

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 9 June 2003

Report of: Director of Children, Families and Schools

Subject: Implementation of the Common Planning Framework for
the Youth Support Service

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The Children, Families and Schools Sub-committee received reports on the Connexions Youth Support Service and Transforming Youth Work in June, and approved the strategy outlined in those reports towards an integrated youth support service. Members agreed to direct specified elements of local authority services for young people towards the aims and objectives of Connexions. The committee also received reports in October and agreed to remodel the local authority youth service in line with national and local priorities

1.2 This report provides an update on the development of the service and information on the recent government guidance on "Resourcing Excellent Youth Services".

1.3 The report also seeks Committee approval for the adoption of a Youth Service Plan for 2003-2004, in line with the national Common Planning Framework.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members agree to the proposed Youth Service Plan for 2003-2004

2.2 That the committee agrees to the implementation of the plan and the allocation of existing resources within the new service.

- 2.3** That the committee considers the implications of recent Government guidance on “Resourcing Excellent Youth Services,” and that officers should work on a proposed funding strategy.

3. Information/background

3.1 Transforming Youth Work

Members will be aware of national consultation on the role of local authority youth services in the light of the Connexions youth support strategy. A ministerial policy statement was launched earlier last year as “Transforming Youth Work”, which set out recommended objectives for local authority youth services, and the contribution they can make to enhancing the lives of young people. The guidance demonstrates the effective role youth services can play in supporting all young people, but particularly the most marginalized, and urged local authorities not to reduce resources to local authority or voluntary sector youth services as a result of the new Connexions Service.

- 3.2** The Children, Families and Schools sub-committee in June agreed with the aims and objectives in the Transforming Youth Work, and agreed that 80% of the local authority youth service resource should be directed to the aims and objectives of Connexions, targeting the 13-19 age group.

- 3.3** A grant was made available to assist local authority Youth Services in making the transformation set out in the guidance. In Brighton & Hove, for 2002/03 this amounted to £80,000. The spending plan was agreed at the June committee meeting, 2002.

- 3.4** Each local authority youth service has to produce a plan within national “Common Planning” guidelines for 2003/04. The plan attached includes a transition plan for 2003/2004 as part of the implementation process of the new service. Consultation has been undertaken throughout the process of writing the report with all key partners, including Connexions, voluntary sector providers and young people.

- 3.5** The proposed plan has to be agreed by the Government Office of the South East; they have agreed with the final draft presented here as a model of delivery to meet the new agenda and targets

- 3.6** The plan shows how the Youth and Community Service will deliver on Connexions Targets, the Government agenda for youth work, Brighton & Hove Council and Directorate priorities, and how the remodeled service will maximise the opportunities within the available budget

3.7 “Resourcing Excellent Youth Services”

The DfES minister for Youth Services, Ivan Lewis, launched a government document “Resourcing Excellent Youth Services” on December 18th 2002. The document sets out clear expectations for youth services, and the role expected of local authorities. It also sets out an expectation of funding by local authorities with a target spend of £100 per annum for each young person aged 13-19. Copies of the document can be provided to members and a summary is attached as annex 1.

3.8 The core local authority Youth Support Service within Brighton & Hove has inherited a low resource base, (£699,800 in direct service costs for 2002/03, £715,000 for 2003/04). However, there are a number of related areas of work, which contribute to the work of the Youth Support Service, including the infrastructure and support costs for the direct service delivery, making the gross budget figure of £881,950 plus capital recharges of £258,600. In calculating the per capita expenditure, the government is clear that it should be the net figure taken into account ie. that amount spent directly on work with young people.

3.9 In addition to the local authority budget for youth service, there are corporate grants for voluntary organisations, support for the Coalition 4 Youth, cultural, sporting and leisure activities, and a range of other services for young people including support for particular groups, such as those with disabilities or special needs, those in care and young offenders.

3.10 The Local Authority Youth service has also been very successful in attracting additional funds to support work with young people. In 2003/04 this amounts to an additional £976,000 from external sources.

3.11 The Youth Support Service managers are working with colleagues across the city, to ensure coordinated and effective services for children and young people. There are immediate links developing with the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, Extended Schools and Family Support. There are very strong links with Coalition 4 Youth and the Youth Offending team. The service also contributes to community safety, anti-bullying, teenage pregnancy and health strategies, as part of a wider social inclusion agenda. This work will be further developed within the plan.

3.12 The Youth Support Service has been an integral partner in developing the Connexions Youth Support strategy, both within Brighton & Hove and across Sussex. It is now acting as the contractor for the intensive personal advisers in schools and sixth form colleges. Closer links will be developed over the coming year with the 14-19 education strategy.

- 3.13** This committee approved a new delivery model for the Youth Service at the meeting in October. The delivery model will enable the service to flourish within its core remit of encouraging the personal and social development of children and young people, while taking on specific contractual and project work which will complement the Connexions objectives and the local authority commitment to social inclusion and youth participation.
- 3.14** Managers have now drafted a plan (annex 2) outlining how the service will work towards full implementation of the delivery model, starting from the available resources and the external funds which are already committed for the next financial year. Members are asked to approve this plan. The plan will then be submitted to the Government Office of the South East.
- 3.15** There have been national discussions about “adequate and sufficient” funding for local authority youth services, which resulted in the DfES guidance announced in December this year. The outcome of these guidelines will need to be considered in the budget setting for future years. In the coming financial year it is proposed that the service develops within the limitations of current funding pending a fuller analysis of the various budget elements across the council which contribute to youth services. External funding will continue to be sought and relevant posts will be reviewed across the service to ensure best value and focus on core objectives.
- 3.16** To reach the national target of £100 per young person (13-19) per annum, would require growth in the core local authority budget of £214,500 in 2004/05 and £278,850 in 2005/06. At this stage it is impossible to give a commitment to any growth in this budget. However, officers will work on possibilities during the year and will bring proposals to committee as part of the overall service budget planning later in the year.
- 3.17** The plan proposes all the senior youth work posts will be changed to provide local co-ordination of the work and city wide developments of themed work. Job descriptions have been rewritten to reflect the challenges of the new service. Through this mechanism, existing and future post holders will be deployed into the new structure. The existing level 2 youth workers will have a new focus to their work delivering a standardised program as outlined in the delivery model already agreed by committee. At present there are only two existing post holders and they are already delivering comparable program. New staff are being recruited for the vacant posts at Whitehawk Youth Centre and also Hollingdean Community Centre.

3.18 The recruitment and delivery of work will be resourced through local authority funding and external funding including NRF, NDC, and Connexions voluntary sector grants. This approach to funding needs to continue to develop a coordinated and collaborative approach to meet the needs of young people.

3.19 The plan reflects the needs of young people which are identified in relation to the Connexions targets, and will ensure the development of a universal city wide service moving away from a targeted service focussing on the needs of those facing greatest need. The National Youth Agency (NYA) is developing National standards for youth work which will be reflected in the annual NYA audit undertaken by all local authorities. These standards will be used as part of the monitoring of the common planning framework and they will be shared with the committee in March

4. Consultation

4.1 Members Task Group on Transforming Youth Work 2001/02 who approved the strategy which has led to this report

4.2 Current members of the Youth and Community service, Play Service, and the Departmental Management Team. There have been no adverse comments to date.

4.3 Consultation has taken place with the voluntary sector, Connexions and the Government Office for the South East and they are supportive of the proposals to date. Further consultation will take place on the implementation of the plan in it's entirety

4.4 Further consultation will be undertaken with staff, Trade Unions, Personnel and the wider department on a management and team structure and job descriptions, as part of the transition plan following consideration of this report by the sub-committee.

5. Contact Officers

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Nigel Jenner	Head of Youth Support Service	Ext. 3517

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



Meeting/Date	Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee 9 June 2003
Report of	Director of Children, Families and Schools
Subject	Development of integrated Youth Support service
Wards affected	All

Financial implications

The finances for the service are set out in the report. The youth service plan has been fully costed with a financial strategy. Review of funding required in future in line with new Government guidelines. In order to achieve the target £100 per head expenditure on Youth, investment in the service of £1.2 million would be required based on current budgets. The Head of the Youth Support Service has assumed growth required £214K in 2004/05 and £278K in 2005/06 in order to achieve the targets in the plan. This cannot be met from within current budgets.
Finance Officer consulted: David Low, 14 May 2003.

Legal implications

The development of Connexions and Transforming Youth Work has a statutory basis in the Learning and Skills Act 2000. Section 508 of the Education Act 1996 sets out the LEA duty to secure provision of youth services.
Legal Officer consulted: Natasha Watson

<h3>Corporate/Citywide implications</h3> <p>Quality of life, well-being, economic success – all priorities contributed to. There are links across the local authority and with other partner agencies.</p>	<h3>Risk assessment</h3> <p>The engagement of staff and partners in the voluntary sector is vital to the transformational agenda.</p>
<h3>Sustainability implications</h3> <p>Environmental education and projects</p>	<h3>Equalities implications</h3> <p>Equalities are at the heart of the youth service, and the Connexions strategy as outlined in the report</p>
<h3>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</h3> <p>The youth service has a key role in the prevention of crime and disorder</p>	

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



Background papers

1. Learning and Skills Act 2000
2. Guidance on Connexions and Transforming Youth Work.
3. Copies of the appendices referred to in the attached plan are available in members' rooms and public access files if required.

Contact Officer

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