
Halesowen Area Committee – 11th November 2009

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Youth Service Area 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 of age; both to the elected members and to West Midlands Government Office which links to both local and national targets. In order to meet these elements / 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 yrs within the Halesowen & Cradley Area; there are four main targets or key performance measures which are highlighted below. The Halesowen & Cradley targets are as follows: To **Reach** 25% of young people aged 13-19 (**1259**), To ensure that 15% of young people 13-19 **participate** (attend more than 3 times) in positive activities (**755**), To ensure that 60% of young people 13-19 participate in positive activities gain a **learning outcome** (**453**), To ensure that 30% of young people participate in positive activities gain an **accreditation** (**227**). The Halesowen & Cradley figures as of 7th October 2009 are at present as follows: **Reach 1258, Participation 862, Learning Outcomes 457, and Accreditation 163**. As you can see from the figures above that within 6 months that the Halesowen & Cradley Area has developed immensely within this period of time thus by the end of the financial year I believe that the team will hit all the national targets through their hard work and determination to involve, engage and develop the young people that we are working with within the Halesowen & Cradley area.
3. The development of the Youth Service Youth Offer in order to inform staff, key partners and young people, as to the operational delivery of local authority youth provision for 13-19 year olds within the Halesowen & Cradley Area has been implemented and sustained the

added provision with work in conjunction with Special Schools & Pupil Referral Units Team re: Disabled Group for young people within the south of the borough on a Monday evening at Greenhill Youth Centre. Thus total evening youth provision being provided via Youth Service within the Halesowen & Cradley Area is increased from 9 youth work evening sessions to 14.

4. The Halesowen & Cradley area has produced a two year plan and in order to ensure that delivery of the Youth Offer is tailored to the needs of young people on a locality, as well as, borough wide basis, part of this area of work relates to the Area Youth Forum which is developing immensely at present; plans have been implemented to increase the numbers, roles and responsibilities; such as peer inspections of youth provision within the area and borough wide, also looking at being responsible for Youth Opportunities Funding for the Halesowen & Cradley Area as of April 2010. The group has now changed their name to "Halesowen & Cradley Action Crew" and has implemented a event during the October 2009 Half Term in order to launch themselves but at the same time recognise the element of FUN within this thus a young people's night incorporating dance, live bands, area questionnaire on youth provision and areas of concern / issues that young people may have within the Halesowen & Cradley area. Other areas of work that has been implemented and sustained is the Princes Trust XL Programme for young people that will not academically achieve which is with Windsor High School based at Halesowen Youth Centre which has been seen by the school as a success, Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) Drop Ins within the three main catchments areas (Cradley, Greenhill & Halesowen) which will look at Condom distribution & education, Pregnancy Testing and Chlamydia Testing. The area is also looking at increasing the day time provision of full time hubs to develop alternative educational programmes which will be mainly work with schools within the local area.
5. In order to ensure consistency of delivery, all units "Hubs" have implemented plans of work relating to the Youth Offer but provide catchments specific responses. Through this process young people from different units "Hubs" have been involved with their unit implementing their own committee and linking into the Area Forum which then links into Dudley Youth Council and UKYP. Throughout the last six months various consultations has been taken place by young people for young people in order to gain and insight to what young people within the Halesowen & Cradley would like to see happen and how they will benefit from this. This information should be collated within two months via the "Halesowen & Cradley Action Crew".

6. Although developed within a two year framework, 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 Community Police Support Officers and working closely with the Police in order to combat Anti Social Behaviour especially through the areas Detachment Team.
7. It will be possible for young people and key partners to continue to contribute to the development of the local area actions.

Finance

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

Law

9. 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 within their own catchments area, Halesowen & Cradley Area and the borough.

Recommendation

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



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