
Halesowen Area Committee – 21st March 2012

Report of the Acting Director of Children's Services

Youth Service Report

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the Youth Service provision for the **Halesowen Township Area**.

Background

2. Within the last six months the Youth Service has gone through restructure immensely thus supporting the savings for the local authority for the financial year 2011 / 2012; Halesowen Township Area Youth Team has 25 youth work sessions. These youth work sessions are souly face to face service delivery. At present the township area is delivering full youth work provision with 3 Full Time Practitioners which consists of one Area Team Leader (covering the Halesowen & Stourbridge Township Areas), one Area Youth Practitioner (Covering 1 Full Time Hub and 1 Part Time Hub) and one Detached Area Youth Practitioner.
3. For the new financial year 2012 / 2013 and to support the local authorities' budget for this period the Youth Service had to lose one full time practitioner from the Youth Service in order to make the savings, from this identified lost the Youth Service looked at the structure where a decision was to take place on the Area Team Leader from Dudley North & Brierley Hill Township had decided not to return to the post thus the Area Team Leader's post for Dudley North & Brierley Hill Township would be remodelled. The post would be divided in two where the Dudley North would become a Trainee Area Team Leaders Post with effect from 01st April 2012 for one year and then they would take on the Brierley Hill Township for the second year and then year three manage both townships.

4. The Area Team Leader Post for Brierley Hill effective from 01st April 2012 will now be covered within Halesowen Township and Stourbridge Township thus one area team leader for all three townships; this again as the current Area Team Leader I feel this will increased the resources, partnership work, skills and experiences that can be utilised within the three areas for the benefits of the young people for the three Townships. This area of work will only be for 2012 / 2013 period where the Brierley Hill Township will revert back to the original status.
5. The Youth Service part time staff structure and supporting the savings for the local authority; Halesowen Township Youth Team has 25 youth work sessions (Halesowen Youth Centre 12 sessions, Greenhill Youth Centre 7 sessions one of which is a disability session and Detached which is 6 sessions. As the Area Team Leader I can confirm that this has **not** affected the face to face service delivery within the township area as a team we have become more robust.
6. Each year Dudley MBC Youth Service has various elements to achieve and to justify the service that is on offer within the borough for young people aged 13 – 19 years; both to elected members and Children Service's Directorate which enables the Service to show what and how the key targets are being implemented and delivered within the borough and township area.
7. In order to implement and deliver these targets the Youth Service has divided those between the 5 Townships – these targets are taken from the Dudley Census for young people aged 13 – 19 years with the Halesowen Township Area; there are four main targets or key performance measures which are highlighted below.
8. **The Halesowen Township Area Targets (2011 / 2012)** and what the area has achieved at the end of December 2011 are as follows: To Reach 25% of young people aged 13 – 19 (Target: 1259); **achieved 901** so far, To ensure that 15% of young people 13 – 19 Participate (attend more than 3 times) in positive activities (Target: 755); **achieved 650** so far, To ensure that 60% of young people 13 – 19 participate in positive activities gain a Learning Outcome (Target: 453); **achieved 316** so far, To ensure that 30% of young people participate in positive activities gain an Accreditation (Target: 227); **achieved 145** so far.

9. The Halesowen Township Area Youth Team has strived to meet these targets for the area township within the last ten months to acquire the figures that has been achieved above regarding the Key Performance Indicators for this period (2011/2012). This year the team has worked hard especially with the current climate within the local authority thus playing a key part in the Youth Service achieving their overall key performances indications.
10. **Youth Service Youth Offer:** general update on this area; The youth Offer has been in place for the last two years or so and at present is being revisited in order to co inside with legislation and current trends. On a local level (Township) some of the key elements for the youth offer are **Opening Times:** Full Time “Hub” youth work sessions 5 per week; 1 being in partnership with local Yemeni Centre. Part Time Hub running at 3 youth work sessions per week including 1 Targeted based provision for young people with disabilities. Detached youth work provision delivering 3 sessions per week over various catchments areas within the township. **Weekend Provision:** 2 centre based provision; 1 of which is delivered in partnership. 1 detached youth work provision operating over the weekend period. **Holiday Provision:** delivered this academic year (2011 / 2012) May half term (2011), summer (2011) provision which will be over a 4 week period, October Half term (2011), February 2012 Half Term. Total amount of days being offered is 40 days; overall amount of days is 35. Each of the holiday provision on offer included the opportunity for young people to participate in which links to the universal curriculum. **Volunteering:** number of young people involved in volunteering within each provision. **Involving Young People:** each youth provision have their own youth committee, Area Youth Forum (HAC) and Dudley Youth Council (DYC).
11. Each of the Halesowen Township Area Youth provisions is in the process of producing and implemented plans for each “Hub”. Each “Hub” plan will be Area specific actions which will be regularly reviewed and where required, amended in order to maintain a plan that is relevant and responsive to the needs of the local young people within the given catchments area thus local work with Police Community Support Officers and working closely with the Police in order to combat Anti Social Behaviour especially through the areas Detached Team. From this area of detached work the service that is operating at present will be the “hot spot” areas of the township.

12. It will be possible for young people and key partners to continue to contribute to the development of the local area actions.
13. Areas of development within the provision for young people are the Youth Opportunities Fund where local young people have been given funding. Regarding the Youth Opportunities Fund has been implemented in the Halesowen Area Township where it has funded various projects up to £400.00; all 5 townships has been given each £4, 800.00 which will be given out by a panel of trained young people of which are young people from the Halesowen Area Township.
14. Other external funding that has been received is from the Drugs and Alcohol Team from Dudley PCT where a successful bid by Halesowen Youth Centre for £1,500.00 to devise and implement a alcohol awareness workshops designed by young people for young people thus implementing a tool kit for other young people and youth workers to implement across the borough.
15. Work in partnership with West Midlands Police and West Midlands Probation Service implementing a prevention and early intervention programme(s) with young people on specific issues that has been highlighted through their “risk behaviour”.
16. The Halesowen Township Area Youth Team are supporting local and regional educational establishments by enabling numerous student placements over the last twelve months and are committed to continue to do this for the future in order to develop the individuals learning and aspirations regarding this career aspect.

Finance

17. The Youth Service Offer within the **Halesowen Township Area** is achievable within the allocated budget.

Law

18. The proposed actions will enable the Area Team within the Youth Service to meet its duties under the Aiming High for Young People – a ten year strategy ‘to promote the well being of persons aged 13-19 by securing access to educational and recreational activities and facilities’, the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Equality Impact

19. The offer will continue to provide facilities with regard to disadvantaged young people and all young peoples' needs.

The work carried out by the team promotes and ensures that young people are actively involved in developing and improving services that are provided for them.

Recommendation

20. That the Committee note and endorse the contents of the Youth Service **Halesowen Township Area** Report.



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