

MEETING:	Star Chamber
DATE:	15.10.2012
SUBJECT:	Youth and Play Support
REPORT OF:	Lesley Hobbs
DIRECTOR:	Clive Webster

Recommendations

Guidance/decision is requested on:

This paper sets out the proposal for the cessation of all direct delivery of youth and play services in Southampton.

Services to cease:

- Delivery of all open access supervised play or youth provision to children and young people across the City
- Acting as lead professionals for the Families Matter programme.
- Giving support to co-ordinate the local youth offer with the voluntary, independent, faith and private sector.
- Providing targeted support for young people identified through the Common or Integrated Assessment process and the Families Matter Programme. This includes individual mentoring, and access groups across the city for non-attenders which must close.
- Support to holiday provision for young people struggling with transition to secondary school.
- Co-ordinating with partners to ensure that NEET young people aged 16-18 are tracked and are signposted to appropriate support. (This currently includes case work and drop in support to 16 – 19 year olds who are NEET
- Participation activities to ensure that young people are involved in planning and monitoring of the local youth offer
- Intensive support to vulnerable young people who are attending our alternative learning provision.
- Participation in the Community Task and Coordination Groups to provide young people involved in anti-social behaviour with access to youth support.
- The co-ordination of the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.

Summary (200 words max – will be included in cascade)

Direct provision of Play and Youth services is not a statutory function of the Council. However, there are functions to perform a strategic role to 'secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their wellbeing' (*Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing, June 2012*). This proposal includes the removal of the professional lead and the direct delivery by the Council of a universal offer will cease.

Targeted work with young people has been shown to make a real impact on outcomes such as:

- Diverting young people from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Improving school attendance and attainment.
- Reducing teenage pregnancies.
- Improving employment and training take up by 16 – 18 year olds.

The tracking function will continue and will provide a range of partners with comprehensive data on young people's progression and engagement. The changes in funding streams for this area of work will mean that youth workers will cease to do case work or provide drop-ins, but this work could be covered under the Youth Contract awarded to City Limits/

Further details on the impact of the proposed changes and potential succession plans are set out in the Equality Impact Assessment.

The cessation of the Council's delivery of the universal offer will mean that savings can be achieved by not maintaining premises which are currently in use.

To enable continuation of youth club and supervised play provision there is a strategic role for the Local Authority to support communities to make provision available in their neighbourhoods, including the use of Council buildings. This work will need to take place whilst the service reductions are being implemented.

Some targeted youth provision is currently commissioned from the voluntary sector. Further savings have been identified that will lead to the cessation of these contracts. Opportunities need to be sought to engage external providers in considering whether they can substitute for services that the Council can no longer provide.