



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Recommendations from Youth Review

Date: 3rd February 2005

Author: Scrutiny Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the recommendations from the Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee report on Youth Provision.

2. Background

The Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee have agreed the recommendations and these have been ratified at the Local Strategic Partnership. Some recommendations pertinent to Gedling Borough Council are contained within a report (see appendix) and the Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee will be considering this report on the 27th January. The chair of the Youth Review working group will be attending cabinet to present the final recommendations.

3. Recommendations

To consider the referrals from the Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny committee.



Report of the Working Group to Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Recommendations from Youth Review

Date: 17th January 2005

Author: Scrutiny Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To update members on the outcomes from and the current status of the Youth Review. To date, the Youth Review report has only been presented at the Local Strategic Partnership and therefore the Community and Quality of Life members now need to agree to refer the recommendations relevant so that these can be passed onto Cabinet for ratification.

2. Background

The Youth Review chairperson formulated a report (30th June 2004) and the working group met again recently (December 13th 2004) and agreed to report to the next Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee (27th January 2005) before presenting their recommendations at Cabinet on the 3rd February 2005.

The various recommendations from the Youth Review report (attached at Appendix A) were presented at an event (Join Together- Improving Services for Young People) in the borough on 23rd September 2004. From the thirteen recommendations, five were selected by the attendees as key priorities and Sharon Hall (Nottingham County Council Youth Service Manager) who is leading on youth provision updated the scrutiny-working group on progress to date.

3. Update

The five prioritised recommendations and progress to date

Recommendation One:

Create a mini website for young people. The website would tell young people about 'What's On' and give details about services available to young people.

The working group can report that a Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Worker has been seconded to establish a link between the Gedling Borough Council website and the Nottingham County Council website (Mansfield Information shop- Youth Zone). Young people are involved in the design of their website.

Recommendation Three:

Create a 'Young Person's Development Officer' at Gedling Borough Council. This new job would keep partner organisations informed about issues affecting young people and coordinate initiatives or activities for young people.

The working group acknowledges that one of the key themes identified in the youth review is the importance of partnership working. As such, they feel that the focus of the Young Persons Development Officer's role should be toward facilitating young people to 'take-up' established Gedling Borough Council sports and arts provision whilst signposting them to statutory youth services for the wider range amenities. Whilst Gedling Borough Council are able to provide facilities and expertise in respect of leisure services the working group recognise that it is the role and expertise of Nottingham County Council to deliver mainstream youth provision services i.e. education, outreach support and advice. The working group feel that the central remit for the Young Persons Development Officer is to raise a positive profile for young people within the borough through all aspects of the Council's work, responsibilities and that of its partner agencies.

Recommendation Nine:

Local Organisations should work together to create Local 'One Stop Shops' to meet the needs of young people. Gedling Borough Council should also make a grant available to pay for the initial criminal record checks.

The working group are aware that the Primary Care Trust are interested in linking with Gedling Borough Council and Nottingham County Council to establish a (multi-agency) mobile One-Stop-Shop service. Work to progress this has been initiated through Sharon Hall (Nottingham County Council) in her executive role with the Local Strategic Partnership. This provision still needs to be developed and the stop off points (venues) and timetabling for the service need to be established.

Recommendation Eleven:

Sports clubs should be encouraged to invest in their future by making provision for young people. Gedling Borough Council should also make a grant available to pay for initial criminal record checks.

The working group have been informed of the development of a Sports Forum in Gedling – this is a network comprising of existing voluntary and community agencies all providing sports activities in the Borough. The Gedling Council for Voluntary Services (GCVS) have provided some funding for the Sports Forum's work through the New Initiatives Fund (vired from Gedling Borough Council). Funding has been given to the steering group to develop a newsletter linking the different sports projects. GCVS have also provided information to the steering group on funding specifically for the different sports projects/clubs to develop activities for young people. This work is being supported by a Development Officer for the Schools Sports Partnership (based at the Wheldon school).

Recommendation Twelve:

Young people have said that they would like to see better-supervised parks. Arrangements for increasing the supervision of parks should be made. This could mean extra patrols by Neighbourhood Wardens and Police Community Support Officers.

A budget bid (to employ patrol persons on a peripatetic basis) was considered by the Cross-Scrutiny budget party but it was insufficiently detailed to progress at this stage. The working group can report that Nottinghamshire County Council youth service are working with the Gedling Borough Council anti-social behaviour co-ordinator (and related officers) to ensure that young people can access parks safely.

4. Outstanding Recommendations

In addition to the five prioritised recommendations there are a number of other recommendations from the review which are not being actively pursued. The ones which are within the remit of Gedling Borough Council to action are listed below:

(14.2) The Working Group recommends the development of a page within the Gedling Borough website to assist in the co-ordination of youth provision across the local government and voluntary sectors. Such a page might take the form of a register of plans for provision and provision itself to avoid the duplication of services.

(14.4) The Working Group recommends the creation of a role of "Young Persons Champion to represent the needs of young people at Portfolio Holder level. The

post holder should work closely with the Young Persons' Development Officer and develops strong links with relevant organisations such as, for example, Gedling Youth council.

(14.5) The Working Group recommends close co-operative working between the Sports Development Officer and Youth Service's new detached team and the enhancement of the role of Sports Development Officer to assist the Young Persons Development Officer with tasks associated with 14.10 & 14.11

(14.8) The Working Group recommends that Gedling Borough Council provides additional financial aid to the Compass Young People's Service in order to allow promotional events, regular drop-in sessions in established youth venues, as well as further group and detached work as appropriate within the Gedling area.

(14.10) In addition to long term development of "one stop shops", the working group recommends that Gedling Borough Council conduct an audit of all potential youth club venues (whether council owned or part of the Church or voluntary sector). GBC should then actively promote the development of new volunteer-run youth clubs providing organised activities, possibly by tapping into existing volunteer led clubs for assistance.

(14.13) The Working Group recommends that whilst they recognise the importance of security at leisure centres, young people should be dealt with sensitively to enable their access to youth facilities.

In order that these are progressed, the working group proposes that these are endorsed by this committee for forward referral to cabinet for their consideration. In addition there are a number of recommendations which are within the remit of other agencies (see over 2 pages). It is proposed that progress on these is pursued through the Local Strategic Partnership. The Working Group will monitor these through their links with Sharon Hall and if appropriate to request a meeting with the Local Strategic Partnership or its executive.

5. Recommendations

That progress is noted.

That the Working Group endorses that the following recommendations are made to Cabinet-

- That there is action on the outstanding recommendations.
- That consideration is given to the bid for a Youth Development Worker already submitted by the Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee.
- That consideration is given to investing resources into the areas which Gedling Borough Council leads in e.g. sports and arts development.
- That Gedling Borough Council considers setting targets and monitoring the newly developing Youth Forum*. (*This will constitute an adult

strategic partnership group with a remit to coordinate youth activities and develop partnership working for young people across the district- as such its work will involve the development and implementation of the youth review recommendations).

4.0 Recommendations

- 14.1 The Working Group recommends the development of a “micro-site” specifically aimed at young people within the Gedling Borough Council website. The “micro-site” will tell young people “what’s on” and direct them to appropriate services by way of links. The Working Group discovered that 78.2% of young people had access to the internet at home by way of its consultation so it is likely that a well promoted and fun web page could successfully reach its target audience.
- 14.2 The Working Group recommends the development of a page within the Gedling Borough Council website to assist in the co-ordination of youth provision across the local government and voluntary sectors. Such a page might take the form of a register of plans for provision and provision itself to avoid the duplication of services.
- 14.3 The Working Group recommends the creation of a post of Young Persons’ Development Officer within Gedling Borough Council to maintain an overview of young people’s issues and co-ordinate across departments and external organisations any initiatives or activities aimed at young people. Such a post should not be based within a single service department due to its over-arching nature. The Cabinet Office may therefore be the most appropriate place for this post to be based. The Working Group also recommends that the LSP be approached to partially fund this post. The Young Persons’ Development Officer should also work closely with a representative from the Youth Assembly and form a steering group of young people with a view to meeting with them quarterly.
- 14.4 The Working Group recommends the creation of a role of “Young Persons’ Champion” to represent the interests of young people at Portfolio Holder level. The post holder should work closely with the Young Persons’ Development Officer and develop strong links with relevant organisations such as, for example, Gedling Youth Council.
- 14.5 The Working Group recommends close co-operative working between the Sports Development Officer and the Youth Service’s new detached team and the enhancement of the role of the Sports Development Officer to assist the Young Persons’ Development Officer with tasks associated with recommendations at 14.10 & 14.11.
- 14.6 The Working Group recommends that the Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service should operate a low vacancy lapse of Youth Workers reducing recruitment times and consider a specific recruitment

and retention policy to attract high quality candidates to youth work in areas where they have found it hard to recruit.

- 14.7 The Working Group recommends that the concerns in relation to school nurse caseloads are communicated to the PCT with a request for additional priority resources. The Working Group invites the PCT to keep the LSP regularly updated on School Nurse provision.
- 14.8 The Working Group recommends that Gedling Borough Council provides additional financial aid to the Compass Young People's Service in order to allow promotional events, regular drop-in sessions in established youth venues, as well as further group and detached work as appropriate within the Gedling area.
- 14.9 The Working Group recommends that the LSP partners support and work together to develop innovative, localised sessional "one stop shops" in appropriate venues to meet the needs of young people in terms of recreation, health and career advice.
- 14.10 In addition to the long term development of "one stop shops," as detailed above, the Working Group recommends that Gedling Borough Council conduct an audit of all potential youth club venues (whether Council owned or part of the Church or voluntary sector). GBC should then actively promote the development of new volunteer-run youth clubs providing organised activities, possibly by tapping into existing volunteer led clubs for assistance.
- 14.11 The Working Group recommends that Gedling Borough Council should liaise closely with sports clubs without youth provision and encourage them to put provision in place as part of their investment in their own future. Where lack of provision is as a result of resistance to CRB checking the benefits of CRB checking should be promoted and the initial checking paid for by way of a council grant.
- 14.12 The Working Group's survey of young people indicated that 66% of 15 and 16 year olds would like to see parks better supervised. The Working Group therefore recommends that Gedling Borough Council put measures in place to ensure the increased supervision of parks; possibly by way co-ordinated patrolling by Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens.
- 14.13 The Working Group recommends that whilst they recognise the importance of security at the leisure centres, young people should be dealt with sensitively to enable their access to youth facilities.