a shared approach to maximise resources and avoid duplication, making information about services clear and accessible.

North Wiltshire District Council as part of its customer focussed approach works to ensure young people are able to access district council services effectively, and be able to signpost any enquires to appropriate services if young people present themselves to the Council.

North Wiltshire District Council as part of the transition to one Council ensures that issues relating to young people drawn from consultation and activities are communicated to the new emerging authority

North Wiltshire District Council continues to take up its role as a statutory partner on the Wiltshire Children & Young People's trust Board

The following action plan highlights a number of key objectives set out against the ECM outcomes addressing issues raised by young people for young people and how partners in Wiltshire will address them. As a statutory partner on the Wiltshire Children's Trust, the District Council has a responsibility to support the delivery of key actions highlighted in the Children's plan 2006-2009.

Be Healthy

Goals	How	Why	Who
Improve the health of Young People in North Wiltshire	Continued provision of sport festivals and activities providing for schools through sports development	<p>Target the reduction of obesity in children</p> <p>Increase social interaction with peers</p>	NWDC sport development, PCT, schools and sports providers
	Improve attitudes and activities to promote healthy lifestyles	<p>Reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug misuse</p> <p>Reduce smoking</p> <p>Increase exercise and encourage healthier eating</p>	

Making a Positive Contribution

Goals	How	Why	Who
Young people to actively contribute to the Council at a Strategic level	1 young person represented at LSP meetings and involved in development of community plans	To ensure YP actual views are incorporated throughout policy and service development not assumed	North Wiltshire District Council LSP YPC
Provide more social opportunities for young people aged 13 -18, ensuring targeted support for the most vulnerable	Consulting with young people with the support of community plans and the play strategy to identify gaps and development responsive service provision	Required response to the outcomes set out in the green paper ' youth matters' identified as a priority area	NWDC, Connexions, YPC, CAP's, YOT,
Young People have access to volunteering opportunities and community schemes	Promoting voice and influence and a variety of schemes. E.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award, Millennium Volunteer, Wiltshire Award, Young Assessors	To enable Young People to make a positive contribution and expand their skills and experience	WCC, NWDC, CVS, WAY
Enhance Environment issue awareness	Through education at primary school age, and through community events e.g. Clean up Calne	Promote waste minimisation through the reduce, reuse, recycle message	NDWC, schools, WWT
Reduce the number of YP involved in ASB and offending	Support the actions outlined in the Youth Offending Service Prevention Strategy	To reduce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of crime • The fear of crime • Number of YP as victims of crime 	CSP, Police, Connexions, YOT

Enjoying and achieving

Goals	How	Why	Who
Increasing the range of activities available for young people out of school hours	Provision of safe places to go and opportunities for young people to participate in Develop and support Arts and Sports Provision and Youth Projects	Implements the ECM and Youth Matters agenda and responds directly to feedback from young people	District Councils Schools Wiltshire County Council

Staying safe

Goals	How	Why	Who
To improve housing options for young people	(LPSA) Reduce number of 16/17 yr. olds living in Bed & Breakfast and unsuitable accommodation	Ensures young people have access to safe and suitable living accommodation	District Councils Wiltshire County Council
Reduction in number of anti social behaviour reports	Target areas with higher levels of ASB including vandalism, support drop-in centres, U18 discos and events	Reduce incidence of anti-social behaviour	NWDC, CSP, Police, PCSO's

Achieving economic wellbeing

Goals	How	Why	Who
Reduce the number of Young People not in Education, Employment or Training	Improve on the current level of involvement of 94.3% year on year.	Improve long term opportunities and aspirations for young people	WCC, NWDC, Connexions, LSC
	Improve access to learning opportunities		
	Ensure equality of learning opportunities		
Improve accessibility to affordable transport	Explore the idea of extending subsidised transport for young people in training or low paid employment as well as those continuing in education	Transport is a major barrier to the opportunities young people can access due to the rural nature of much of the County	WCC, NWDC, Connexions, Job Centre +
	Extend Wheels to work programme		
	Accessibility to transport on weekends and evenings		

Specific actions can be found in the following supporting plans:

Play Strategy (2007) North Wiltshire District Council
Connexions Business Plan
Community Safety Partnership Plan
Young People's Support Service Improvement Plan (2005)
Wiltshire Assembly of Youth Agenda for Action
Wiltshire Children's Plan 2006-2009
Youth Development Service Plan
Community Area Plans
Community Strategy for North Wiltshire
Wiltshire 14 -19 Strategy

Glossary

NWDC North Wiltshire District Council
YPC Young People's Council
YOT Youth Offending Team
WAY Wiltshire Assembly of Youth
CAP Community Area Partnership

CSP Community Safety Partnership
CVS Council of Voluntary Services
ECM Every Child Matters
ASB Anti Social Behaviour
PCSO Police Community Support Officer

