

### Design principles from NYA workshop

When redesigning the youth service, the following principles will guide any decisions. These are underpinned by the core values and vision of the council and children's services, and provide a frame within which young people will shape local provision.

To get a better deal for young people, the service will:

Be fair and inclusive:

- Activities will be available to all young people to take up without fear or prejudice
- This includes identifying and supporting individuals and groups to ensure they are not disadvantaged by the range on offer, and recognising that if a young person does not want to participate in a specific activity it does not mean they do not want to engage
- An area or community's identity will be recognised and promoted while also ensuring there are no boundaries to a young person's inclusion in an activity

Be shaped by the needs of young people:

- Activities will not be uniformly available across age groups or locations because the offer will be shaped by young people's views and by evidence of what individuals, groups and localities need and want
- Young people will be continuously and routinely involved in shaping what is on offer
- Activities will focus on where they have the biggest positive impact on young people and their communities

Provide a wide range of quality experiences:

- Activities will be fun and help young people acquire the life skills they need
- They will be when and where young people want them, and be provided in quality spaces, which are places young people want to go to
- The range will be coherent, varied and make the best use of the borough's resources, in terms of what partners, agencies and the community have to offer young people

Be flexible:

- Activities will be provided by the best provider – whether that is the voluntary sector or the council
- The service will be adaptable, such as having 'parachutable' teams to tackle specific issues for time-limited periods
- It will change over time to adapt to the changing needs of young people, with the youth service flexible enough to respond as needed

Be joined-up:

- The local offer will be coherent in who, where, when and how activities are provided
- Centres of excellence will provide the anchors to the range of activities on offer, with each provider focusing on what they do best and sharing it wherever it is needed
- Choices about what provision to offer will focus on outcomes, making sure providers do not compete but complement each other in order to best meet need

- Support services, such as transport, will enhance choices about what to offer

Be well publicised:

- The local offer will be visible and well known to all young people and their families, and will be promoted across a full range of media, including social media

Be delivered by a motivated, valued and well-trained workforce:

- Youth workers are the services biggest asset, and must be supported to do what they are best at – providing quality youth work that addresses young people's needs