



Northumberland County Council

Families and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Date: 5th March 2020

Youth Service Review Update

Report of the Executive Director Children's and Adults Services: Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Wayne Daley

Purpose of report.

To provide committee members with an update on the implementation of the Youth Service Review which took place in 2018/19.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) **Members note the content of the report and the positive steps taken to implement the review**
- 2) **Members identify any areas for further scrutiny**

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Connecting, Living and Learning priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

Key Issues

1. The implementation of the youth service review has been carried out during 2019 and into 2020.
2. The staffing changes have now all been completed and the new management team is now in place.
3. Work has been completed with an external consultant in relation to vision and values which has helped the service move forward.

4. A common set of outcomes has been agreed which will be used in conjunction with the new electronic recording system for the youth service which will support demonstrating impact going forward.
5. The youth service as part of the wider adolescent service offer in Northumberland is continuing to prove beneficial allowing for integrated and flexible support to be provided for vulnerable young people.
6. The participation team has expanded its reach to support the participation agenda across SEND, young carers and mainstream social work teams, including taking a lead for reviewing and revamping the SEND Local Offer.
7. Support for VCS organisations has continued to develop across the county.

BACKGROUND

Following an external review of the Youth Service in 2017 and agreement to proceed with implementing its recommendations given by senior managers and elected members the last eighteen months have seen a number of changes made to the structure and focus of the Youth Service to bring it in line with the overall Children's Services objectives.

Internal change management processes have led to the appointment of a new Youth Service manager and a management team beneath this to support the development of the key areas of work, namely:

- Participation
- Early Help and Targeted Intervention
- Prevention

To support the development of the new management arrangements and to develop a clear vision and culture within the Youth Service an external consultant has worked with the management team and wider staff to develop a clear vision and set of values (see attached document).

This work has also supported the development of a clear set of outcomes which underpin all work the Youth Service undertakes with young people and is to be used as a base for the new electronic recording system the Youth Service will be using going forward.

The recording system will enable us to provide clearer evidence of numbers of young people being supported, where they are from, any other issues they have and the evidence of impact that the youth work intervention is having for them.

Work within the participation team has continued to grow and evolve with additional work being commissioned to support the SEND agenda, young carers and the locality social work teams.

The Youth Service lead a group of staff from the wider adolescent service in completing Return Home Interviews for young people who have been reported missing to the police. This is providing a more robust service than was available previously. This has been in place since May 2019 and was commented on as a positive development during the Joint Targeted Area Inspection in June 2019.

The Voluntary and Community youth sector has been supported in a range of ways; through supporting with funding applications, co delivery of sessions and provision of staff to run specific targeted groups. This will continue to evolve and develop according to local needs (see attached paper for more details of exact support given in each area). [Link to report.](#)

The Youth Service conducted an assessment of youth work need and existing provision across Northumberland. This has resulted in the current delivery model, which focuses the resources of the service to the areas indicating the greatest need. Factors that impacted on this included crime and anti social behaviour levels, Indices of deprivation, population density and existing VCS provision.

The current youth service provision equates to over 50 sessions being delivered each week. The breakdown below highlights the combination of involvement across the sector to provide the youth work sessions.

Area	Project	Provider
Widdrington	ATAC youth club	Youth Service
Blyth	Silx youth club Newsham youth club	VCS / Youth Service
Bedlington	Dr Pit Park youth club	Youth Service
Ashington	Hirst Youth Club YMCA youth club Detached	Active Northumberland / Youth Service Northumberland YMCA / Youth Service Youth Service
Newbiggin	Detached	Youth Service
Prudhoe	East Centre youth club	Youth Service
Allendale	Youth club	VCS / Youth Service
Haltwhistle	Youth club	VCS / Youth Service
Hexham	Junior SEND club Health drop in	Youth Service School / Youth Service
Alnwick	Health drop in	School / Youth Service
Seaton Valley	Youth Club & project work	Youth Service

Pegswood	Youth Club	Youth Service
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Programmes that have targeted intervention

Working with a multi agency approach alongside other teams within Northumberland Adolescent Services and in some cases a wider agency approach including community safety teams, police and voluntary sector partners, we have been able to offer a response team to be to work remotely in various different areas of northumberland at times of need. Be this with an increase of anti social behaviour, youth substance use intelligence or a consultation of current need in an area. This response team has been able to work on these needs with a clear plan and approach in directed locations and then being able to report back on progress made.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	The structure and service provision is based on the current government focus on early help and prevention and fits with the agenda around supporting vulnerable young people at risk of crime and exploitation
Finance and value for money:	The new model represents much greater value for money and encourages communities to be self-sustaining.
Legal:	N/A
Procurement:	N/A
Human Resources:	All change management processes are completed
Property:	N/A
Equalities: (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment:	N/A
Crime & Disorder:	The model allows for youth workers to provide targeted intervention where needed to prevent anti-social behaviour. It fits with the agenda around criminal exploitation and prevention
Customer Considerations:	Young people continue to be consulted widely about changes and amendments to any services.
Carbon Reduction:	N/A

Wards:	All

CONSULTATION

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

See attached Vision and Values of the Youth Service paper and Voluntary Sector partnership report

Report sign off

Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Executive Director of Children's Services	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Wayne Daley

Report Author Mary Connor
Head of Service, Children's Social Care
(01670) 620349 mary.connor@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Youth Service report on support to voluntary youth projects
[Link to report](#)