

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 17 December 2008**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Youth Service Consultation**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Directorate for Children's Services has recently restructured the Youth Service. We now wish to consult on the detail of planning and how we will deliver these services to young people over the next 2 years.

**Background**

2. The Youth Service restructure followed an internal peer review and has been linked to national guidance and information coming through over the last 2 years.
3. The new structure provides Universal Services through a township model and Targeted Services which respond to specific needs, as identified within Dudley's Targeted Youth Support Plan. The new structure was thoroughly discussed and ratified with the Select Committee Working Group for Young People and maximises front line service impact to ensure full benefit to young people.
4. In order to consult on the planning detail we currently have out a consultation document which comes to a close 6 January 2009. The document covers the following:
  - The structure
  - Resource deployment
  - Operational arrangements
  - Highlight how young people will participate in the development of the Youth Service
  - Offer to young people
  - How it will work in partnership with other agencies in order to achieve an integrated youth offer which is supported by all Childrens Trust partner
  - Outline draft mechanisms for joint working.
  - Performance management arrangements for Key Performance Outcomes
  - Identify the linkage to local and national agendas
  - Implementation timeline from consultation to implementation

## **Finance**

5. The proposed offer is achievable within the existing structure and allocated Service budget.

## **Law**

6. The proposed offer will enable the local authority to meet relevant statutory requirements. There are no legal implications for consideration.

## **Equality Impact**

7. The consultation document outlines the Youth Service offer with regard to disadvantaged young people.

We have carried out a survey of young people across the Borough in order to determine interests and needs; this in turn has informed the offer in the consultation document.

The following consultation sessions have already taken place:

Dudley Youth Council

Workshop at DACHS annual consultation with BME groups

Presence at CfED consultation on youth issues in Dudley

Central Area specific workshop with young people and CfED

Meeting with voluntary sector youth group representatives.

## **Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that:-
  - All members of the committee and the members of the public in attendance, respond in writing to the consultation document, should they have comments.
  - All issues raised will be considered.



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