

Report to: Scrutiny Management Panel.
18 June 2009.

Report from: Anthony Quinn, Senior Local Democracy Officer
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MONITORING THE OUTCOMES FROM SCRUTINY REVIEWS.

THE REVIEW OF REVIEW OF YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION.

1. Purpose.

This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to receive an update on the progress made with the recommendations arising from the review of Youth Services Provision.

2. Recommendations.

The Panel is asked to consider whether it wishes to make any further comments regarding the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations arising from this review.

3. Background.

- 3.1 At its meeting on 12 July 2006, the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel agreed that it would review on a rolling basis the progress made with implementing recommendations arising from completed scrutiny reviews. On 25 November 2008 the Council agreed that the Scrutiny Management Panel should continue this role under the new scrutiny arrangements.
- 3.2 The review of Youth Services Provision was undertaken by Topic Panel C between 18 August 2006 and 4 May 2007.
- 3.3 At the meeting on 5 September 2006, the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel received a brief summary of the condition of the air conditioning (cooling) system and the CHP boiler in the Civic Offices. Following this, the Panel decided that this topic should be a high priority for review and that a terms of reference for a brief inquiry into this issue should be prepared for the next meeting.
- 3.4 Following the meeting of the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel on 3 February 2005, Members and Strategic Directors were asked for suggestions for topics for the forward work programme of scrutiny reviews. These topics were scored against agreed criteria and the list of the highest scoring topics was circulated to the Panel at its meeting on 10 March 2005. One of the topics included on this list was Youth Services.
- 3.5 The following objectives for the review of Youth Services was agreed by the Policy and Review (Oversight) Panel at its meeting on 10 January 2006:
 - To gain a broad understanding of the national context around Youth Services ("Every Child Matters" or ECM, The Children Act 2004, and Youth Matters).
 - To understand the local context of Youth Services in relation to:

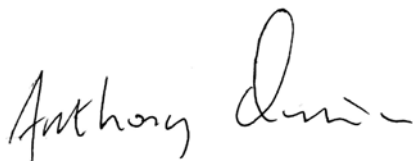
- i. Portsmouth's children and young people's agenda (Community Strategy, Portsmouth 8, Corporate Plan, Children and Young People's Plan 06/07 – 08/09).
- ii. The Children's Trust (ECM and the Children Act 2004).
- iii. Resources including the Youth Service's current funding situation in the context of decreasing resource levels.
- iv. To assess the current position of the Youth Service and how it is performing in terms of young people's services throughout the city addressing
 - o Current projects
 - o Customer satisfaction
 - o Partnership working
 - o Value for money
 - o Distribution of provision in the city (i.e. are some parts of the city better served than others?)

- To assess the likely future strategic direction of the service in light of the new national framework and how this will affect local service provision and changes to the inspection system.
- To assess how Portsmouth City Youth Service is responding to the issues and themes of the Youth Green Paper – Youth Matters.

3.6 The Panel heard evidence from key council officers and representatives from the Tall Ships Youth Trust, King's Church, the YMCA and Portsmouth Council of Community Service Voluntary Sector.

3.7 The Panel's principle recommendations are set out in appendix one along with the progress made to date on each one.

3.8 At its meeting on 9 July 2007, the Executive welcomed the Panel's report and endorsed the proposed actions set out in the officers' response report.



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Senior Local Democracy Officer.

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Monitoring Table showing the Progress Made on the Recommendations Arising From the Review of Youth Service Provision.

Recommendation	Action by	Resource Implications	Progress Update for Scrutiny Management Panel 18 June 2009.
1. That progress made to date by Youth Services should be built upon by continuing to evaluate and improve the Youth Service to ensure the best possible outcome for the Joint Area Review Inspection due in 2008.	Youth Services	Within policy framework	Joint Area Review (JAR) self assessments were carried out by each club/ project and action plans drawn up and completed. There was a good outcome from the JAR in June 2008.
2. That consideration is given to the compilation by the Youth Service of a complete audit of services and analysis of areas of greatest need to cover the voluntary sector as well as council provided youth services so as to establish the range, availability and location of youth provision.	Youth Services	Within policy framework	This piece of work is ongoing having been revised following the integration of the youth service with the Connexions service to form the Integrated Youth Support Services It is now a far larger piece of work
3. That the results of the mapping exercise showing where voluntary staff are based should be regularly updated and used to identify areas that require more volunteers and that this information be shared with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that any shortfall can be addressed.	Youth Services and Community Involvement, Empowerment & Development (CIED)	Within policy framework	Following the integration of the youth service and Connexions a new mapping exercise is being carried out.
4. That the annual assessment of the use of facilities and activities that is used to feed in to the City Council's Corporate Scorecard rating should also be used to evaluate the work undertaken by the Youth Service in order to improve provision of services to young people.	Youth Services.	Within Policy framework	Surveys with young people regarding provision and facilities have been carried out. The last survey of young people was in January 2009

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5. That consideration be given to carrying out an assessment of possible premises e.g. community centres, halls, shelters, mobile provision for example buses and vans etc. that could be temporarily used by detached workers in those parts of Portsmouth where there are gaps in Youth Service provision.	Youth Services	Within Policy framework	An assessment showed there was lack of provision in the South East area of Portsmouth. Detached workers have a base at Milton Village Hall. In the future the service has the use of two mobile units, which can more easily target areas of the city where there is not a static base. The service is working with other partners including the Community Improvement Partnerships to identify further resources.
6. That a marketing strategy be developed by the Service to encourage greater participation by young people.	Youth Services Corporate Communications	Within policy framework	A marketing strategy produced a document detailing all youth clubs and projects, and a brochure outlining the youth service vision. This is being reviewed following the integration of the youth service and Connexions. Young people are involved in the marketing and branding of the new service

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7. That the highest priority should be given to providing dedicated youth provision for children in council and non-council provided residential care.	Youth Services		A weekly group for young people in care is delivered in a youth club. The Duke of Edinburgh award unit promotes the scheme within children homes to encourage young people to participate. Staff in all youth settings are aware of this group of young people and actively encourages them to access mainstream provision.
8. That the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) population in Portsmouth be particularly targeted in terms of publicising available youth services to encourage higher take up among this group.		Within policy framework	The RANT studio and associated music projects have provided a useful means of engaging BME groups with specific weekend provision targeted at this group. A group which is facilitated by young women for young women and operates weekly on a Sunday targets young people from the BME population.
9. That the Youth Service makes every effort to provide updated data on the number of young people there are in the 13-19 cohort on at least an annual basis.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	The integrated youth support service data base records the number of young people accessing youth provision in the city and has systems in place to account for all young people in the 13-19 cohorts.

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10. That the "Community Wardens in Schools" initiative should be promoted to all Portsmouth secondary schools and extended to those schools that express interest.	Community Wardens	Within Policy Framework	This has been done and is an ongoing piece of work. Feedback from schools and young people is excellent.
11. That partnership working between Council provided services and those provided by the voluntary sector be extended and promoted at every opportunity.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	This has been demonstrated by the membership of voluntary organizations on the IYSS steering group, joint working with voluntary agencies such as Motiv8 to produce a dance show and provide weekend provision, and commissioning of projects from voluntary sector agencies.
12. That the Youth Services' Section on the City Council's website be reviewed to ensure it is kept up to date and is contributing to the aims and objectives of the service.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	This is ongoing. There will be a new web site for the Integrated Youth Support Service.
13. That the Executive consider on an annual basis increasing the current spend per head per young person in Portsmouth year on year with a commitment to reach the National Youth Association's recommended figure (which in 2007 is £100 per young person) and that this decision be taken based on an analysis of the impact of not increasing this part of the Council's budget		Within Policy Framework	It is not known if the Executive considered the spend on youth services in line with the NYA's recommended figure prior to April 2009. The joint budget for IYSS in 2009/10 is £2.7 million which equates to slightly over the figure of £100 per young person aged 11-19. This figure includes careers guidance and information and targeted youth support not just youth service provision

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14. That deployment of staff in the various youth projects is improved to eliminate the need to close youth projects during school holiday periods.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	The closure of clubs during school holidays in the day time is not due to shortage of staff but the free use of the club buildings by Play Services to provide play schemes. This is currently under review as summer opening in particular is something young people have requested. Additional activities are available this year through a summer engagement programme which will target young people who have not made a decision on what to do after leaving school.
15. That the City Council's appreciation of the good work being done by staff in the various youth projects be communicated to them.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	Ongoing through key worker meetings and service team days
16. That a directory be compiled to include all the activities and facilities available for young people in the city and this be widely distributed in, for example, libraries, schools and via the website.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	A document has been produced detailing all the clubs and projects has been produced and distributed. A directory of services is also available on the new 'Ask Sherlock' website

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17. That the use of innovative ways of communicating with young people, including through the use of new technology, be explored.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	Use of the internet has increased with the council website for youth services, the developing IYSS website, and use of My Space to publicise events. RANT on the radio gives young people a voice and means of publicizing events. The youth parliament is currently developing further ideas to communicate events to young people
18. That Youth Services and the wider authority, work with organisations, voluntary groups and young people to identify good news stories and promote positive images to help raise the profile of the important role young people play in the community.	Youth Services Communications	Within Policy Framework	Regular articles appear in the local 'News' and sometimes in Children and Young People Now magazine. Local newsletters and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme newsletter also provide opportunities to communicate "good news" stories. The youth parliament and V involved also demonstrate the role young people can play in their communities

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19. That young people be routinely consulted, (as outlined in Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 introduced through section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) in respect of leisure time activities provided for their improvement and well-being	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	All youth clubs have suggestions boxes which are used to decide club programmes and activities. Regular surveys are carried out with young people regarding provision and what they want. The last one was carried out in January 2009.
20. That the Youth Service takes every opportunity to encourage young people to understand the city's history, culture and aspirations and the role they could play in shaping the city's future.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	This is embedded in the day to day work carried out in clubs. Recent examples include linking with the library services to utilise use of libraries, a project with the D day museum for young people in Paulsgrove and a personal history project for young people in Portsea with the city museum
21. That the Youth Service takes every opportunity to encourage young people to see themselves as forming part of, and being able to influence the city's future.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	The youth parliament was formed last year and continues to grow in size and influence. The young money project continues to provide an opportunity for young people to decide how money is spent within the city
22. That support is given to the likely future changes in delivering youth services outlined in the report and in particular to the Pedagogy led approach.	Youth Services	Within Policy Framework	Consideration has been given to the Pedagogy approach