



PROPOSAL FOR A STRATEGIC REVIEW OF YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

1. Proposal

- 1.1 To conduct a strategic review of youth support services in Brighton & Hove, with a view to recommissioning from September 2005, subject to the recommendations of the review.
- 1.2 The review will consider current service delivery across the city, and will:
 - explore consider options for commissioning and delivery of youth support services which can provide a high quality service, maximising the available resources, and taking account of stakeholder views, Ofsted standards, local and national performance indicators.
 - explore relationships between the local authority youth services, schools, colleges, Connexions and voluntary sector and other providers
 - Consider the place of youth support services in the proposed integrated area based teams, and their relationship to the Children's Trust
 - make recommendations to this sub-committee on any changes as a result of the review
- 1.3 The review will actively consider the views of young people, staff, partner agencies, parents, local representatives, including councillors, and community groups.

2. Background

Brighton & Hove undertook a strategic review of youth services in Brighton & Hove in 1997, shortly after becoming a unitary authority. As a result of that review, there was a change to the arrangements inherited from East Sussex County Council, whereby the youth service was delivered through a contract with the then Technical College, and Portslade Community College.

From 1998 onwards the staff employed by Brighton Technical College were brought back into the employment of Brighton & Hove Council, and the service became a direct delivery model in certain parts of the city:

- Moulsecoomb
- Whitehawk
- Patcham (linked to the High School)
- Hangleton (linked to the Junior School)
- City Centre (via the Young People's Centre in Ship Street)

The arrangement to deliver in Portslade via the Community College has continued under a service level agreement.

In addition, there are service level agreements with:

- Hove YMCA (Marmion Road)
- Impact (Young People's Centre)
- Hangleton and Knoll Project
- Brighton Youth Centre
- Woodingdean Youth Centre

Along with support for a variety of small voluntary youth organisations, corporate grants to the community and voluntary sector, and a burgeoning Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

3. Current situation

The delivery arrangements have remained since the last strategic review, but the context has changed immeasurably:

- Connexions is now a live service. The Youth Service dedicates 80% of its core work towards Connexions objectives, and the Youth Support Service also holds the contract to deliver intensive Personal Advisers in Schools and Colleges
- There is a developing strategy for integrated area based services for children and young people. The review will consider the place of youth support services within these teams and the developing Children's Trust
- The service works closely with the Youth Offending team, with a full time worker part-funded by the YOT, and programme of diversionary activities funded from external grants (Positive Activities and Positive Futures).
- The Service has been very successful in attracting external grants and has more than doubled its core budgets through arrangements with Eb4U, Neighbourhood Renewal, SRB etc. and also has contracts with the Primary Care Trust.
- There is a very positive relationship between the local authority youth support service and the voluntary sector. There is a strong commitment to provide the best and most appropriate local service for young people within the resources available.
- New providers have developed in the city, encouraged by the developmental approach which is a core objective of the Brighton & Hove Youth Service, and neighbourhood renewal initiatives
- The Coalition 4 Youth is integral to the Youth Support Service and is leading within the authority on the active participation of young people, alongside the Children's Rights service and the development of school councils. Connexions also has an active participation strategy for young people, and it is important that we consider their views of youth support services.
- Areas of the city are not covered by either the local authority or voluntary youth services, due to the need to prioritise scarce resources
- There is a growing gap in inclusive, or specialist youth/out of hours provision for young people with special needs.

- We need to consider an equalities audit to ensure youth support services are accessible to young people irrespective of background, creed, race, gender, sexuality or special needs.
- We should look at models of service delivery elsewhere for examples of good practice, and benchmark ourselves against the best examples of comparable authorities.

4. Financial situation

Brighton & Hove is *fourth* from the bottom in the national league table of expenditure on local authority youth service. The table below shows the current position for the council on expenditure for the youth service.

	CORE FUNDED EXPENDITURE			
	Net (Direct) Expenditure	Central Recharges & Overheads	Capital Financing	TOTAL
2002-3 Final Outturn	£748,495	£127,258	£351,006	£1,226,759
2003-4 Budget National Youth Agency (NYA)	£724,130	£132,640	£256,000	£1,112,770
2004-5 Budget National Youth Agency (NYA)	£803,990	£129,800	£271,760	£1,205,550

The NYA has set a national target and performance indicator for the funding of youth services, of £100 per head per annum for each 13-19 year old, from core local authority budgets. We are failing to meet this target by some margin – see the table below:

	SPEND PER HEAD OF 13-19 POPULATION (18,800)		
	Net Direct Expenditure	Net Expenditure + Central Recharges & Overheads	All Expenditure (incl. Capital Financing costs)
2002-3 (Finalised)	£39.81	£46.58	£65.25
2003-4 (Estimate)	£38.52	£45.57	£59.19
2004-5 (Budget)	£42.77	£49.67	£64.13

NOTE: The only figure accepted by the NYA as per head expenditure is that in the "Net Direct Expenditure" column. No other external funding can be included in this figure.

However, in addition to the core funding of the Youth Service, the following funding from outside the Youth Service has been achieved. (These gross expenditure figures do not qualify for the NYA spend per head PI.)

	SOURCES OF FUNDING			
	Core funding (direct expenditure)	Connexions contracts	Other funding	TOTAL (direct expenditure)
2002-3 (Finalised)	£748,495	£146,679	£785,636	£1,680,810
2003-4 (Estimate)	£724,130	£468,176	£997,097	£2,189,403
2004-5 (Budget)	£803,990	£474,000	£902,100	£2,180,090
	SPEND PER HEAD OF 13-19 POPULATION (18,800)			
2002-3 (Finalised)	£39.81	£7.80	£41.79	£89.40
2003-4 (Estimate)	£38.52	£24.90	£53.04	£116.46
2004-5 (Budget)	£42.77	£25.21	£47.98	£115.96

In addition to the service budget, the Local Authority's core funding also goes towards funding a significant amount of Youth Work in the voluntary sector. In 2002-3, £431,662 was given to youth organisations. This figure includes corporate grants and Youth Service contributions, donations and contracted youth work with other agencies and organisations.

As a result of a DfES guidance document, Resourcing Excellent Youth Work (2002) which complements the strategy document published in 2001: Transforming Youth Work, each local authority should be working towards the £100 per head figure by 2006/07. This remains a challenge for many local authorities. In the current year, the regional offices conceded that local authorities which at least protected the youth service from budget reductions would be exempt from sanctions, and consequently the small Transformation grant has been given to Brighton & Hove (c.£30k)

However, it is vital that we look at unit costs and value for money from the allocation that we do have, while trying to maximise local and external contributions to youth work.

5. Premises/capital stock

The service operates from Carden Youth Centre, as its headquarters, attached to Carden Primary school.

There are local authority operated youth buildings in Moulsecoomb (the 67 Centre in Hodshrove Lane) and Whitehawk (part of a community complex including the library on Whitehawk way).

There is a youth base as part of the PFI refurbishment of Patcham High School, and a youth wing in the grounds of Hangleton Junior School.

With the exception of Patcham High School, all the premises are badly in need of refurbishment. It is therefore recommended that accommodation and premises should be part of the review.

It is a legal requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act that buildings are adapted by the end of October 2004. The service has received a small ring-fenced grant

via the Government Office in 2003/04 and 2004/05 (£18,000) to assist with building adaptations.

There are also significant developments planned with a new sports pitch next to the 67 Centre, funded by the sports lottery, and a proposed voluntary sector youth centre for the Crew Club in Whitehawk funded by Eb4U (New Deal for Communities).

6. Strategic Review

It seems timely, in line with the various contextual changes, such as Connexions and the Children's Trust, along with the budget and stock implications outlined above, to carry out a second strategic review of youth services, seven years into the life of the Unitary authority.

We have also been approached by Hove YMCA to ask if the local authority would consider further delivery of the youth service in partnership with the voluntary sector, over and above the Service Level Agreements and Partnership arrangements we currently have.

The review would test current practice, unit costs and value for money, views of service users and staff. It would also market test and make recommendations on whether the service should remain in-house, the effectiveness of current SLAs and partnerships, and whether the service could be more effectively delivered using another model. In doing this, the capacity of the voluntary sector and other potential partners would have to be tested, in relation to delivery to Ofsted standards, local and national performance indicators.

If the review recommends out-sourcing, then Brighton & Hove procurement policy would be followed.

7. The cost of the review:

A sum has been set aside from the youth service budget to cover the cost of the review. We will also seek contributions to the review from the PCT, Children's Trust, Connexions, EB4U. The scope of the review will have to depend on the level of other contributions received, and will be tailored accordingly.

8. Consultation

The review will need sign up from:

- The council's Management Team
- Lead members

And we will need to consult on the terms of reference and process for the review with:

- Connexions Local Management Committee
- The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- The children's Trust Chief Officers' Group
- The Voluntary Sector Forum
- Brighton & Hove Council for Voluntary Youth Service
- Staff
- Service users and other young people's groups
- Partner organisations: voluntary sector, schools, health, police, EB4U

If it is agreed to go ahead with the review, it is recommended that we establish a steering group.

9. Proposed process and timescale.

Consult on terms of reference and process	May
CYPSP	June
CFS sub-committee	14 June
Selection of review team/organisation	autumn
Start review	no later than January 2005 Timescale to be determined in context of Directorate Development Plan and work programme of the Children's Trust
Recommendations brought to committee and Children's Trust board	tba
Service recommissioned (depending on recommendations)	tba

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