

Response to Camberwell Scrutiny concerns – youth provision

There is a mixture of maintained and voluntary sector provided provisions in the Camberwell area that caters for young people aged 5 – 19yrs+. These provisions can be loosely split accordingly:

- After school provisions (5 – 11yrs)
- Play provision (8 – 12yrs)
- Youth provisions (13 – 19yrs+).

Within this community council area these provision are supported by other borough wide resources that serve to augment what is taking place in each of the above age range environments. Examples of these are:

- Arts and culture opportunities and sites;
- Sports and other recreational sites such as parks and open spaces.
- Libraries
- Schools with access for evening class an other extramural activities as part of extended services approach

Regards the specific youth focus provision (13 – 19yrs), based on information obtained from our EYS management information system, we have been able to determine participation and attendance levels of those organisations using this tool. Thus, we can see in the first half of this year:

- 41% of the young people aged 13 – 19yrs who live in the area access provisions (national target is 25% contact)
- a range of programmes, including residential and camping programmes take place during term time and holiday periods;
- range of building based and detached provision offered across the local area
- specialist provision for those with special needs.

Table 1 below provides a notional overview of the relationship between the capacity of some of the provisions (where this can be best established) and the take up of those provisions. In looking at the figures, however, care must be taken as to some of major variables that impact greatly on what is offered against what can be offered. Some of those are:

- shape and configuration of the buildings (is it on more than one level and how open are the spaces?)

- funding available to organisations to secure an adequate programme (i.e. is there enough staff to deliver the programme and ensure the provision is safe and secure?)
- staffing complement available on any given session (e.g. most of the provision will be part-time and hence the staffing will be either volunteers or part-time sessional workers and quality of those staff?)
- transport route and accessibility to the provision
- opening hours and availability of space, where this is a shared space (e.g. is the case with church halls and T&RA provision)
- time of the year – darker nights and winter months usually mean lowering of the participation level across sites.

Some further thoughts to consider:

There is a thought that part of the supply – demand agenda could miss out on the post 16 feature of youth engagement. Young people who are between 16 – 19yrs are looking for something fundamentally different from those aged 11 – 16yrs. For some, especially those who are not in education, employment or training, the concern is one of inertia. For them, the incentive to do nothing is greater than the incentive to get up and do something! There is almost little to no hope for this generation and they reflect back to the younger ones what life could/may be like and so they may not aspire. As the saying goes, only a fool pushes themselves when there is nothing to gain! Youth provision can play an enabling role and do, but they require other supportive and allied provisions, such as good employment and skills sector engagement/facilities to support the work of good quality youth work. We currently have two work based learning providers in the borough (Southwark College and Bosco Centre) offering Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Education to Employment (E2E) training opportunities. Perhaps there is an opportunity here in Camberwell to give some thought to how we can shift the supply side!

Karl Murray

Head of Services for Young People

October 3rd 2008

Table 1: Camberwell Youth Provision - attendance analysis: April - September 2008 (provisional)

Club	Average capacity of provision (Note 3)	Average per session	average % take up
Denmark Hill (3 Hills)	35	19	54%
Area 3 Camberwell Detached	n/a	82	
Lettsome Estate T & R	30	18	60%
St Faith's Youth Forum - church/community centre (V)	12	8	67%
Caribb Youth & Community (v)	45	38	84%
Clubland (v)	n/a	12	
Hollington (v)	30	29	97%
Dog Kennel Hill	20	156	
Cambridge House & Talbot (V)	30	36	120%
Total	22	44	197%

Notes

Note 1 Includes summer camps, adventure playgrounds and main site for summer playschemes

Note 2 includes easter & summer special needs programme for 16 - 25yrs

Note 3 Based on assumption of all things being equal (see full report)

Source: EYS management information system.