



**Children and Families Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
**Report from the Director of Children  
& Families**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Report Title:** Youth Service Update

Forward Plan Ref:

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides an up-date for officers and members on progress the Youth Service has made since the re-inspection carried out by the Office of Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection team.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the progress made to date since OfSTED re-inspection and Joint Area Review

## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Following the re-inspection of the service in January the OfSTED inspectors reported the following “ The overall evaluation by inspectors is that the service has made Reasonable progress to date in rectifying weaknesses in provision, but that further factors are required to ensure overall improvement.”

- Ensure the service receives sufficient funding Good progress
- The Council should address inadequacies in the quality of youth work to raise the standards of achievement of young people Reasonable progress
- Implement more robust quality assurance procedures and include more observation of practice Reasonable progress
- Improve the accuracy and use of management information Limited progress
- Strengthen the management team Reasonable progress

- Improve the standard of accommodation Good progress

### 3.2 Progress on the above areas

#### 3.3 Sufficient funding

- £300k Capital funding has been allocated for rebuild of the Chalkhill centre to include a discreet KS3 pupil referral unit.
- A youth participation worker is in post and is managing the new Youth Opportunity Fund and BYM2
- Additional youth work hours have been allocated to Wembley centre, Ability youth project, Roundwood, 16 Plus and the detached team.
- Manager recruited for Roundwood centre due in post 1<sup>ST</sup> December.

#### 3.4 Quality of youth work and raise the standards of achievements of young people.

- Planning and use of the youth service curriculum document is now more consistently used by staff. Improvement in the achievement of young people is evidenced by the increase of recorded and accredited outcomes in the performance indicator table below.
- Termly planners show a more varied programme on offer to young people

#### 3.5 Performance Indicators

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7 Projection	National Target
Numbers of young people reached (of the 13-19 population 19,836)	3481 17% of 20,500 population	3657 18.4%	3967 20%	4960 25%
% of young people reached gaining recorded outcomes	6%	32%	35%	60%
% of young people reached gaining accredited outcomes	2%	11.2%	13%	30%

#### 3.6 Implement more robust quality assurance procedures and include more observation of practice

- Quality Assurance TOOL-KIT is in place and consistently used across the service.
- Managers have been engaged in three observation monitoring visits of Generic youth provision in January, March/April and July/August. Observation reports show improvement in session planning and delivery. Where further improvement was required a system of "buddying" was put in place in order to share good practice.
- Programme evaluation reports are not consistently carried out by some project/centres.
- The youth inspection team has been involved in observation of youth projects feedback is reported to Brent Youth Matters 2 steering group. Managers then hold surgeries with the relevant staff to agree improvement action plans.

- 3.7 Improve accuracy and use of management information system
- EYS system now in place all staff have received training and a all young people registered on manual registers have now been entered on to the system.
  - The EYS system enables the service to monitor participation by young disabled people, Asian young people and young women.
  - The system has also enabled us to consider levels of participation at projects/centre and where numbers are low close projects and redeploy staff.
  - The service has now removed the risk of double counting where young people attend more than one project. The EYS system ensures that young people are only entered once.
- 3.8 Strengthen the management team
- This area was only judged as reasonable because the finance officer was not in post in January. The service has now recruited and the officer is expected to take up the position shortly. In the interim period the service has contracted Financial Information Systems, to assist in setting up systems which allow budgets to be devolved to front line managers. A robust monthly monitoring system is in place and managers receive reports for spend against each budget line. This is then is discussed during supervision.
  - An allocation for a monitoring officer was agreed as part of the growth for 2006/7. This post is currently being covered by agency staff. This officer has been responsible for managing the EYS system and ensuring accuracy of reports.
- 3.9 Improve the standard of accommodation
- The refurbishment of Roundwood and Granville centres is now complete. Both centres were able to deliver an extensive summer programme. The centres have also increased the number of activities on offer this autumn.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The service was allocated £200,000 revenue and £300,000 capital growth for additional staffing and project running costs. Additional funding was used in the following areas; recruitment of a quality assurance officer, professional training for unqualified youth workers, a senior youth worker post for Granville centre, a finance officer, repairs and refurbishment for Chalkhill, Tavistock, Wembley Appendix 1 shows the impact of spending on delivery.
- 4.2 The service was also allocated a further £200,000 revenue growth for 2006/7 see appendix 2

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Education Act 1996 requires the LEA to ensure that there are adequate facilities for recreation and social and physical physical training associated with primary and secondary, education and it may provide such facilities for the recreation, social and physical training of young people.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The recommendations from the first OfSTED inspection included an action to increase the number of Asian young people and young people with disabilities using our service. The number of Asian young people using our services has increased from 594 in 2004/5 to 701 in 2005/6.  
The number of disabled young people using our services has increased from 35 in 2004/5 to 143 in 2005/6

## **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1 None

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