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**Halesowen Area Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> July 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 Area**.

**Background**

2. The Youth Service continues to deliver activities from Halesowen Youth Centre, to hire the Greenhill Youth Centre and through an area detached youth work team. The full time staff is an Area Team Leader (covering the Halesowen & Stourbridge), an Area Youth Worker running the activities within the two centres and a Detached Area Youth Worker. Full time youth workers are supported by small teams of part time staff.
3. During 2011/12 the team reached 1163 young people within the area which equates to 23.1% of the areas youth population. Of these 910 regularly attended activities on offer with 58.4% gaining evidenced learning outcomes and 31.8% achieving a recognised accreditation.
4. **Area Youth Offer Update:**

**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 but at present with low numbers this provision is being reduced by 1. Detached youth work provision delivering 3 sessions per week over various catchments areas within Halesowen Area; with the part time "hub" being reduced we have increased the Detached provision from 3 to 4 sessions per

week – where the fourth session mainly being within the catchments area of the part time “hub”.

**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:** Total amount of days being offered across the year is 40 and activity programmes are available if members would be interested. The Youth Service as a whole has also implemented a borough wide activities programme to encourage young people to engage more outside of their own communities.

**Involving Young People:** each youth provision has their own youth committee, we continue to run and develop the Area Youth Forum (HAC) and young people are members of Dudley Youth Council (DYC). Some young people from the area also completed training and took part in the recent recruitment and interview panel for part time youth workers.

The Youth Opportunities Fund is available again this year. A group of young people can apply for up to £750.00 which will be given out by a panel of trained young people including young people from the Halesowen Area.

5. External funding was received from the Drugs and Alcohol Team, Dudley PCT by Halesowen Youth Centre for £1,500.00. Young people have designed alcohol awareness workshops that other young people and staff can then use as a tool to work with other groups in order to address alcohol related health concerns.
6. Work in partnership with West Midlands Police and West Midlands Probation Service to implement a prevention and early intervention programme(s) with young people highlighted through their “risky behaviour” is underway.
7. Partnership work with Huntingtree Park Rangers and use of the Healthy Hub is also being developed and parks will be a key area for the Detached Team, especially during the summer period.
8. The Halesowen Area is implementing a work plan for this year and aims to be responsive to local need, in particular working closely with the Police in order to combat Anti Social Behaviour through detached youth work. Plans are responsive and it will be possible

for young people and key partners to continue to contribute to the development of the identified actions.

### **Finance**

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

### **Law**

10. 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**

11. 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**

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



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