

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Services for Young Peoples Commissioning Strategy: Progress and future</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> October 2013</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director of Children's Services</b>		
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Services for Young People Commissioning Strategy (the Commissioning Strategy) summarising progress, challenges and future priorities,

1.2.1 The Commissioning Strategy sets out four strategic actions:

- Jointly commissioning services for young people
- Commissioning integrated youth work and youth provision
- Empowering young people to engage with their communities
- Procuring services in a fair and consistent way,

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That the Committee notes the progress in implementing the Services for Young People Commissioning Strategy.

2.2 That the Committee notes the challenges set out in paragraph 3.3. and notes the future priorities set out in paragraph 3.4.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Background**

3.1.1 The Commissioning Strategy was agreed in January 2012. Changes to the delivery of youth work services took effect from October 2012 and are underpinned by a 3 year plan and contract.

3.1.2 The Commissioning Strategy sets out four strategic actions:

- Jointly commissioning services for young people, 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.

### **3.2 Progress**

Joint commissioning of services for young people:

3.2.1 The Commissioning Strategy has strengthened partnership arrangements facilitating key development including:

- Agreement between Housing and Public Health to initiate a joint commissioning process for the delivery of Youth Information Advice & Counselling Services.
- Arrangements with the Communities and Equality Team to award three year strategic grant funding to all partners of the Youth Collective to support implementation of the Commissioning Strategy ensuring better use of resources and promoting community wellbeing and resilience.
- Additional investment through the Section S75 Commissioning Agreement, between the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group to appoint 4 young apprentices who are now undertaking NVQ Youth work qualifications.
- Agreement with SE Artsworld to pool Arts Council England funding to ensure arts awards are at the centre of the delivery of youth work and youth provision for the next three years. In its first year this has created 51 new arts awards
- Formation of an Equalities Commissioning Group to champion equalities issues across youth provision which hosted an Equality Conference in March 2013 attended by over 50 youth workers and youth support workers.

Commissioning integrated youth work and youth provision

3.2.2 The commissioning strategy has further strengthened good working relationships between Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) providers, with eight organisations coming together as the Brighton & Hove Youth Collective. Working with the council's Youth Service they have:

- Re-focused delivery to address the priorities identified by young people in the Joint Service Needs Assessment Report 2011. The council's youth service has been reshaped to focus on the delivery targeted one-to-one support and group work with the Collective focusing on open access provision. This now puts qualified youth work at the centre of delivering open access and targeted youth work across the city.
- Developed a more coordinated approach to youth work provision in neighborhoods with new area plans, geographical leads, a shared curriculum and consistent quality assurance processes.
- With partners across the South East successfully bid to the Big Lottery Chances4Change Well Being Fund which secured an additional £55,000 per year for 2 years with which the Youth Collective will deliver a mental health package of support for young people.

Empowering young people to engage with their communities:

3.2.3 Enabling young people to participate in the design and delivery of youth work provision, and facilitating involvement in their local communities is an established

priority for all youth work providers. The Commissioning Strategy has reinforced this commitment by:

- Responding to young people's recommendations by creating a single Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brightonandhoveyouth](http://www.facebook.com/brightonandhoveyouth). providing single link for information about what to do and where to go in the city.
- Ensuring all providers are signed up to the youth participation framework which amplifies the voice of young people through forums and advisory groups linked to the Brighton and Hove Youth Council.
- Ensuring young people have been at the heart of the two successful Participatory Budgeting projects which directly involved local young people making decisions on the priorities and spending a dedicated youth grant budget of £20,000. Year two of the programme included additional health funding and this year will bring together budgets from the council's Communities and Equalities and Youth services. To date, 17 new young people's projects have resulted from two community voting events.
- Holding focus groups as part of the Equalities Impact assessment for the council's Youth Service to give young people the opportunity to say what they thought of the new delivery arrangements and what could be done to better meet their needs.

Procuring services in a fair and consistent way:

3.2.4. All Youth Work providers now have Report Cards which evidence what is working well and what is not. For example:

- Identifying the numbers of young people participating in positive activities
- Tracking targeted youth work interventions reducing the number of young people at risk of being not in employment education or training. For example support to a young woman aged 17 with complex needs and a 5 month old baby who now has plans for her future education and for her baby to attend nursery.
- Tracking youth work interventions reducing trend in the number of Looked after Children. For example involvement in multi-professional action plans, supported by the Common Assessment Framework which include CAMHS, Stronger Families Stronger Communities, Teenage Pregnancy Workers, Youth Employability Service and the Youth Offending Service.

### **3.3 Challenges:**

3.3.1 There have been a number of challenges implementing the Commissioning Strategy:

- The council's move away from commissioning as an organising principle has required changes in roles and responsibilities and continued vigilance between council departments to avoid duplication ensure the best use of resources.
- Supporting 8 organisations to work as one entity and to develop new management and communication systems has required significant effort by all parties.
- Co production with young people is at the core of the strategy but, nevertheless requires determination and persistence for example the first set of area plans need a more consistent approach to the involvement of young people

- Significant changes in delivery arrangements have required careful exploration of how all parties understand 'service reach' i.e. the number of young people it is reasonable to expect will make use of open access services and/or targeted provision

### **3.4. Future Priorities:**

The Commissioning Strategy is in its first year and there are still lessons to be learned and improvements to be made. The creation of the Stronger Communities Youth and Communities Service Area in children's services brings together the council's Youth Service, the Youth Offending Service and the Youth Employability Service with Stronger Families Stronger Communities, the Value for Money programme and the Clermont Family Assessment Unit. This is generating new opportunities for service improvement including:

Joint working with schools:

- This term we are piloting a single referral pathway between Secondary Schools and the Youth Service, the Youth Offending Service, the Youth Employability Service and Stronger Families Stronger Communities (with a view to extending it to primary schools before the end of term.)
- There has been a successful programme of schools based, targeted group work focused on vulnerable young people using evidence based programmes addressing issues including substance misuse, sexual health and relationships.
- There has been a coordinated response to emerging issues including the Police Operation 'Blower' – a joined up approach to a network of young people involved in anti-social behavior which has involved close working with Schools and the Youth Offending Service, the Police, the Youth Service and Collective, the Anti Social Behavior Team and the Integrated Team for Families.

Youth Centres:

- preliminary informal discussions have taken place across council departments and with partners about a strategic approach to the use and potential improvement of facilities for young people including local authority youth centres buildings run by the Youth Collective.

Participation Strategy:

- Existing framework documents and plans are being reviewed in order to develop a new Participation Strategy with young people, partners and stakeholders.

## **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the Services for Young People Commissioning Strategy and identification of priorities going forward. We are not asking for alternative options to be considered.

## **5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1. The Commissioning Strategy, and underpinning Needs Analysis sets out engagement with the development of those documents. This report addresses the issues of engaging young people in the strategy and the design, development and improvement of services for young people including the development of a participation Strategy.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1. The Commissioning Strategy, and the new contract with the Collective is in the first year of implementation. There has been good progress so far and good reason to be confident that the arrangements should continue with the corrective control measures that have been put in place.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### **5.1 Financial Implications:**

Brighton & Hove City Council's Youth Service Provision has an operational budget of £989k in 2013-14 and offers a number of targeted and universal services across the city. Alongside centres in Portslade, Whitehawk, Moulscomb and the city centre the service also provides a detached provision, the Youth Arts Projects, Duke of Edinburgh service and the Youth Participation service. There are no additional Financial Implications as a direct result of the proposals and recommendations laid out in this report.

*Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis Date: 11/09/13*

### **5.2 Legal Implications:**

The joint commissioning of these services should assist all the participating agencies in fulfilling their duties under Children Act 2004 to promote the wellbeing of children against defined statutory outcomes.

Any commissioning process must have due regard to the procurement rules which apply in each case.

*Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 20.9.13*

### **5.3 Equalities Implications:**

As part of the commissioning process the then commissioning team carried out an EIA on the proposals the BHCC Youth service carried out and EIA starting October 2012 and completing Jan 2013.

### **5.4 Sustainability Implications:**

The model of delivery strengthens the partnership between CVS council services and young people opening up opportunities for imaginative problem solving.

#### 5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

The issue of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour is addressed in the strategy. The development of a single referral pathway explicitly includes the Youth Offending Service, and especially Youth Crime Prevention workers.

#### 5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The Youth Services annual Business Plan includes risk and opportunity management.

#### 5.7 Public Health Implications:

Public Health Commissioners and relevant NHS funding are closely involved in the ongoing development of the strategy, for example in respect of young people at risk of becoming teenage parents.

#### 5.8 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The Commissioning Strategy and future priorities are closely aligned to the priorities set out in the council's Corporate Plan.

## 6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Appendices:

None

### Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Services for young people: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15
2. Youth Service Equalities Impact Assessment Jan 2013 full document

### Background Documents



