
Halesowen Area Committee

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Youth Service Area Plan

Purpose of Report

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

Background

2. In order to meet both national and local targets the Youth Service has divided the targets between the 5 Townships – these targets are taken from the Dudley Census for young people aged 13 – 19 yrs within the Halesowen & Cradley Area. 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 figures are at present as follows: Reach 917, Participation 675, Learning Outcomes 372, and Accreditation 93.
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 with added provision with work in conjunction with Special Schools & Pupil Referral Units Team re: Disabled Group 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; this is due to the staffing levels / capacity being increased through a recent recruitment drive.
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

slowly at present but plans are being 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. Other areas of work that has been implemented is the Princes Trust XL Programme with Windsor High School, 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.

5. In order to ensure consistency of delivery, all units “Hubs” have implemented plans of work relating to the Offer but provide catchments specific responses. Through this process young people from different units “Hubs” have been successful in gaining external funding via the Youth Opportunities Fund to provide various youth provision within their own catchments areas which has been really positive for all concerned.
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.
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.

Recommendation

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



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