

Open report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 January 2014
Subject:	Progress report and action plan on the Lincolnshire Youth Offer

Summary:

This report gives a progress report on the development of the Lincolnshire Youth Offer and will update the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on current service delivery, plans to identify gaps in delivery and the action plan to address any gaps.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the information contained within the report.

1. Background and context

Positive for Youth published in December 2011 is the cross-Government policy for young people aged 13 to 19 in England. It brings together all of the Government's policies for this age group, with the intention of creating a single vision across the interests of nine departments.

Positive for Youth sets out a "shared vision" for how all parts of society – including councils, schools, charities and businesses – can work together in partnership, with a single goal, to support families and improve outcomes for young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged or vulnerable, and was developed with young people and youth professionals through extensive collaboration and consultation.

Drawing on lessons from the best local practice, Positive for Youth sets out the principles of what a good system of support for young people looks like and how this can be achieved – focusing strongly on the importance of cross-sector partnership. The Government is retaining the duty on Local Authorities (LAs) to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13-19 year olds. This duty also requires LAs to

take into account young people's views and to publicise information about the local offer. Revised guidance relating to this duty was published on 12 July 2012 and a further progress report was published in July 2013.

Lincolnshire Children's Services, following the Federated Core Offer, implemented revised arrangements for the provision of support, facilities and activities for young people. These arrangements were planned in anticipation of the retained duties, but configured in such a way as to take account of the financial restraints placed upon Children's Services at that time.

Since that time Children's Services have been able to change the way we offer services and support to young people whilst maximising the resources available. We believe that this new approach will better support young people to achieve their full potential and to take a positive role in the community, both now and in the future. However, this is not necessarily about the Local Authority delivering the Youth Offer, this is about the Local Authority working with the community and voluntary sector and local business to provide the best opportunities for young people in Lincolnshire. Most importantly it is about partnership with young people.

The principles which are guiding these changes are:

- Young people's needs and aspirations are at the heart of the local offer
- Young people should be actively engaged in all elements of service delivery, planning, design and delivery
- Parents, carers and the community should be engaged in supporting their young people
- Young people should be fully aware of the opportunities and support services available to them
- The Youth Offer will be flexible and adaptable to meet the changing needs of young people
- The Youth Offer is not the monopoly of the Local Authority and is a partnership between the public, private, voluntary and the community sectors
- There will be integration of planning and commissioning and delivery of local services across the public, private and third sectors
- The Youth Offer recognises transition points in young people's lives and will help young people make these transitions successfully.

The reshaped integrated youth offer will:

- Provide greater support to a wider range of young people, helping them build on their strengths and resilience to cope with changes in their lives
- Be better able to respond to the needs of the diverse population of young people in their local communities
- Be more sustainable, drawing on existing resources in the community
- Be more flexible and responsive to the ever changing needs of young people and their communities
- Have a greater focus on improving life chances rather than on service delivery
- Have more effective identification of young people who need extra help

and provision of intensive support when that is needed co-ordinated through the Team Around the Child process.

Progress to date

A number of actions have been undertaken to try and establish the level of participation and engagement by young people in positive activities, and whilst securing accurate data on this is a challenge, the following figures give an indication of the numbers of young people in Lincolnshire that have registered to take part in positive activities.

There are an estimated 72,000 young people aged between 11 and 19 in Lincolnshire.

Over 80,000 young people are registered to take part in activities such as sports based activities, Duke of Edinburgh awards, National Citizenship Service, Scouts, Cadets, music, positive futures and performing arts.

This not only indicates huge amounts of engagement in positive activities but also indicates that some young people will be participating in more than one activity.

There will also be equal numbers of informal activities, such as private music lessons that are participated in each week for which we have no way of establishing accurate data.

Positive Activities Survey

In September 2013 we launched a survey for young people, " Tell us what you do" on www.teeninfoincs.co.uk from which we had 242 responses. We asked young people if they engaged in positive activities and for those who did we asked for details of the type of activities. We also asked which activities young people thought were missing from their localities.

70% of respondents attended some form of positive activity, with only 25% of those having attended a Youth Club.

Sporting activities were the most popular activities engaged in and for those wanting additional activities in their localities, gymnastics were the most commonly requested.

No young person made comments relating to an absence of Youth Centre Activity in their area. Further work is being explored as a result of the responses with the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership.

The Youth Development Hub

It was recognised that following Core Offer and the significant financial reductions that had an immediate impact on services to young people; there was a need to bring together the county wide services working with young people and support the locality teams to ensure the resources, expertise and the performance outcomes of a range of different services both within LCC and within partner agencies were

maximised. In response to that need the Youth Development Hub has been created. The Team Manager has a strategic lead for the Youth Offer and is directly responsible for a number of county wide services that focus on Youth including Positive Futures, the Duke of Edinburgh Team, The Anti Bullying Officer, The Participation Team, the responsibility for managing the Youth Development Project (which is supporting the project to transfer the management of Youth Centres from LCC to community groups across the county), as well as providing support and funding to Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services.

We have developed (and are developing) service specifications for each of the discrete delivery models contained within in locality delivery and in response to Positive for Youth, developing our support to other areas that relate to young people, such as our work with employers and educational establishments. This will help to explain to practitioners, young people and parents the way in which these services are delivered, so they can be clear on expectations and impact.

In the appendices section of this report are The Youth Offer and the Young Peoples version of the Youth Offer which is available on the www.teeninfoilincs.co.uk website with interactive elements taking young people to more detailed information about each aspect of service delivery as outlined in Figure 1 below. In addition there are a number of 'Week in the Life of...' illustrated examples each demonstrating how a number of young people with a range of different needs can access services across Lincolnshire.

Positive Futures

To shine the spotlight on just one area of county wide LCC delivery, Positive Futures who have been in operation for over three years in Lincolnshire, offer a range of open access positive sporting activities to young people across the county. The recently published Impact Report sets out impressive performance figures with 7737 different young people engaging in the project over the three year period of which 6524 young people have referred themselves to the project. The Service has also achieved some impressive outcomes with over 5097 positive outcomes recorded ranging from improved behaviour, to joining a sports club, to positive participation, to the creation of community role models supporting 178 to be volunteers offering over 14193 hours of input at the time of publication! There are numerous examples of individual and community successes with testimonials from a number of partner organisations and impressive plans for development including the supporting of young people to become mentors, increased opportunities for income generation with funding secured from a RAF covenant and the development of an apprenticeship scheme for young people who have accessed the Service. The Youth Development Hub will enable Positive Futures success to be maximised across the County ensuring they are appropriately linked into the Youth Offer being delivered at locality level avoiding duplication and promoting opportunities for all young people to engage in positive activities.

The Real Bus - Mobile Units

There are currently two mobile units, one located in East Lindsey which is owned by LCC, and one located in North Kesteven which is a leased vehicle. Work has been undertaken to ensure these valuable resources can be deployed to maximise outcomes across the county. It has recently been agreed that the Mobile Units will be moved into the central Youth Development Hub with a small dedicated team of Youth and Community Development Workers who will deliver a timetable of activities in our most rural communities enabling us to meet any gaps in the delivery of positive activities and also enabling a responsive element, so that the Buses can be deployed to meet any emerging needs. For example in 2012 a successful piece of multi-agency working took place between LCC, the Youth Offending Service and Lincolnshire Police when a problem emerged regarding anti-social behaviour being displayed in an area without specific positive activities. The Police in conjunction with LCC applied for and were granted an exclusion order preventing young people from congregating in an identified area and alongside this LCC were able to respond by delivering specific tailored activities designed to deal with both the immediate behavioural concerns but also engage the young people in sustained positive activities. The joint working was very successful and resulted in a reduction in anti-social behaviour and also prevented the behaviour of some young people from escalating to an extent that would have brought them into the Criminal Justice System for the first time. It is envisaged that the Real Buses could be deployed in this way but could also be utilised for joint working with other organisations as well as exploring other functions such as delivering home tuition in rural locations.

Youth Centres

There has been significant progress in the Delivery of Youth Centre provision through local communities. A summary of the position is provided in the table below.

Of the original 40 centres:

Outcome	Number	Centres Location	Status
Grant Awarded and activities being delivered	10	Alford, Spilsby, Moorland, Saxilby, W.Spa, Wrangle, Skellingthorpe, M.Rasen, N.Kelsey, TVA	Complete
Building Leased or let and positive activities being delivered	7	Bourne, Spalding, Holbeach, C.Willingham, Horncastle, Wragby, Sleaford	Complete
Building to be Leased and positive activities being delivered	8	Ruskington, LYM, Coningsby, Skegness, Louth, Bardney, Keelby, Sturton	In progress, with Legal Services, completion imminent.
Centres and	13	Birchwood, Boston	In progress

activities with interested parties and under negotiation		x 2, N.Somercotes, St Giles, Grantham New Beacon, Waddington, Deepings, Welton, Wainfleet, Caistor, Mablethorpe, Branston	
Building to be retained, positive activities to be delivered by community	2	Earlesfield, North Hykeham	Stakeholder events to be restarted
Total:	40		

Of particular significance is the new and emerging work that the Youth and Community Development Workers are engaged in with 17 new locations being explored for the delivery of positive activities.

Areas Include:

Metheringham, Washingborough, Billinghay & Heckington, Potterhanworth, Nocton, Welbourn, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Deeping St Nicholas, Lincoln Ermine, Lincoln Abbey, Lincoln Sincil Bank, Lincoln (new estate behind B&Q), Hemswell (ex MOD site), Newtoft (ex MOD site), Gainsborough and Laughton.

The Integrated Youth Offer

Fig 1. Lincolnshire's Integrated Youth Offer



Across our seven localities in conjunction with the Youth Development Hub we will facilitate the delivery of 7 strands of the Lincolnshire Integrated Youth Offer (see fig. 1). They are:

- **Youth & Community Development** - Facilitating the development and sustainability of a wide range of positive activities which will be attractive to young people and will support their personal and social development. This will be delivered through a wide range of providers such as schools, voluntary agencies, community groups and individuals, supported by our Youth Community Development Workers.

Example: **Positive Futures** work with young people across the county providing opportunities to take part in a range of activities including sports, drama and dance. They work in partnerships with schools, colleges and the voluntary sector. Progression opportunities are included in all the activities.

- **Targeted Youth Support** - In partnership with others we will seek to identify vulnerable and/or challenging young people at the earliest stage possible, and develop a multi-agency package of support that meets the needs of the young person and their family through the Team Around the Child (TAC) process.

Example: The TAC process is instigated by a single assessment form that brings all the services who could offer relevant support to young people and their families together. Services involved might include Parent Partnership, Police, Public Health and others alongside Targeted Youth Support Workers.

- **Volunteering** - Promoting a range of opportunities which promote volunteering by encouraging young people to volunteer and become involved in their communities. This will link to other initiatives aimed at promoting active citizenship and community.

Example: The **Duke of Edinburgh** Award is being followed by all secondary schools and there are thousands of young people taking various levels of award, all of which involve a volunteering in their community aspect.

- **Commissioning** - Providing and commissioning open access provision in areas of deprivation and areas of need. Working with business, the community and voluntary sector on the development of capacity to meet emerging needs of young people locally.

Example: Children's Service commissioning team work closely with **Young Inspectors** to inspect services as well as right from the beginning of the process to ensure what is being commissioned is suitable and relevant.

- **Information, Advice and Guidance** - Ensuring access to Information, Advice & Guidance provision. Providing young people with good quality comprehensive and impartial information, advice and guidance to empower young people to make decisions about their lives.

Example: The www.teeninfoincs.gov.uk website has been specifically designed and populated with and by young people. It includes sections on Careers, World of Work, Health, Positive Activities and Youth Voice amongst others.

- **Improved Employment and Learning Opportunities** - Improving access to employment and learning opportunities through Raising the Participation Age (PRA), our 14-19 Strategy and the development of apprenticeships.

Example: The www.14-19.info site holds information about every course available in Lincolnshire for 14-19 year olds (barring university courses). It also has information, advice and guidance about Decision making, Action Planning, Labour Market Information, CV Building and job applications. Apprenticeship vacancies in Lincolnshire are updated each week on the **teeninfoincs** website.

- **Young people's Voice** - Enabling and supporting young to have their views taken into account in decisions that affect their lives. Giving them a stronger voice and celebrating their positive contribution and achievements.

Example: The **Youth Development Hub** team support the Youth Cabinet, Youth Parliament, V4C groups across the county, Lincolnshire Participation Action Group, Healthwatch and others who all enable and encourage young people to speak out and to be heard. All these groups have made a difference to Children's Services in the county.

This work is summarised and supported by examples of how this will apply to young people in the 'Week in a Life' case studies in Appendix 1. This also includes a Young people's version of the offer.

Appendix 2 is an update of the 'Delivering 'Positive for Youth' in Lincolnshire' document from July 2012.

Measuring Success

How we will measure success:

We will have successfully reshaped our youth support services if we can show we have:

- increased opportunities for young people to make use of services
- improved quality of services from the perspective of young people
- improved satisfaction of young people with services
- reached a larger representative proportion of the youth population.

An integrated way of reporting the performance of the range of services who contribute to the Youth Offer is currently being developed. This is complex as a range of outcomes are included, for example the numbers of young people being satisfied with their lives, numbers of 17, 18 year olds engaged in education, training and employment as well as numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.

2. Conclusion

In conclusion there continues to be progress in the development of Lincolnshire's Youth Offer. There is significant evidence to suggest large numbers of young people are accessing a range of positive activities in the Community. By working with a range of providers Children's Services can ensure that the activities that young people want are delivered in Lincolnshire. Through the work of the Youth Development Hub in conjunction with the locality teams we can ensure by engaging with young people and their communities that any gaps in service provision can be minimised, by supporting any emerging community groups through the Youth and Community Development Workers, ensuring the best deployment of the mobile units and ensuring Positive Futures continue to be responsive to emerging need.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Youth Offer – Summaries
Appendix 2	Positive for Youth - Update

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