

Open Report on behalf of the Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 April 2012
Subject:	Progress Report on the Youth and Community Development Worker Model within Locality Teams

Summary:

This report gives an update on progress with developing Youth and Community activity in Lincolnshire and updates the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on current service delivery.

Children's Services are working with the communities, schools and voluntary sector partners to ensure that a wide range of positive activities are available for young people to access. As part of the Core Offer work, Children's Services established a new role, that of the Youth and Community Development Worker whose duties are to enable communities to take over and set up a range of positive activities for young people.

As part of the transition to this model of service delivery, Youth Centres are currently still operational one night a week through Lincolnshire County Council. We are also working hard and are in the process of developing community engagement to ensure continuity of service provision.

There is positive engagement in a number of locations, where community based stakeholders have either begun delivery of positive activities for young people or have submitted proposals to explore taking further responsibilities in respect of buildings and management of provision.

This interim report is to inform the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee of the up to date developments.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the contents of this report.

1. Background

Context

As part of Children's Services Core Offer work, we established a team of Youth and Community Development Workers whose primary focus has been to support communities, schools and voluntary sector agencies to deliver positive activities for young people. These staff continue to provide on-going mentoring and coaching to groups or individuals who maybe interested in taking responsibility for delivery of positive activities to young people. These staff have also held stakeholder events to raise awareness of the opportunities and they are also able to provide assistance and guidance for groups in completing funding bids and/or proposals for managing provision. These staff have also supported the delivery of Youth work in our Centres and currently we have continued at least one night per week direct delivery.

At the outset of the project a number of stakeholder events to identify community interest in the management and delivery of positive activities from these centres were held. A broad range of interested parties were invited, including elected members from Lincolnshire County Council and the District and Borough Councils; voluntary groups (i.e. Scouts, Guides, etc.); community groups; young people and parents.

These meetings set out our intentions, but also began a process of support for those who wished to become deliverers of positive activities from within these centres, and those who held a broader interest in running and managing the premises.

In addition we have held a number of volunteer fairs across the county to demonstrate successful models and provide networking opportunities.

A formal process for interested parties to take over the complete running of the centres was launched in January and funding was identified to offer grants to groups to cover start up costs.

Progress in this area has been generally positive. It is anticipated that a number of existing or new providers are becoming more involved in the direct delivery and management of positive activities from our current facilities stock, enabling the Youth & Community Development Workers to focus on creating further capacity to deliver in communities.

Progress of Individual Centres

Lincoln / North Kesteven

St. Giles Youth Centre

An initial stakeholder group has been formed which is currently working on submitting a request for a development grant. They have looked to include new areas of activity, such as a community garden which can be utilised by the young

people; this will be supported through an externally funded gardener for 2 hours per week. A social enterprise is also on the stakeholder group, interested in supporting the centre through using its facilities to build a business, run and support sessions for young people.

We are working with local Make a Difference group on an additional delivery evening session and supporting the group to meet baseline standards

Birchwood Youth Centre

An initial stakeholder group has been formed to prepare the development grant bid. There is interest from a variety of partners to use the centre and support the running costs, but at the moment no offers from anyone to take on the delivery of positive activities. The development grant bid will focus around the development of the stakeholder group to include more local people and a plan to develop the use of the centre and positive activities for young people.

Lincoln Youth Matters Youth Centre

A community interest company (CIC) is interested in taking on the delivery of positive activities within the centre, linking up with Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre on Ermine East. The CIC will be supported by volunteers from Bishop Grosseteste University College.

We continue to explore potential for the leisure centre to run additional activities at the centre which will generate additional income for the centre.

Moorland Youth Centre

The City Council is preparing a bid for the development grant to help support the current positive activities and expand further. Positive Futures run their sessions alongside the 'open access' youth club run by the Youth & Community Development worker. Partnership organisations are also committed to training local volunteers to provide long term additional resource.

Branston Youth Centre

The youth club is currently run in the Youth Wing, which belongs to the Branston Community Academy. A bid is being prepared for the development fund with a plan to establish a steering group to develop positive activities further within Branston and in the future, the wider area. The preferred option for the stakeholders remains working in partnership with the school whilst identifying additional local delivery options.

North Hykeham Youth Centre

There is a very strong stakeholder group interested in taking over the building and the positive activities for young people. They are preparing a bid for the development grant to support the formalisation of the group and the development of positive activities. While further work needs doing on taking over the core offer,

the group are willing to form a volunteer group to support the Youth & Community Development team.

Ruskington Youth Centre

The current youth centre management committee are proposing to restructure and bid for the development grant possibly taking over the building at a later date.

Skellingthorpe Youth Centre

The current centre management committee understand the need for positive activities and already provide several opportunities for young people. They are keen to take over the 'open access' youth night as they see it as very important for the young people of Skellingthorpe. Children Services continue to support this provision.

Sleaford Youth Centre (Combined Children's Centre)

This centre is co-located with a children's centre, the youth centre rooms are utilised by the children's centre during the day.

The New Life church is keen to move their current provision to the youth centre and expand to offer an additional night at a later date. They are also committed to joining forces with other organisations to create a foundation for positive activities for all young people in Sleaford. Joint delivery with Children's Services will commence in April while baseline standards are established.

Waddington Youth Centre

The Waddington Parish Council has expressed interest in taking over the organisation of positive activities for young people, liaising with other organisations and volunteers who can act on their behalf. The council are also interested in taking over the building which can be used to generate income during the day to support evening provision for young people. They already lease part of the building as their parish office.

East Lindsey / West Lindsey

The Valley (TVA) Youth Centre

Trent Valley Academy is currently managing this provision. We are working in partnership in relation to developing broader positive activities across Gainsborough.

Mablethorpe Youth Centre

The school have expressed their support for taking the management (as well as asset transfer) of the building and will fund a youth worker to deliver the core offer session.

Skegness Youth Centre

We have received the management proposal documentation and are working to relocate Children's Services staff to enable this to be implemented.

Bardney Youth Centre

We are currently working with Bardney Primary School and Bardney Parish Council on delivery models as both have expressed interest in working with us on this.

Cherry Willingham Youth Centre

Cherry Willingham School expressed interest in youth centre management however, due to pursuing academy status they are unable to commit to the full management until at least January 2013. The youth committee is constituted and the Youth & Community Development Worker is seeking wider community participation. Off the Bench currently support LCC to deliver youth provision at this facility and have been approached to continue the full delivery for at least one year. Following this, the school would potentially be in a position to increase its involvement.

Cuboid, Caistor Youth Centre

The youth centre was asset transferred to Caistor Yarborough Academy (agreement dated 17th August 2011).

North Kelsey Youth Centre

We have undertaken community consultation and they have committed to support the delivery of youth provision with the support of funding from the development grant.

Wainfleet Youth Centre

This facility is unable to be used at present due to unsuitability but the Youth & Community Development staff are developing wider provision in Wainfleet.

Horncastle Youth Centre

Two separate groups have expressed a formal interest in taking the management of the building and support has been given to enable a business proposal to be submitted.

Woodhall Spa Youth Centre

The Parish council have driven forward and facilitated two community meetings which have been well attended by both young people and adults. A management committee is in the process of being formed and partnerships formed with other community groups. Various volunteers have already come forward to continue to deliver core offer sessions

Gainsborough Youth Centre

A steering group has recently been established – driven by Trent Valley Academy - which aims to submit a management proposal and seek funding support through the development grant.

Conningsby Youthworx

There has been interest from 1 x volunteer and the RAF to support the delivery of existing provision.

Louth Youth Centre

13+ Project have – with extensive discussions and support from Children's Services - expressed their intention to consider taking the management of the youth centre.

Keelby Youth Centre

Keelby have had two public meetings to move forward with establishing a management group. The group have volunteers who have committed to support the delivery of provision and we are expecting a management proposal.

Sturton By Stow Youth Centre

The existing youth centre management group have expressed their desire to continue youth provision. We are currently in negotiation over this proposal.

Market Rasen Youth Centre *(NB Leased from school)*

De Aston school currently deliver one night per week provision with a dedicated worker, and expressed their commitment for delivering two nights, with a potential third night delivery on a different site in Market Rasen town centre (away from school site).

Wragby Youth Centre

The plan is for the existing youth centre management group to combine with Wragby sports centre group to create a partnership which can manage the whole site. The discussions are lead by the parish council who have offered their full support.

Alford Youth Centre

The Alford Access Centre have been working in partnership with staff at the youth centre and have already contacted the Town Council and have an agreement in place to hire the Corn Exchange twice weekly (Mondays and Fridays) for youth provision. Provision is now running from corn exchange. This provision is run by the access centre (New Life Christian fellowship).

North Somercotes Youth Centre

The school have confirmed their intent for taking management of the facility but wish to work with the community to deliver the session therefore they need to recruit volunteers.

Welton Youth Centre

William Farr School have expressed their desire to take the management of the building, whilst being accountable to a community steering group. Budget set aside for a dedicated youth and community worker who will both manage the youth centre and develop provision in Welton.

A management proposal is currently being completed. Further consultation with wider community to establish appropriate activities and provision is needed.

Boston / South Holland / South Kesteven

Focus 1 Youth Centre

There have been proposals submitted in respect of Focus 1 Youth Centre.

A proposal form has been received from NACRO. They are also looking at the possibility of combining a user group within their proposal. All other stakeholders have been informed of the proposal providing them with an opportunity to comment.

Carlton Road Youth Centre

A Community Partnership Group has confirmed their intention to take an active role in the delivery of positive activities in this area. They are also applying for the Development grant.

Wrangle Youth Centre

This centre has always been a voluntary project run by the Bonsor family with Children's Services Support. They open one night a week (Fridays). We have continued to support this group in accessing funding, joining LCVYS, and developing their network in the local voluntary sector. This group is now running independently of the Youth and Community Team; however we are continuing contact and forwarding any appropriate information to them.

Spalding Youth Centre

There are three bids that have now been submitted for the handover of Spalding Youth Centre. We are currently assessing these proposals to establish if there is any potential for consortia working in respect of Spalding Youth Centre.

Holbeach Youth Centre

Holbeach Youth Centre is progressing and there is a management committee which consists of the existing management committee of the youth centre, the trustees of the sports hall and other interested parties. There is a proposal to merge the groups into one single management committee which could then take over the charitable status already in place. A business plan has been written and had been submitted along with a bid for the Development grant.

Deepings Youth Centre

The United Deepings Charities on behalf of Deepings Youth Centre is lodging an expression of interest along with a bid for the Development grant.

Bourne Youth Centre

Bourne Youth Centre Management Committee has now declined the offer of taking over the management of the youth centre. However we are currently in talks with Teen Zone who are interested in taking over the youth centre.

The Bourne Youth Centre management committee and TeenZone are both looking at putting in a bid for the development grant.

Earlsfield Youth Centre

This centre is the base for the Foundation Learning programme and as such is not appropriate for community management. However there are significant links with the community centre management committee and the potential for positive activities within the centre to be coordinated by them.

In addition Action for Young Carers have advised that they will be putting in a bid for the development grant support positive activities for young carers to be operated from the centre.

Grantham Youth Centre

This centre is being used almost to capacity by a variety of groups.

Mobile Units (REAL Bus)

The mobile units have continued to deliver a range of programmes across the wide geographical areas of North Kesteven and East Lindsey, bringing services to young people affected by rural isolation. Programmes provided include Information, Advice and Guidance, sex & relationships, drug & alcohol awareness, anti-bullying work, further education, careers and employment, personal safety, leaving home, and health & wellbeing.

In addition to the rural outreach programme, formal work has been also delivered within schools with students at risk of exclusion, and to support elements of the PSHE and Citizenship programmes.

Over 2,000 different young people have accessed the mobile units over the last year, many of whom have repeatedly engaged with the activities provided. Basic profiling shows that the units are reaching their intended age range with attendees predominantly within 13-19 age range, however there is a gender imbalance with $\frac{2}{3}$ of attendees being male (although this may be explained by the links to Fairplay Football in some areas).

Areas served by the mobile units have included:

Sleaford	Metheringham	Witham St
Heckington	Waddington	Billingham
N Hykeham	Washinborough	Fulstow
North Thoresby	Grainthorpe	Withern
Ingoldmells	Sutton-on-Sea	Holton
Marshchapel	Covenham	Manby
Hogsthorpe	Willoughby	Chapel St Leonards
Birkbeck	Burgh-Le-Marsh	Wainfleet

Work in other areas

In addition to the work we are undertaking in respect of the Youth Centres and the mobile unit delivery, we are also engaged in a number of other locations where we are supporting the development of voluntary led youth provision, and are engaging young people through our other community based programmes such as Fairplay Football and Positive Futures.

Fairplay Football has continued to be delivered predominantly on Friday evenings in a number of communities around Lincolnshire. The aim of Fairplay is to engage young people in positive activities on a Friday evening, diverting them away from alcohol misuse, youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour. During the past year there have been 823 different young people involved and over 4,800 attendances. Fairplay Football has been delivered in the following areas:

Boston	Grantham	Lincoln South	Lincoln North
Gainsborough	North Hykeham	Heckington	Stamford
Louth	Sleaford		

Positive futures has also continued to be a success, and has reached 2364 different young people from across Lincolnshire. This has greatly exceeded our target of reaching 1000 different young people each year as set out in the original business case for the project. The programme has delivered in:

Boston – Fenside	Lincoln – St Giles	Lincoln – Ermine
Lincoln – Birchwood	Lincoln – Moorland	Lincoln – Hartsholme
Lincoln – Tower	Gainsborough	Grantham
Witham St-Hughes	North Hykeham	

In line with the model for Youth & Community Development Positive Futures was supported by 53 volunteers during the last financial year.

Further Support to the Voluntary & Community Sector

A Development Fund for voluntary and community organisations to develop further youth and positive activities was launched in January of this year.

Maintaining and extending our relationship with Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (LCVYS), will enabled us to further engage in these developments by providing capacity to small community based and voluntary sector organisations to deliver universal and low level preventative services across Lincolnshire.

We have refreshed our arrangements in respect of support for the increase in positive activities and have also increased the level of grant aid funding provided to LCVYS (from c£60,000pa to £100,000pa), and maintained our commitment to fund the LCVYS Development Officer post to support this expected increase in activity.

We are also working closely with LCVYS on the development and delivery of introductory training for individuals and groups wishing to work with young people. This training will form part of a pathway for the voluntary sector children's workforce, and includes elements that link to the key standards for the delivery of positive activities for young people.

2. Conclusion

In conclusion, progress in developing the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to engage within the provision and management of positive activities for young people has been achieved at a much faster rate than envisaged at the time of Full Core Offer. This is a testament to the Youth & Community Development work teams, the community and others including Members who have responded well to this new model of delivery.

3. Consultation

a) Policy proofing Actions required

Whilst the nature of delivery will be different, it is not anticipated that there will be any adverse changes to services. It is expected that with this new model of delivery a greater range and volume of positive activities will be made available to young people, not only in the locations where we have existing centres, but also in other areas where Children's Services have had limited or no presence to date.

4 Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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