

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 meeting monthly since September 2011 to coordinate delivery of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer from 1 April 2012. Good progress has been made to date and the Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to consider this progress and support the following initiatives:

1. Increase use of volunteers

A sub group of the Youth Services Implementation Group has been exploring ways of encouraging more local volunteers to get involved with youth work provided in Council funded youth centres. This links to the Council's overall partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan.

The group has been working on the establishment of a joint process between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector for the registration and training of local volunteers to support youth based activities. A guidance pack is now being developed for all Youth Development Centres which sets out the best way to go about registering and training volunteers. Those who wish to volunteer will be able to claim reasonable expenses and develop their skills through appropriate training opportunities.

The group has noted the importance of attracting and encouraging local people within community areas to become involved in volunteering opportunities within their local Youth Development Centre. Consequently, the group would like to invite Area Boards to support this endeavour by supporting local youth centres to promote volunteering opportunities within each community area.

Details of voluntary roles with young people will be available from the Volunteer Centre and/or local Youth Development Centre from 1 April 2012.

2. Youth Advisory Groups

Part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer includes the formation of Youth Advisory Groups in all community areas. Pilots are currently taking place 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.

Youth Advisory Groups will have commenced in 20 community areas across Wiltshire by the end of October 2012. Learning from the pilots will be used to inform the development of groups in other areas.

The Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to support these developments and to establish strong and meaningful links with Youth Advisory Groups in each community area.

3. Income Generation

As part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer the Youth Development Service has been set an income generation target of forty five thousand pounds. This will be raised through a combination of subscriptions, fund raising and seeking sponsorship.

A revised staffing funding formula has been used to calculate an income generation target for each community area. The targets will be put into place from 1st April 2012.

The Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to support local Youth Development Centres in their endeavours to attract and raise income. For example, supporting local fundraising events and attracting local business sponsorship.

The Youth Services Implementation Group invites feedback from Area Boards on any of the initiatives highlighted above.

Any comments, queries or questions should be sent to james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk by 31st July 2012.

James Fortune

Lead Commissioner 11-19

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Paths Improvement Grants Scheme (PIGS)

Do you have an idea to improve access to the countryside or to create new links between settlements in your area?

The Paths Improvement Grants Scheme aims to help local people to make innovative improvements to countryside access in their area. In 2012 around £60,000 will be made available for community led projects.

If you have an idea for a scheme please contact Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way and Countryside Team Michael.Crook@wiltshire.gov.uk or Tel: 01225 713349.

Further details of the scheme are available on the Countryside Access Forum website - www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 13 July 2012.

Help to Live at Home - update

The council are continuing to work with the NHS, selected providers and residents of Wiltshire to implement the 'Help to live at Home' service. This service will, upon full implementation improve the experiences of people and their carers who require support, whilst ensuring that the changes are sustainable in the future.

The main priority at this stage is managing the movement of customers from existing providers to the new Help to Live at Home providers: Enara Complete Care, Ridgeway Care (now re-named Aster Living), Somerset Care at Home and Leonard Cheshire Disability. This is being managed on an individual basis to ensure that customer requirements are taken into account. It is important that these changes are undertaken with as little disruption as possible to the customer concerned.

Testing out the New Model:

The Help to Live at Home service is a new way of working for the Council and is unique in the country we believe. What is different is that providers will only be paid if they deliver the service that customers, the Council and NHS want. This will be

introduced later in the year however, before introducing this new way of working we want to test it out which we plan to do so in February in West Wiltshire working with Somerset Care. Whilst we are testing out this new payment system we are also going to test out the new response service as well as the new equipment service so we can be sure that it all works as we intended.

Practical Help and Support at Home:

In November a new contract for community equipment and practical help in the home was awarded to Medequip Assistive Technology Limited, a national organisation with offices in Calne. In addition to bathing aids, grab rails and ramps, Medequip will also be providing telecare equipment, continence products and pressure care. In the future Medequip will also be opening new retail outlets and will be employing specialist advisors, able to help people to find the right equipment for them. Medequip are also planning to operate a mobile equipment "bus" able to go all over the county so that people in rural areas will be able to see what equipment is available to help them.

Response service

A key part of the Help to Live at Home approach is to offer telecare to customers with a call centre and personal response service able to visit people at home if necessary.. This service will be available county-wide and will operate 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. There will be an opportunity for people to purchase the service privately if they are not eligible for a service from the Council. The response service will be provided by Wiltshire Medical Services (WMS) in partnership with the NHS, which is based in Chippenham. When the customer presses their alarm or a telecare sensor in their home indicates that there may be a problem, an alarm is received by the call monitoring centre at WMS who assess the most appropriate response to resolve the situation.

Issues and Concerns:

In making these changes the Council wants to hear from people who are receiving these services about their experiences. We believe that the changes that are being implemented will provide excellent services to the whole population of Wiltshire but recognise that it will take time for services to settle down. Should you have any concerns about services you or someone you know is receiving please contact: 01225 712553 anytime between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Cleveland Bridge Weight Restriction

Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council are proposing to implement an experimental weight restriction in Bath between the A36 Bathwick Street and the A36 Beckford Road (commonly known as the Cleveland Bridge restriction). This restriction will effectively prevent a significant proportion of large HGVs (those over 18 tonnes) from travelling through Bath along the A36 and will inevitably have some impact on other routes including some in Wiltshire.

The traffic order has been proposed to address road safety issues, intimidation and air pollution within the London Road area of Bath. This 'experimental' order allows B&NES Council to implement the restriction without the usual formal requirements / consultation of a normal traffic order for a period of 18 months. It also allows B&NES Council to implement the restriction without robust evidence or modelling; instead, B&NES Council will monitor the situation as it occurs. Significantly, the experimental order only allows representations to be made during the first six months of the order period. After the full 18 month period, the order can be made permanent.

Wiltshire Council, other neighbouring authorities, the Highways Agency, various community / parish groups and Area Boards have opposed this restriction on the basis that robust evidence and consultation has not been provided, and that the restriction is being proposed on a route that is part of the primary route network. It is considered that B&NES Councils evidence to support their assessment of the likely redistribution of HGV traffic particularly on Wiltshire roads is unrealistic.

A challenge to the legitimacy of placing a restriction on a Primary Route has been raised against B&NES Council first informally, and then by a Freedom of Information request. As stated Under EU Directive 89/460/EC, the Primary Route Network (of which the A36 forms a part) must provide unrestricted access to 40 tonne vehicles. This was recently re affirmed in the DfT's *Guidance on Road Classification and the Primary Route Network* (March 2012). Therefore placing such a restriction on a Primary Route as intended appears contrary to this directive. The guidance also states that *'Unless the agreement of all affected authorities can be obtained, including the Highways Agency where appropriate, then changes to the primary route should not be made'*. There are clearly still objections and the challenge to this scheme still remains, with B&NES Council withholding information on how the EU Directive can be denied, under legal advice.

Although opposed, B&NES council have decided to continue with this scheme and implementation has recently been delayed until June to allow Wiltshire Council time to purchase and place monitoring equipment within the County's boundary to record the 'before and after' traffic effects of the scheme.

It is understood that B&NES Council intend to produce a report by the end of April on the informal consultations that they have carried out to date. Prior to formally advertising the experimental order in June, B&NES Council propose to carry out a further selective round of informal consultation with those who have made a previous representation.

Given the limited nature of this consultation, if you consider that B&NES Council's proposed restriction may affect your community, please send your comments to [Councillor Roger Symonds](#) of B&NES Council.

INFORMAL ADULT EDUCATION IN WILTSHIRE

What is Informal Adult Education?

1. Informal adult education (also known as informal adult and/or community learning) refers to courses which are offered as leisure activities and not those which are focused on developing basic skills or qualifications relating to employment.

Why should we be concerned about Informal Adult Education?

2. Informal Adult Education contributes to economic and social well-being in communities. It can help with a variety of objectives including:
 - adult social care
 - health and well-being
 - crime reduction and community safety
 - democratic engagement
 - economic development.

What does Wiltshire Council do?

3. Currently, Wiltshire Council offers informal adult education through public libraries, its Family Learning Team and at Urchfont Manor College (which is due to close in September 2012).

Who else is involved?

4. Other providers who offer informal adult education include Wiltshire College, the Workers' Educational Association and Learning Curve, in addition to which there is a huge range of activities organised by groups and individuals taking place in communities across the county.

Does the council have to provide it?

5. Informal Adult Education is a non-statutory service for a local authority meaning that the council is able to decide the extent of its involvement in the planning and provision of the service.
6. Local Authorities may take a range of roles in relation to informal adult education, including direct delivery, strategic commissioning, shaping the new all age careers service, coordinating with the Work Programme and as key players in Local Enterprise Partnerships.

What does the Government do?

7. The government, through the Department for Business, Industry and Skills (BIS), provides financial support for informal adult education (which it mostly refers to as “community learning”). The government’s support for community learning in Wiltshire is much lower than that provided to other comparable local authorities. Government funding to Wiltshire Council currently supports the provision of Family Learning which is focused upon improving the basic skill level of parents to enable them to support their children’s learning.
8. BIS is reviewing its strategy to support community learning and is intending to use the public funding subsidy to support access, and progression in its widest sense, especially for people who are disadvantaged.
9. In the 2012/13 BIS will pilot different locally-based ‘community learning trust’ models to channel funding and lead the planning of local provision in cities, towns and rural settings. If this proves to be effective the model will be rolled out across England to begin full operation from summer 2013. The new trusts are intended to take account of the views of local government, local communities and local business leaders to ensure the purpose and objectives for the budget are implemented in ways that meet local need.

Why are we being asked about Informal Adult Learning now?

10. At its meeting in January, the council’s cabinet decided to close Urchfont Manor by the end of September 2012 while recognising that future Adult Education Service provision, including local flexible delivery in line with the BIS proposals, will be determined by cabinet after consultation with service users, area boards, local communities and partners;
11. Wiltshire Council is taking this opportunity to undertake a review of its provision and support of informal adult education across the county.
12. This report seeks the views of the Area Boards on the council’s future policy towards informal adult education.
13. The council is establishing a community campus in each community area. These premises could be used to offer accommodation for a variety of activities, including informal adult education.

Options for Consideration

14. Option 1 – Wiltshire Council to take no action in relation to informal adult education

The council does not have to get involved with Informal Adult Education. There are a number of adult education providers which are able to offer activities as and when they wish. Some receive government funding to support their provision while others rely upon payments by participants or support from other sources. The council has no current budget of its own to support informal adult education.

For:

Activities organised by Wiltshire College and other providers will continue
No financial risk to the council

Against:

Unable to seek government funding
Council and communities have little influence over what is offered
No continuation of activities run at Urchfont Manor College

15. Option 2 – Wiltshire Council to be a direct provider of informal adult education.

The council could continue to offer adult education direct to the public on a similar basis as the courses offered at Urchfont Manor College. The council would decide what would be offered, make all the arrangements and promote the courses. Unless a subsidy was available, the full cost would be charged to participants. Activities could be held on a residential basis, utilising suitable residential accommodation in the county, or on a non-residential basis.

For:

The council could use information from communities to decide what to offer
Some courses from Urchfont Manor College could continue in different venues
The council could ensure the quality of activities being provided.

Against:

Financial risk for the council
Depends upon the ability of participants to pay
The council will need to develop a system to organise courses, take bookings, etc.
May be seen as being in competition with other providers

16. Option 3 – Wiltshire Council to facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level.

Rather than be the organiser and provider of activities, the council could work through its network of area boards and community area networks to identify the demand for specific informal adult education provision in each community area. The demands will include provision for leisure learning and that needed to reach disadvantaged members of the community. The council could establish partnerships with adult education providers to share this information and meet this demand. Providers would be able to offer activities with reduced risk and in venues to suit the participants.

This approach would require the active involvement of members of the community area networks if it is to be delivered in a affordable way.

For:

- Uses expertise and experience of other providers
- Little financial risk to the council
- Reduced financial risk to providers
- Builds upon network of community areas
- Providers and council able to bid for BIS funding

Against:

- Level of activity may vary from one area to another
- Will have to establish system to identify demand
- Different providers use different systems

17. Option 4 – Wiltshire Council to coordinate and promote informal adult learning opportunities offered across the county.

Currently, every provider publishes their own prospectus and promotes their activities independently. With the support of education providers, it may be possible to collate this information to provide a single compendium of informal adult education in Wiltshire, both residential and non-residential. Such a publication (available on-line) could not only serve to improve access to informal adult education but may also encourage more education providers who would be able to promote their activities in a cost-effective way.

For:

Single source of information for participants

Joint promotion may increase take-up

Providers able to reach more people

Low cost to providers

Against:

Initial development costs

Difficulty in linking to providers' systems

Willingness of providers to contribute

What do you think?

18. The area board is invited to comment upon the options presented above.
19. The area board is invited to indicate which of the options it would wish to recommend to cabinet.

Next Steps

20. A questionnaire survey is available for completion by service users and members of the public.
21. The cabinet will receive a report in September 2012 on the outcome of the survey, together with the responses from area boards which will inform its decision on the council's strategy for informal adult education.

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