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**Halesowen Area Committee**

**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 & Cradley Area**.

**Background**

2. 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.
3. 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 & Cradley Area; there are four main targets or key performance measures which are highlighted below.
4. The Halesowen & Cradley targets (2010 / 2011) are as follows: To Reach 25% of young people aged 13 – 19 (Target: 1259); **achieved 1110** so far, To ensure that 15% of young people 13 – 19 Participate (attend more than 3 times) in positive activities (Target: 755); **achieved 821** so far, To ensure that 60% of young people 13 – 19 participate in positive activities gain a Learning Outcome (Target: 453); **achieved 421** so far, To ensure that 30% of young people participate in positive activities gain an Accreditation (Target: 227); **achieved 242** so far. The Halesowen & Cradley Area Youth Team has achieved quite a lot within the last seven months to acquire the figures that has been achieved above regarding the Key Performance Indicators for this period (2010/2011).
5. Youth Service Youth Offer: general update on this area; the key elements are **Opening Times**: Full Time Hub has increased youth

work sessions from 3 to 6 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 6 sessions per week over various catchments areas within the township. **Weekend Provision:** 3 centre based provision; 2 of which is delivered in partnership. 2 detached youth work provision operating over the weekend period. **Holiday Provision:** delivered this academic year Easter period; May half term, summer provision which will be over a 4 week period. Total amount of days being offered is 19 days; overall amount of days is 25. 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. **Work within Schools:** this academic period work involved 2 out of 3 of the local schools. **Involving Young People:** each youth provision have their own youth committee, Area Youth Forum (HAC) and Dudley Youth Council.

6. Each of the Halesowen and Cradley Youth Team have produced and implemented plans for each “Hub”. Each “Hub” plan can be seen if requested. Area specific actions 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; also being part of operation “Stay Safe” which is a joint partnership work with Police, Social Services, and Youth Offending Service etc.
7. It will be possible for young people and key partners to continue to contribute to the development of the local area actions.
8. The realignment of the Youth Service staff structure and supporting the savings for the local authority; Halesowen and Cradley Area Youth Team has reduced the number of youth work sessions from 35 youth work sessions to 32 youth work sessions. These 3 youth work sessions has not affected the face to face service delivery due to the posts being vacant for a period of time. At present the township area is delivering youth work provision with 3 Full Time Practitioners which consists of one Area Team Leader and two Area Youth Practitioners; this is due to the Full Time Detached Area Youth Practitioner leaving the service in June 2010 thus this post has not been filled at present but has been supported by a part time worker taken on extra duties.

9. Other areas of development within the provision for young people are the Youth Opportunities Fund / Youth Capital Fund which has been restarted again. Applications that had been assessed at the start of the financial year by local young people have been agreed that this will be funded. Regarding the Youth opportunities Fund has been implemented in the Halesowen & Cradley area where it will fund a project up to £400.00; all 5 townships has been given £4, 800.00 which will be given out by a panel of young people.

### **Finance**

10. The Youth Service Offer within the **Halesowen & Cradley Area** is achievable within the allocated budget.

### **Law**

11. 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**

10. 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**

11. That the Committee note and endorse the contents of the Youth Service **Halesowen & Cradley Area** Report.



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