

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 2 March 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub- Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Universal youth activities and information, advice and guidance (IAG)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Assistant Director, 11-19 Services and Youth	

### **Background**

- 1) At the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the Sub-Committee requested a report updating on integrated youth support services.

This report provides an update following the report of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee into youth provision in June 2008 and the subsequent proposed actions provided in January 2009.

A diagram is included as an appendix which shows how integrated youth services are configured in Southwark.

### **Universal Youth Activities and IAG: Overall aims**

- 2) The reorganisation of Southwark services for young people came into effect in September 2009. Since then our focus has been on building effective area teams of Southwark youth staff who can:
  - Offer high quality positive activities delivered in Southwark run centres
  - Work closely with private and voluntary provisions in the area
  - Alert the detached youth team to any new local need
  - Offer information, advice and guidance
  - Signpost young people with particular needs to appropriate support services
  - Support local youth community councils
  - Create and communicate a shared vision for the area, detailed in the area plan
- 3) Currently the four area teams are working with private and voluntary providers to produce joint area plans. Young people will be asked to contribute their ideas through their youth community council and plans will be shared with community council's for agreement. All plans will be in place by April and will detail:
  - Ways of increasing Friday and Saturday night provision
  - Opportunities for joint working with extended schools coordinators in local schools and Academies
  - Quality assurance activities, including the involvement of young people in assessing what is provided
  - Any gaps in provision including 'girl friendly' provision

### **Developments since September**

- 4) Four area managers are in post and working hard to get to know their community. They each have particular borough wide responsibilities that include curriculum, youth participation, quality assurance and accreditation.
- 5) We now have a clear procedure for involving young people in the democratic process that includes schools, youth centres and community councils. Eight youth community councils have been elected and we are soon to have two young people from each youth community council to represent their area on the Southwark Youth Council (SYC). The plan is for SYC members to hold individual portfolios that replicate those of The Executive, so ensuring that the voice of young people is heard across all areas of community life. Next year the SYC will be moving to brand new headquarters as they will be based in the exciting Canada Water library development. This will allow the SYC to host youth events designed by young people for young people across the borough.
- 6) A major development in communication with young people and their families has been the bi-monthly youth insert in Southwark Life. Delivered to all Southwark households, this publication is jointly owned by young people who contribute ideas, articles and their editorial views. In addition, youth members of The Magazine Project are offered valuable work experience with our communications team so that they can contribute to the whole production process. A recent additional offer was a map of the borough that detailed key youth activities in each area.
- 7) For young people, the website Whatvr, is regularly updated and will be linked to the new Council website once it comes into operation. Council members have all received a directory of youth activities across the borough, arranged into local areas so they can see at a glance what is on offer within their ward.
- 8) The Mix Festival planning is underway, due to take place on Saturday August 14. This is an event that encourages collaborative working across the council as well as with a range of partners and stakeholders. One new idea for this year is the introduction of intergenerational activities and we are pleased that The Mix steering group includes representation from each of the eight youth community councils.
- 9) Two other exciting developments that are underway are Camberwell Baths youth facility and Belair Park youth hub. Belair will house an outdoor education centre that will be a borough wide resource and support more young people into accessing The Duke of Edinburgh qualification, an area where we are already very successful. Southwark has 1.70% of its 14-25 population participating in the D of E scheme, compared to 0.17% Lambeth, 0.98% Lewisham 0.58% Tower Hamlets, 0.57% Camden and 1.43% Wandsworth.
- 10) In an effort to improve our youth database, Electronic Youth Service (EYS), we have appointed a new data manager who will take up his post in early April. Much work is currently underway to integrate the Connexions database with EYS and the good news is that smaller providers who lack the capacity to easily access the database will be able to send their information through to our small central team at Tooley Street for entry.

- 11) Much of our targeted work has been focused on reducing the number of young people classified as NEET, not in education, employment or training. We currently have 230 young people who fall into this category as compared with 420 at the same time last year. Our current figure shows as 6.8% of the learner population aged 16-19 in Southwark. It must be remembered that the majority of our sixth form age group travel outside the borough for education, hence the fact that our percentage is higher than it would be if it were calculated against the number of residents of this age group in Southwark.
- 12) Alongside the work around our universal youth offer we have also been reviewing the provision of Information, Advice and Guidance through Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs). Currently we commission the firm Prospects to provide Careers Information, Advice and Guidance in all our schools and Academies as well as offering targeted work with young people over the age of 16. In addition, the authority directly employs a team of PAs who each have a caseload of young people identified as in need of additional support, advice and guidance. The PAs employed directly by the authority work as part of our integrated area youth teams and are contributing their ideas for development to the area plans. Evidence of their impact can be found in the much reduced NEET figure but we also want to explore ways of increasing the number of young people able to benefit from their support. Some of our youth centres have Connexions Access Points where a Connexions PA is on hand to offer advice and guidance and we are currently reviewing the impact of these.

### **Area Information**

- 13) Following the start of the new structure from 1<sup>st</sup> September, work has been underway to develop the work areas and the four area plans. Examples of key pieces of work from each area are provided below.

- 14) Area 1 Bermondsey & Rotherhithe

Surrey Docks Adventure Playground is being used from 23 February as a temporary replacement for Odessa St youth club.

Work is taking place with the new members of the Southwark Youth Council to support them as they take on their new roles.

Work continues with young people to support their role as members of grant panels allocating funds through the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital Fund.

- 15) Area 2 Borough, Bankside & Walworth

Within this area, we are planning to start new provision in the following venues:

Rockingham Jubilee Hall within the next 4 weeks. Delivery of statutory provision with the detached team in Draper Hall subject to final agreement. Mint Street Youth provision, the service is in discussion with Blackfriars Settlement to determine arrangements for additional provision from this venue.

Developments with Walworth Academy to open the school as an IAG access point are under discussion. Plans are also in place to deliver service provision at Pembroke House.

16) Area 3 Camberwell & Dulwich

New developments within Camberwell and Dulwich include the development of the youth wing at Camberwell Leisure Centre which is due to open in April 2010. A new youth hub to be built in Belair Park; building work was due to start in February 2010 ready for completion in November 2010 in partnership with Environment & Housing (Leisure) to offer structured outdoor learning opportunities. A programme of activities for both projects will be developed in conjunction with young people.

Two youth community councils are meeting twice a month with members attending community council meetings. Voluntary sector provision being extended at Bellenden to include AAINA in February.

An accreditation strategy is being developed in conjunction with the 14-19 team. An action plan to implement across Youth Services is being drawn up to commence in September 2010, in addition Youth workers and Personal Advisor's who support access points are focusing on NEET young people.

17) Area 4 Peckham, Peckham Rye & Nunhead

Currently in this area we have a NEET project running at Damilola Taylor Centre (DTC), this is a Personal Development Opportunity, and while it's specifically for NEET young people, we are including some young people at risk of becoming NEET.

They undertake a fitness programme, Mentoring and motivation sessions, they get Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG) from a Personal Advisor and also will be able to undertake accreditation courses in boxing and football. Two of those young people now volunteer on a boxing fitness session which takes place at DTC on Saturday.

The Fast Forward project has just started to take direct referrals from Highshore school, the school are looking at a way that someone from their staff team can volunteer on sessions, to assist with young people's transition.

Central Venture are working in partnership with the kick-start project who are running a session one day per week, addressing a range of issues, negotiations are taking place with Catch 22 who are Kick-start, about locating an IAG access point at Brimington Estate, where they run a range of sessions.

**APPENDICES**

No.	Title
Appendix 1	<i>Diagram to show Southwark Integrated Youth Support Services</i>

**AUDIT TRAIL**

*This section must be included in all reports.*

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Jane Bailey	
<b>Report Author</b>	Colin Gale	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	18 February 2010	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	18 February 2010	

# SOUTHWARK INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

