

## B. LOCAL CONTEXT

### 5. Vision, Mission and Purpose:

The authority's strategic review recommended that the new integrated service be called the Youth and Connexions Service and adopt the following Vision, Mission and Purpose statement:

- Our vision is that young people will use the Youth and Connexions Service as an important point of contact for information, advice and guidance on social, cultural, and emotional issues and for physical development opportunities. Parents/carers will understand how the Youth and Connexions Service supports their children to make a successful transition into adult life.
- Our mission is to ensure that we involve young people in the process of defining their needs and in the development of the service to provide a balance between Core, Enhanced and Intensive Services to ensure appropriate support for young people with greater needs.
- Our purpose is to deliver services that enable young people to make a successful transition into adult life.

### 6. Age Ranges

6.1 This **service specification** will use the nationally agreed age ranges for youth work and Connexions i.e.

- 11-25 years, with a priority focus on 13-19 year olds (Youth work)
- 13-19 year-olds and up to 25 year-olds with learning difficulties/disabilities (Connexions)

### 7. Links to Brighton & Hove Strategic Plans

7.1. This **service specification** links to each of the five Every Child Matters outcomes. It specifically addresses many of the key priorities as set out in the Brighton & Hove Children and Young People's Plan, in particular the following:

- Making a Positive Contribution
  - a) Priority 16: To increase opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in making decisions that affect their lives and well-being
  - b) Priority 19: To promote positive behaviour and reduce anti-social behaviour and youth offending
  - c) Priority 20: To provide children and young people with more opportunities to participate in their communities

- Achieving Economic Well Being:
  - a) Priority 21: The Children and Young People’s Trust’s key priority is to develop strategies & improve support to enable more young people to engage in further education, training or employment.
  - b) Priority 22: To enhance provision to ensure more young people are ready for employment

## 8. Definitions

8.1 The Brighton & Hove Children and Young People’s Plan defines three levels of service –

- **Core** – services for all children and families
  - Core services support the provision of a range of activities, information, advice and guidance across the city for all young people for their transitions into education, employment and training and also the development of personal, social and emotional skills through positive activities
- **Enhanced** – targeted services to meet identified need
  - Enhanced services provide enhanced opportunities for learning, advice and support to identified young people to overcome specific barriers to a successful transition
- **Intensive** – services for those at high risk
  - Intensive services provide and refer to intensive support for young people assessed as having specific and often complex needs

8.2 The Connexions Partnerships (nationally) also adopt three levels of service but use different terminology (minimum, supported and intensive) and the Youth Support Service uses Tiers (Tier 1,2,3) to describe similar service levels. These definitions are similar enough to be adopted across the City by both Connexions and the youth support service using the overarching Children and Young People’s Plan terminology.

8.3 This **service specification**, therefore, adopts the definitions as set out above and the following **defining examples** of types of youth and Connexions provision delivered by youth workers and personal advisers under each heading. Further work will need to be done in ‘drilling down’ to area and local level the minimum entitlement and equity in provision for all 13-19 year olds of each of these services.

## 9. Resource Proportions against Three Service Levels for the Integrated Service

9.1 This **service specification** will adopt the following proportional levels of resource allocation against each of the three service levels for the youth service and Connexions:-

- Core - 25%
- Enhanced - 60%
- Intensive - 15%

## 10. Examples of Core, Enhanced and Intensive Services

### 10.1. Core

- Youth centre provision - open access sessions, accreditation opportunities
- Advice, information and support drop-in provision
- Accreditation opportunities (Duke of Edinburgh Award, Arts Award, B&H Youth Award)
- IAG delivered in schools and colleges; Connexions PAs delivering minimum support to young people in school, college or community
- Detached/outreach work – via mobile information bus & Streetwise project
- Access points for young people e.g. youth centre, school, college and information points
- Participation - enabling young people to play an active role in the shaping of services for example through the Youth Council and the Youth Strategy Group

### 10.2. Enhanced

- Youth centre provision - preventative group work, diversionary activities, drop-in centres
- Diversionary activities – holiday, after-school/weekends in term time
- Preventative work with individuals and groups
- Advice, information and support drop-in provision, one-stop shops

- PSA target reduction work - NEET/teenage pregnancy/substance misuse/young offenders/school attendance/care leavers
- Connexions PAs delivering supported categories of work to young people with specified needs
- Completion of Section 140's for young people with SEN

### 10.3. Intensive

- Specialist PAs for work with young people with complex needs
- Youth work delivered through joint projects and partnerships focussing on young people with specific needs
- Targeted interventions and support with young people with specialist needs or with priority groups
- Referrals to specialist agencies

## 11. Service Model

11.1. The key factors informing the structure of the new integrated service are the development of the Children and Young People's Trust area teams and multi-disciplinary teams and also the national drivers specifically those in Youth Matters - Next Steps. The other key is the need for partnership working particularly with the voluntary sector, Sport and Leisure provision, Social Care, schools/colleges and other teams within the Children and Young People's Trust. All services that can be area based will be; services will be needs-led not organisationally-led.

11.2. Following the CYPT model, there will be three area Youth and Connexions Service teams: East, Central and West. The resource weighting for the three areas will be as follows:

- West - 28%
- Central - 31%
- East - 41%

11.3. In each of the three area teams there will be a Youth and Connexions Service Manager, Personal Advisers and youth workers. These teams will be operational and where possible accommodated by April 2007. The area managers will work together to implement the changes necessary to have operational teams up and running by that date. All practitioners

within the integrated service delivering core and enhanced services will be part of area teams. The area teams operate on two levels - directly managed services and commissioned services. Staff not employed by BHCC will continue to be managed within their employing organisations.

- 11.4. Some services and functions will remain city- wide. These include Duke of Edinburgh's Award and other city wide accreditation schemes, Youth Arts, Outdoor Education Advisory functions, the Transitions Team (for young people with special needs), training and workforce development and others. Much of the Connexions specialist PA support provision for priority groups will also remain city-wide, including BME, substance misuse, teenage parents, mental health, and LGBT.
- 11.5. Performance management and quality assurance will be incorporated within Service Level Agreements (SLAs), contracts and partnership agreements for all providers. Joint ownership of targets will determine the success of the new integrated service. The SLAs between the City Council and the voluntary sector will include the need for workers in the voluntary sector to be part of area team meetings.
- 11.6. The following sets out the key features of the service specification for the new integrated service and what will be delivered in each of the three areas:
  - a. Youth centre and youth project provision – youth centre usage will become multi-functional which will include a mixed programme of open sessions, accreditation opportunities, drop-in and other identified methods which will meet local needs
  - b. Information, Advice and Guidance including Careers IAG – Delivered in schools/colleges and within community settings
  - c. Detached, outreach work – Delivered via the mobile information bus and also via the detached projects such as Streetwise
  - d. Diversionary activities – specifically activities during the holidays and after school/weekends during term time
  - e. Opportunities for accreditation – Duke of Edinburgh, the new Arts Award, Brighton and Hove Youth Award
  - f. Community based access points for information, advice and support drop-in provision, one-stop-shops – such as Safe and Sorted, Youth Advice Centre and the Young People's Centre
  - g. Preventative work with individuals and groups for example the Teenage Pregnancy preventative group work
  - h. Access points for young people e.g. youth centre, school, college and information points

- i. Participation - enabling young people to play an active role in the shaping of services for young people including consultation, planning, delivery, training, interviewing, design and governance; for example through the Youth Council and the Youth Strategy Group
- j. Volunteering opportunities – such as Millennium Volunteers and Princes Trust

11.7. Each integrated area team will comprise 3 functional roles as follows:

- a. Engagement and Development - Community Function
- b. NEET Prevention - Education Function
- c. NEET Reduction - NEET Function

11.8. Specialist and city-wide Personal Advisers and other post holders will link with 3 area teams

11.9. Delivery priorities, objectives and targets of individual PAs and youth workers will be defined by their functional role.

11.10. In each area, the objectives and targets of all 3 functional roles will contribute to the overarching targets of the integrated area teams.