

Report

Report subject: Discussion on Local Authority Youth Work within Southern Area

Report to: Southern Area Committee

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Update on Wiltshire County Council Youth Work within Southern Area

1. Report Summary:

To inform members of current Wiltshire County Council delivery within the Southern Area and indicate the current thinking within the Development Service for Young People on future funding for youth work. This report is for discussion.

2. Background:

2.1 Sections 41(b) and 53(1) and (2) of the Education Act 1944 placed a duty on local education authorities to secure provision for young people and others in their areas of social, physical and recreational training and leisure time activities, co-operating as appropriate with: 'any voluntary societies or bodies whose objects and provision of facilities or the organisation of activities of a similar character'. This (as amended by Section 120 of the 1988 Education Reform Act) provided the legal base for youth provision by Local Education Authorities.

2.2 The last period has seen significant progress in developing a statutory base for youth work and has seen the publication of Transforming Youth Work, (2001), Resourcing Excellent Youth Work (REYS) 2002, Youth Matters (2005), Youth Matters Next Steps (2006) and Aiming High for Young People– a Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities (2007), which have all resulted in The Education and Inspection Act 2006 providing a new legal duty for Local Authorities to secure access for young people to a range of positive activities to do in their spare time using youth work approaches from 1st January 2007.

2.3 Local Authorities have traditionally funded youth work on an ad hoc basis so there has been a lack of consistent planning in the location and delivery of youth work which has led to the situation whereby funding of youth work and the building of youth facilities has been opportunistic which has meant that some areas have more facilities whilst others have less.

2.4 Resourcing Excellent Youth Services (REYS) identified a number of standards, notably that Local Authorities should spend £100 per head for every young person aged 13-19 and provide 1 Full Time Equivalent Youth Worker to every 400 young people. None of these Standards are statutory.



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2.5 Based on Government figures, Wiltshire County Council currently spends £107 per head on youth work but as the budget for 2008/09 is £3.59 million and the current youth population aged 13-19 is 42,300 (based on mid year estimates 2007) this would equate to £84.87 per head. The current staff to young people ratio is 1:825 (May 2008).

3. Current Position in Southern Area

3.1 Wiltshire County Council delivers its youth work through the current 20 Community Areas and 8 Locality Areas. Locality E covers Wilton, Downton, Mere and Tisbury and Locality F covers Salisbury and Durrington and Amesbury.

3.2 Downton is the Community Area within the Southern Area and currently has one Full Time Youth Worker (vacant since Sept 08). Current delivery is limited to 3 hrs per week as the worker from Wilton is attempting to provide cover whilst recruitment for the Downton post is undertaken. There is limited Local Authority youth work delivery in the outlying villages within the Southern Area.

3.3 It should be noted that until recently there was no Full Time worker in Downton and the establishment of this post was an attempt by the Development Service for Young People to respond to the needs of young people.

4. Future Options:

4.1 Wiltshire Development Service for Young People will be introducing a new Staffing Funding Formula which aims to make the funding of youth work more transparent. The Formula would provide funding to each Community Area as follows:

- Fixed Staffing Cost – 25%
- Population of Young People aged 13-19 – 50%
- Deprivation – 10%
- Sparsity – 10%
- Emergency Funding – 5% (held centrally)

4.2 The intention is to introduce the Funding Formula between September 2009 and March 2010.

4.3 One option to increase delivery within any village or community is to identify funding from other sources e.g. Parish Council Precepts. For example the hourly rate for a part-time Assistant Youth Worker would be £9.70 per hr (including on costs) which equates to £1500 for one worker, working 3 hrs per week for one year. Any partner who providing funding would clearly have a say in determining how that work is directed e.g. provide youth work in a specific village.

4.4 Discussions need to take place with all partners to decide if the best option is to deliver youth work from one town and provide transport from outlying villages or look to provide youth work in each village within the Southern Area.

4.5 There are a number of different settings for youth work in the Southern Area including centre based, school-based and detached/outreach and each of these has benefits and drawbacks which need to be considered.

4.6 The Development Service for Young People is committed to working with partners to determine the most appropriate means of ensuring that young people have access to inspiring and challenging youth work opportunities and welcomes discussions such as this.

5. **Consultation Undertaken** – As this Report is for Information and Discussion no consultation is currently required.

6. **Recommendations:**
None.

7. **Background Papers:**
Education Act (1944)
Transforming Youth Work (2001)
Resourcing Excellent Youth Services (2002)
Youth Matters (2005)
Youth Matters- Next Steps (2006)
Education and Inspection Act (2006)
Aiming High for Young People – Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities (2007)

These documents are available on the Department for Children, Families and Schools website on www.dcf.gov/publications

8. **Implications:**
As this is a discussion document there are, at the moment, no implications of this Report