

Item No:	Classification: Open	Date: 25 th February 2003	Executive
Title of Report		Connexions Service Plan: 2003/004	
From		Strategic Director of Education and Culture	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members note the Connexions Service Plan: 2003/004 as set out in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Government outlined its vision for a new youth support arrangements in the White Paper, *Learning to Succeed*, published in June 1999. The Social Exclusion Unit's report, *Bridging the Gap: new opportunities for 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training*, gave further information about these arrangements. The Agreement *Connexions: The best start in life for every young person*, published in February 2000, set out in some detail the wide ranging Connexions strategy and how the new Connexions Service will be developed, including the timescale for its phased operation.
3. The Learning and Skills Act 2000 (the Act), Sections 114 to 122, created the statutory base for the creation of the Connexions Service (referred to in the Act as youth support services). Section 114 of the Act empowers the Secretary of State to provide or secure the provision of services, which he thinks will encourage, enable or assist (directly or indirectly) effective participation by young persons in education or training. In securing the provision of those services the Secretary of State may, in particular-
 - (a) make arrangements with local authorities and other persons for the provision of services;
 - (b) direct local education authorities to provide services, to secure the provision of services or to participate in the provision of services.
4. Guidance about the establishment of the Connexions Service was set out in the agreement called *The Connexions Service: Prospectus and specification*, published in March 2000. Section 1.4 of that agreement outlined the proposed structure for the delivery of the new service:
 - (a) a cross departmental Connexions Service National Unit (CSNU);
 - (b) Connexions Partnerships at local Learning and Skills Council (LSC) area level, responsible for strategic planning and funding;
 - (c) Local Management Committees at the level of local authorities bringing together local partners and responsible for day-to-day management of local delivery LMC.

5. Southwark is one of seven authorities within the Central London LSC area: Camden, Islington, Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster. The Central London Partnership area for the delivery of the Connexions Service will include these seven local authority areas.
6. Within Central London, three Careers Companies serve the area: Prospects Services Ltd, Guidance Enterprises Group Ltd and Careers Management Ltd. These companies hold contracts with the Government to provide services contracted out by the Secretary of State in performance of his duty under sections 8 to 10 of the Employment and Training Act 1973. The Connexions Service will take responsibility for these services as it is rolled out across England.
7. The Seven Local Authorities, the London Central Learning and Skills Council and the Careers Companies form the core of the partnership that was established 1 June 2002. The Partnership Deed Agreement sets out how these Founding Partners and others intend to work together to deliver the Connexions Service, through a 'lead body' arrangement.
8. The establishment of the Connexions Service in Central London presents a significant challenge to the support of young people in their transition into adulthood.
9. The Connexions Service aims to provide a network of Personal advisers to support and guide young people through their teenage years. The provision of information, advice support and guidance, sometimes delivered by imagination and flexible outreach activities, is an important part of connecting and re-connecting young people with learning throughout their teenage years. This will be achieved by building on the work of a wide range of existing agencies in the Public, Private and voluntary and community sectors. Personal advisers will be drawn from a wide range of professionals, bringing a variety of experience to the service. Some will be directly employed through the Connexions Service, while others will remain within existing professional context. Professionals from both the statutory sector and from voluntary and community organisations, such as Homeless workers, Drugs workers, Care Leavers Advisers', Youth Offending Teams and many others will deliver the Personal Advisers role.
10. Personal Advisers will operate across the following broad areas of need:
 - (a) General advice and support (Universal Support): at those key episodes in the young people's life when information, advice and support on educational and vocational issues will be necessary to help them make decision that affect their future;
 - (b) In-depth support (intensive support): for those at risk of not participating effectively in education and training (e.g. irregular school attenders).
 - (c) Those with learning, who are unlikely to be involved with a number of different professionals engaged in education, social welfare, criminal justice, health and housing (Specialist support).

The Southwark delivery model:

11. The local authority, through the strategic Director for Education & Culture, holds one of two main contracts, both of which are co-ordinated through the Local Management Committee (LMC) and are reflected in the Connexions Service Plan: 2003/004 attached as Appendix 1.
12. The Connexions Service in Southwark will be delivered through contracts held by Prospects Careers Guidance Company and the local authority to provide an integrated information, advice, guidance, support and personal development opportunities for all 13-19 years olds in the borough, the purpose of which is to help young people engage in learning, achieving their full potential and make a smooth transition to adult life. The support provided to young people will reflect need; vulnerable and disadvantaged young people will receive extra help to overcome barriers to learning and progression and improve their life chances. Central to the Service will be the development of a multi-disciplinary, trans-agency network of young people's advisers.
13. The local authority is contracted to deliver intensive and specialist support provision, while the contract held by Prospects Careers Guidance is to deliver the Universal Support Provision across all secondary schools and further education providers (i.e. Southwark College).
14. The terms of reference of the LMC is attached within the plan as appendix 2 and reflect the multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach to the co-ordination and delivery of a youth support provision.
15. In the recently published guidelines on the Connexions Service (Dec 2002), it is now expected that Members will sign-off the local Plan: 2003/004. This report aims to provide Members with an opportunity to understand how Connexions supports the wider youth strategy. Furthermore, in relation to the Youth Service Plan: 2003/004, the local authority is expected to highlight how the local authority Youth Service is working in partnership to deliver the Youth Support Service. Members will note that a separate, but complementary, report is being presented on the Youth Service Plan: 2003/004. The proposal contained within the Action Plan attached as Appendix 2 within the Plan, reflect the actions and activities to be put in place to achieve these targets.

Key issues for consideration:

- (i) Connexions roll out: The Connexions Service in Southwark was formally established in June 2002, when the Central London Partnership was awarded the Contract from the CSNU. We have therefore been operating fully as a 'Connexions' area for seven months. Over that period, we have: -
 - Undertaken high levels of recruitment of additional personal Advisers with wide diversity that reflects the local youth population
 - Agreed and finalised partnership arrangements with host agencies
 - Establish strong multi-agency work and developing PAs to a variety of partner agencies
 - Deliver induction and other training for PAs
 - Establish two First Stop Shops and Access Points
 - Put in place signage of First Stop Shop and Access Point

- ❑ A fully represented LMC with effective links to the Board
 - ❑ Strong models of young people's participation at local levels
 - ❑ Introduction performance management structures
 - ❑ At a local level, assisted in the co-ordination of an Initiative Fund aimed at the voluntary sector. The largest number of applicants were for Southwark.
 - ❑ Continued to raise the profile of the Service through, presentation, workshops and events.
- (ii) The Youth Service: - the Youth Service has been playing a key role in the development of the service in Southwark. As the nominated representative for the strategic Director of Education & Culture, the Youth Service Manager chairs the LMC, has responsibility for the local Connexions Manager and is responsible for the delivery of the contract within the Education & Culture Department. As indicated in the Youth Service Plan, the model is very much an incorporated' model and is one that places the delivery of Connexions alongside the Youth Service to constitute the Youth and Connexions Service. To cement the direction of this strategic service approach, Members are asked to note the new youth support and development service approach and new title of the complementary services: "The Youth and Connexions Service".
- (iii) Service targets: the success of the Service will be measured by the achievement of the following targets:

The Youth and Connexions Service Targets

National targets

1. Youth Service to reach up to 25% of young people in the target 13 – 19yrs age range (currently 12%) by 2005/006. In 2003/004 this will be 18%; 2004/005: 21% 2005/006: 25%.
2. Of the 25% reached in the 13 – 19 target population, 60% to undergo personal and social development, which results in an accredited outcome.
3. To achieve 85% or better satisfactory rating from young people engaged with the Youth Service.
4. To work very closely with the LSC, EBA, employers and work based training providers to ensure that disaffected young people, aged 16 – 19yrs, have access to and be able to achieve to the best of their ability in the labour market, by increasing the number of young people achieving a qualification equivalent to NVQ level 2 through the Youth Service.
5. To work with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to provide an appropriate education, training and employment provision to reach at least 50% of those young people supervised.
6. To refer young people, with a drug related problem, to specialist support and to have in place, through the social education programme, wider drugs prevention programme across all youth centres in both the voluntary and maintained sector.

7. The Youth and Connexions Service will conduct a survey of young people's perception, views and needs every year.
8. To meet the National Youth Agency's (NYA) minimum standards for promoting young people's social development and personal achievement.
9. To contribute to the reduction of the under 18 conception rate by 50% (2010) and establish a downward trend in the conception rate for under 16s.
10. To work with a targeted group of young mothers, aged 16 – 19yrs, to enable them to get back into education, employment and training (min. 60% success rate).

Local targets

1. Providing a mixed range of high quality leisure, recreational and educational activities and opportunities to meet the social and personal education needs of young people aged 11 – 19yrs (core age range 13 – 19yrs).
2. Providing a wide diversity of youth clubs and youth activities, including the virtual dimension, within other organisations, that meets the needs of young people.
3. Offering the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or similar youth achievement awards to all 14 – 25yrs olds
4. Providing arrangements to secure sufficient outreach and detached youth work to connect with, and sustain contact with, substantial numbers of disengaged young people.
5. Ensuring that young people have a voice and will be listened to about services being provided to them and issues affecting them.
6. To have in place a Youth Charter developed by young people.
7. Young people's attendance to increase by 50% over the years 2003/004 – 2005/006 (2001/002: 112,000).
8. To achieve an Ofsted equivalent rating on the 'Self-assessment schedule' of 80% or better in 2003/004.
9. To have in place an annual event that celebrates and recognise young people's social and personal development achievements.
10. To provide a co-ordinated summer programme for young people aged 13 – 19yrs, targeted (250 – 300 young people) and generic (3000 young people).
11. To establish a link with the new City Academy when this is built in 2003 with the intention of this being a 'specialist, business/enterprise' Connexion Access Point.
12. Provide opportunities within neighbourhoods for young people to get a good start in life, in particular with reference to special needs provision

13. Reduce young people as perpetrators and victims of crime by implementing school and neighbourhood-focused interventions as part of the youth crime strategy
14. To target resources at supporting young people in care in their transition to independent living
15. To establish placements in the Youth Service to support young people engaged on the Foundation in Modern Apprenticeship (FMA) programme (NVQ 2)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

An effective youth support service' is not simply a question of more resources, it involves formalising and prioritising a number of requirements to ensure quality work and encourage good practice. This involves the development of:

- a) a clear statement of purpose for youth support work delivery;
- b) arrangements for ensuring equity and quality of resources and provisions;
- c) outline of effective partnership arrangements between providers.

It is a feature of the Plan that it aims to provide a starting point of the role and purpose of a youth support and development service. Moreover, it begins to map the boundaries as to the unique contribution that youth work and Personal advisory work can make to social and personal development of young people living and growing up in Southwark. At its core, it demonstrates how a Youth Support Service can meet the Council's priorities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Youth Service Plan: 2003/004 and the Connexions Service Plan: 2003/004 provides a 'starting' point for meeting the challenges facing young people as we move towards the next millennium. The Youth Service Plan and Connexions Plan will seek to provide a starting point over the next three years to 2005/006 as we move towards the development of a 'Borough' Policy for Young People. There is as yet no definitive 'policy' for young people within the Council.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implication arising from this report from the Council. However, the contract does allow for up to £1,000,000 (approx.) income coming into the borough to support the young people agenda, based on the production and delivery of the Connexions Plan.

CONSULTATION

A series of consultation meetings have taken place since May 2002, to engage colleagues and staff across the 'partnership' arrangements on the scope and direction of the Plan. In May a meeting was held with all chairs of grant aided voluntary organisations to brief colleagues in the light of the TYWDF and the forthcoming common planning framework; in June this was

followed up by a 'service wide' a residential event to begin the mapping and sketching of the content of the Plan, focusing on the principle challenges facing the youth service nationally and locally; in October the first draft was circulated to key colleagues and partners, including the voluntary sector and Government Office for London; in November and December this was further discussed at the Youth Crime Sub-Group, the LMC and the Children's and Young People Partnership Board; on 14th December this was further discussed at a joint voluntary and maintained sector event. Simultaneously, discussions have been ongoing with the voluntary youth organisations on the grant aid programme, which reflects the development of the Plan. Written submissions have been received from colleagues in the Council and voluntary youth organisations. Young people have been consulted on the Plan as part of the agreed strategy. The Executive Member has been consulted and was also involved at the event on 14th December. On 23rd December a meeting was held with Government Office for London to consider the second draft. At its meeting on 14th February 2003, the Central London Partnership agreed the overarching Business Plan to be submitted to Government Office for London (GOL) and DfES, to meet the deadline for 14th February. The Connexions Plan for Southwark has been agreed by the Central London Partnership, as contractors.

A copy of the report has been sent to Southwark Action for Voluntary Organisations (SAVO) and the Youth Workers Forum for information.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Working Together – Connexions Service and the Statutory Youth Service	15 Spa Road, London SE16 3QW <u>Copies obtainable from:</u> DfES Publications PO Box 5050 Sherwood Park Annesley Nottingham NG15 ODJ	Karl Murray
Transforming Youth Work: Planning for the Local Authority Youth Service: 2003/04 Guidance	15 Spa Road, London SE16 3QW <u>Copies obtainable from:</u> DfES Publications PO Box 5050 Sherwood Park Annesley Nottingham NG15 ODJ	Karl Murray
Transforming Youth Work: Resourcing Excellent Youth Services	15 Spa Road, London SE16 3QW <u>Copies obtainable from:</u> DfES Publications PO Box 5050	Karl Murray

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Lead Officer	Dr Roger Smith, Strategic Director of Education and Culture	
Report Author	Karl Murray Head of Youth and Connexions Service	
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Dated	17 th February 2003	
Key Decision	No	
Consultation with other Officers/Directorates/Executive Member	Comments sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
Executive Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	17 th February 2003	