

Subject:	<u>Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15</u>	
Date of Meeting:	January 30th 2012	
Report of:	Strategic Director People	
Contact Officer:	Steve Barton Lead	
	Name:	Commissioner Children, Families and Youth Tel: 29-6145
	Email:	Steve.Barton@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision:	Yes/No	Forward Plan No: 25401
Ward(s) affected:	All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Statutory Guidance on Section 507B Education Act 1996 sets a requirement for all local authorities to provide sufficient positive leisure time activities for its young people which promote their wellbeing and are delivered using youth work methods and approaches.
- 1.2 The Government statement Positive for Youth: A new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13 to 19, issued in December 2011 includes a commitment in 2012 to publish and consult on revised statutory guidance on the duty of Local Authorities to secure activities and services for young people
- 1.3 This strategy fulfils the commitment in the council's Corporate Plan to redesign the way in which youth services are delivered to ensure young people have the opportunity to be active citizens through participating in community activities. The draft Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15 is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.4 This Strategy is one of the first outcomes of the new approach to intelligent commissioning across the city. Produced with young people, partners and staff it is based on an assessment of need and analysis of current provision. By bringing together the council and its partners we have been able to identify more than £6,350,000 that is spent on commissioning services for young people and to set out a strategy for improving the coordination, impact and value for money of those services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the CYPT Board note this report and attached strategy.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1. Section 1 of the proposed Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy summarises the Youth Review process and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The assessment found very positive youth services that are valued by young people, their families and communities and are delivered by a skilled and committed workforce. The assessment also found:
- Young people are unclear about what is on offer and services vary between different parts of the city.
 - Good research evidence validates open access and targeted youth work and youth provision but it is difficult to assess the impact and comparative value for money of local services commissioned from the council's delivery unit and external providers.
 - Too many young people need specialist services without having received support from youth work or youth provision.
- 3.2. Section 2 of the report describes the outcomes for young people identified during the review and assessment process. They are:
- to create 'a city where teenage years are safe and rewarding, and where young people are supported to achieve their full potential; where
 - Family and community stability is improved through early intervention services that enable parents, carers and young people to develop their relationships and behave in a responsible way.
 - The resilience of young people, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk, is improved through advice and targeted early intervention services that increase their confidence, self-esteem, motivation and also their ability to communicate and deal with conflict, adversity and the challenges of adult life.
 - Young people have the opportunity to be active citizens, participate in community activities and shape the services that affect their lives so that values, expectations and responsibilities are shared and understood.
 - Young people are able to enjoy their leisure time, using the opportunities on offer through open access youth provision and cultural, sports and other positive activities across the city, so that they are inspired and challenged
- 3.3. Section 3 of the report sets out an innovative strategy to achieve those outcomes by:
- Jointly commissioning services, taking full advantage of the council's transformation programme, intelligent commissioning and partnerships.
 - Commissioning integrated youth work and youth provision, enabling providers to collaborate even more closely to deliver services that are accessible to all young people and also address the needs of those who are vulnerable or at risk.
 - Empowering young people to engage with their communities and to shape the services that affect their lives.

- Procuring services in a fair and consistent way, monitoring all providers to ensure services are effective, evidence based and value for money.
- 3.4. The proposed commissioning strategy is designed to transform youth work and youth provision, and will significantly change universal services for young people. To achieve this safely there will need to be a managed transitional period to ensure services are not disrupted i.e.
- A new Joint Commissioning Board of officers from the council and our partners has been established to coordinate the commissioning of services for young people (see Appendix 1 p. 13)
 - The council has been awarded Breakthrough Project status by the Local Government Association's 'Local Government Leadership Centre'. This will fund an independent broker to work with community and voluntary sector providers and the council's youth service to 'co-produce' proposals for the delivery of neighbourhood services as described in the strategy. A parallel process with city wide providers of specialist equalities services will be facilitated by council officers. Both processes will comply with and develop the tools and frameworks set out in the appendices to the strategy i.e.
 - Appendix 2: Joint commissioning framework; Integrated care pathway; Baseline summary of commissioning activity and investment;
 - Appendix 3: Neighbourhood and city profiles and performance frameworks
 - Appendix 4: preliminary governance framework
 - Appendix 5: Preliminary funding agreement timeline
 - A short life project group is responsible for the design and implementation of procurement and performance management arrangements. This includes exploration of flexible arrangements for funding agreements which will be compliant with procurement regulations and consistent with the principles of intelligent commissioning. The proposed timescale shown in appendix 5 of the strategy could be amended if an earlier agreement can be made within an acceptable timeframe.
- 3.5. Details of baseline funding have been amended since the consultation draft of the strategy was published in August 2011:
- Two tables have been added (Appendix 1 pp 4-6) summarising estimated resources available to joint commissioners and to existing community and voluntary sector providers
 - The summary of resources available to the council for youth work and youth provision have been amended to reflect an operational decision to re-locate Youth Crime Prevention staff and resources to the Youth Offending Service (YOS). The decision to move resources from targeted to specialist provision (see integrated care pathway p. 25 Appendix 1) is part of the Delivery Unit's response to a challenging external inspection of the YOS.
 - Funding for 2012-14 is subject to the council's budget setting process.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15 went to public consultation during the summer and resulted in 348 responses, of which 20% were from young people. During the open consultation the Commissioner for Youth Services held four workshops with 46 staff and partners to ensure they were clear about the process. Brighton University completed a report summarising the issues and themes emerging from the consultation. The council's Children and Young People's Participation Team led various consultation exercises with young people and the Commissioner for Youth Services involved groups of young people in the Equality Impact Assessment of the proposed strategy.
- 4.2. The draft strategy and consultation feedback report were presented to a Panel of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) on October 17th and November 28th 2011, and to the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum Children's Network on September 21st and December 14th 2011. Their feedback and recommendations have informed the final Youth Commissioning Strategy.
- 4.3 As a result significant changes have been made to the final strategy (Appendix 1) to give greater priority to:
- Balancing mainstream neighborhood based services with dedicated provision for young people who are from black and minority ethnic communities, who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender or who have a disability or special educational needs.
 - Providing early help to young people who use or are referred to specialist services without having received support from youth work or youth provision.
 - Taking a co-production approach to enable local youth work providers to collaborate and develop innovative delivery arrangements
 - Strengthening governance arrangements fully to engage young people in the design, delivery and review of services and enable them to engage with their communities

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The costs required for the joint commissioning structure will be met within the existing allocated budget for Youth Services.

However no transitional funding is available and if there are additional costs associated with the transition to the joint commissioning structure, funding for these costs will need to be identified.

Finance Officer Consulted: Paul Brinkhurst Date: 29/11/2011

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Statutory Guidance on Section 507B Education Act 1996 sets out the requirement that all local authorities should provide sufficient positive leisure time activities for its young people which promote their wellbeing. The strategy aims to facilitate meeting this requirement.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 22/12/2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed Youth Commissioning Strategy was completed between October and December 2011.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The Council's procurement team will be advising on a sustainable funding agreement process.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The Strategy strengthens the ability to work closely with the community safety team, ensuring the delivery of youth work that supports the joint outcomes across community safety and youth.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Youth Project Management Group has completed a risk register assessment and identified risks and mitigating actions.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 This strategy will support enabling the health, well-being and life opportunities of young people to be maximised.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The Strategy is in support of the Council's priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. The Strategy specifically aims to increase young people engagement in service delivery and take up. Inequality will be tackled through new delivery models and the funding agreement process will be conducted in a sustainable manner.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Roll forward of existing contracts. This would be against procurement regulations.
- 6.2 Introduction of preferred provider tendering. This would be against procurement regulations.

7. CABINET MEMBER AGREEMENT

- 7.1 Report and Strategy presented to Children and Young People Cabinet Member Meeting on 20 January 2012 to seek approval and to authorise the Strategic Director People to agree new funding agreements as necessary with successful providers to deliver services in collaboration with the council's Youth Service.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15

Background Documents

None