

**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. The Youth Service has gone through a restructure. At present the township area is delivering 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. With the Area Team Leader now covering the Halesowen & Stourbridge Area this has increased the resources, partnership work, skills and experiences that can be utilised within the two areas for the benefits of the young people for both Townships.
4. Each year Dudley MBC Youth Service has key performance indicators to which it works.
5. In order to implement and deliver on these targets the Youth Service has taken reporting to an area level, there are four main targets or key performance measures which are highlighted below.
6. **The Halesowen & Cradley targets (2011 / 2012)** at the end of September 2011 are as follows: To Reach 25% of young people aged 13 – 19 (Target: 1259); **achieved 695** To ensure that 15% of young people 13 – 19 Participate (attend more than 3 times) in positive activities (Target: 755); **achieved 478**,

To ensure that 60% of young people 13 – 19 participate in positive activities gain a Learning Outcome (Target: 453); **achieved 123** To ensure that 30% of young people participate in positive activities gain an Accreditation (Target: 227); **achieved 124**. Three of the four measures are currently exceeding target with all four projected to be met by March 2012.

7. The Halesowen & Cradley Area Youth Team is continuously working to achieve the targets for the area township through different projects and enabling young people to play an active role within this process.
8. **Youth Service Youth Offer:**  
**Weekend Provision:** 2 centre based provision; 1 of which is delivered in partnership. 1 detached youth work provision operating over the weekend period (Friday).  
**Holiday Provision:** delivered this academic year - Easter period (2011); May half term (2011), summer (2011) provision over a 4 week period. October Half Term period where a Educational Residential visit to PGL has been planned.  
**Volunteering:** numbers of young people involved in volunteering within each provision has increased.  
**Involving Young People:** each youth provision has its own youth committee, and links to the Area Youth Forum and Dudley Youth Council.
9. Following the summer provision 2011 it was highlighted that borough wide provision where each of the township areas brought young people together for an activity was very positive, the girls week at Halesowen Youth Centre was also an example of positive partnership work and may implemented a Youth Service borough wide activity for 2012. There was an increase in young people attending from the more targeted groups such as looked after.
10. Each of the Halesowen and Cradley Youth Team have produced and implemented plans which 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.

11. Working closely with the Police in order to combat Anti Social Behaviour will see detached provision operating within the “hot spot” areas of the township as identified by Police and other agencies. In recent weeks new partnership work has been implemented with West Midlands Police (Halesowen) in order to look at early intervention programmes, projects for young people who are deemed at risk.
12. Other areas of intervention such as SRE ( Sex & Relationship Education) has been highlighted as a need within the township and the drop in facilities continue to grow.
13. It will be possible for young people and key partners to continue to contribute to the development of the local area actions.
14. The Halesowen & Cradley Area Youth Team and young people have managed to secure a number of Youth Opportunity Fund grants to provide additional positive activities over the remainder of the year.

### **Finance**

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

### **Law**

16. 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**

17. 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 is provided for them.

## **Recommendation**

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



.....  
**Jane Porter**  
**Acting Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Dominic Tipping, Area Team Leader  
Telephone: 01384 81 3956 / 3955  
Email: [dominic.tipping@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.tipping@dudley.gov.uk)