

Appendix 3: Brighton & Hove City Council Strategic Objectives and how the Youth Service contributes towards their achievement.

1. Improving quality of life in the City

The Service plays an active part in supporting the development of this area of work through secondary services and in partnership with other sections in the Authority. For instance the secondment of a worker to the YOT, addressing bullying in a non-school setting and supporting through group work programmes in schools and with the development of the Connexions Service.

In particular, the Service aims to ensure the provision of high quality educational, leisure, sporting and cultural opportunities for children and young people in and out of school. The Service provides a diverse range of activities throughout its 5 youth centres and in partnership with 5 voluntary/community organisations. These programmes have total contact levels of 23,489 per year with 1,639 different young people. In addition the Service also has contact with 9,669 different young people per year in project and detached work sessions. The Service also co-ordinates delivery of diversionary programmes in targeted areas.

2. Strengthening of the city's economy

To improve skills and participation in learning (targeting disadvantaged groups)

The Service is developing the delivery of accredited learning programmes for young people aged over 14 and developing the community capacity building through the training of community members and older young people as potential staff members. This has led to a number of staff returning to training and working towards a level 2 NVQ and two young people in the last year have successfully completed training and gained full time employment within the Youth Support Service

3. Stronger Social wellbeing of the City

To promote and extend educational and social inclusion in order to maximise educational outcomes and life chances of children and young people. Specifically target those that currently underachieve and are at greatest risk of exclusion

Through work undertaken by the Learning Programmes and full time staff we have developed projects in four secondary schools which have targeted young people at risk of exclusion. This work will now be developed and delivered more extensively through the Intensive PA's being deployed through the Connexions contract to launch the Connexions Service in Brighton & Hove as part of the Sussex Connexions Partnership.

The Youth Support Service is actively committed to the Connexions Service. We are active members of the LMC and also the managing section for the new Intensive PA's. Before April 2003, we will be re-aligning the Service so that 80% of the Service reflects the Connexions' targets

4. Better council services and easier access to them

To improve the quality of services and, where appropriate, secure integration of services to children and young people both across the Directorate and with other partner agencies

The Service delivers targeted work to minority groups and is developing integrated provision through a number of clubs. The project and detached work also focuses on minority and disengaged young people. The Duke of Edinburgh programme has successfully developed an integrated programme with eight young people achieving Gold Award level this year.

To secure equality of access to learning particularly for those that require additional or different support

As above

Improve performance on customer service

The Service has, as a key focus, the active engagement of young people in the decision making process and consultation on work being developed. Many of the new initiatives have arisen from young people expressing their needs and in direct response to the gaps in provision that they have identified

5. Provide clear leadership to the City

To listen to and advocate for children, young people and their families, and to facilitate their participation in the planning and delivery of services

The Youth Support Service is a lead member of the C4Y and has given funding and management support to its development. We are also very active in supporting the engagement of young people in the development of the Connexions Service. It is intended that by the end of the present financial year, there will be a number of Youth forums developed across the City and that young people will be actively involved in all management and advisory committees

To take a strategic lead through partnership and community working in shaping the future direction of services

The Service is actively involved in the community development in the areas covered by NRF and NDC. We are also active in the support of the Brighton and

Hove Council for Voluntary Youth Service and the Connexions Voluntary Sector Forum. All future plans are being developed with the active involvement of local communities, voluntary sector providers and young people. Due to the location of the youth centres and the development of a city wide provision, all workers are actively involved in community development and all full time qualified workers are trained as Youth Workers.

To work effectively with public, private and voluntary sector partners in evaluating and improving the delivery of services

The Service has developed a new quality assurance monitoring system which we are advocating and utilising in our partnership work with voluntary and independent providers.

6. A Council that is fit for purpose

To improve recruitment and retention of staff to secure effective, efficient and high quality delivery of service – including development of new expectations for leadership and performance management

The Service is working in partnership with sections in the Branch and with the South East Youth Partnership in developing a staff development programme which increases opportunities for staff. The Service is also involved in gaining professional qualifications for full time staff with a partnership with Brighton University and also through the Connexions Partnership.

