



Report to Cabinet

Subject Update on the Recommendations arising from the Youth Review

Date 2nd June 2005

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1. Purpose of the Report

To update members on progress on implementing the recommendations arising from the Youth Review undertaken by the Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee.

2. Information

The Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee agreed a number of recommendations that were subsequently ratified by the Local Strategic Partnership. These were reported to Cabinet on the 3 February 2005 at which it was suggested an update on progress be made to a future Cabinet meeting.

Each of the relevant recommendations is considered and any action taken on addressing them noted. Where action is not within the remit of officers this is noted, for example the creation of a Portfolio Holder for young people is an issue for members to decide upon.

Recommendation 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.

As noted in a previous report a Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Worker has been seconded to establish a link between the Council's website and the existing NCC Youth Zone website rather than create a page on the Council's existing website. Local young people will play a key role in setting the content of this site.

Recommendation 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 plans for provision and provision itself to avoid duplication of services.

A working group of young people, and the Gedling Youth Assembly are taking this proposal forward. It is intended that a hyperlink from the Council's website will lead young people into the relevant part of the Youth Zone website. The Working Group will draw on work being carried out through the Youth Sub-Group of the Gedling Partnership to better co-ordinate services for young people.

Recommendation 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 of the Youth Assembly and form a steering group of young people with a view to meeting with them quarterly.

The 3 Group Leaders agreed that a sum of money be included within the budget (LR1, £50,000) to allow for a scheme that would address this proposal. A separate report is to be brought to Cabinet outlining in more detail the proposal and how it should be taken forward. As such progress on this particular recommendation is dependent upon the outcome of a future decision of Cabinet.

Recommendation 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.

The creation of a new Portfolio Holder with special responsibility for young people, or designation of an existing Portfolio Holder with that responsibility rests with the Executive.

Recommendation 14.5

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

The role of the Sports Development Officer (SDO) is to get more people playing more sport better. All available research shows that in order to achieve that it is most effective to get young people engaged at an early age, during the Primary School years for example, and to get them engaged in the Voluntary Sports Club sector at that age.

Work with the Youth Service will reflect this priority and look to develop links between the Voluntary Sports Club sector and Youth Service sporting initiatives.

This recommendation is also being considered through the Local Strategic Partnership Youth sub-group. The LSP Youth Sub Group met for the first time on the 2 February 2005. In brief the group discussed how it should function, terms of reference, who else should attend and how information should be sourced and distributed.

The group considered it should have the power to influence decisions, share good practice, avoid duplication of provision, provide a voice for young people, act as a link between youth service providers, set targets and objectives with a common theme that are achievable.

Representation included:

CVS

Gedling Borough Council

Nottinghamshire County Council (Disability Support Team, Youth Service, Gedling Youth Assembly, Social Services).

Church organisations

BTCV

It was suggested that other representatives be invited from:

PCT

Groundwork

Young people

Sports Forum

Schools

Police

Education Welfare Rights

Examples of current partnership working were discussed:

Counselling Service, this is available and working in 4 schools and the voluntary sector.

Monday club at Netherfield, dealing with teenage pregnancy. A doctor, Practice Nurse, School Nurses and the voluntary sector are all involved.

Gedling District Urban Youth Arts Day took place at Redhill School and involved GBC Arts Officer, Youth Service and School. Could become an annual event.

Citizenship Day County Hall 19 February 2005. Three out of eight young people standing for election are from the Gedling area.

Gedling Youth Assembly's work on a web page to link with other Youth Assembly groups.

The Leisure Services representative will also provide a link to Sports and Arts Development including the Sports Forum that will provide contact with the providers of sport in the Borough.

A further meeting took place on 2 March 2005. The action points raised at the first meeting were then used to focus the work of the group. It was also agreed at that meeting that there would be 2 priority issues to be addressed over the forthcoming months that would further assist in the work towards the recommendations. These were discussed and lead agencies were allocated.

1 Provision Mapping - CVS will lead on this and will gather information that all partners agreed to submit. This will facilitate the identification of any gaps in information that will be acted upon for a full report in August.

2 Communication / Promotion – The PCT and GBC will lead on this for the group and will work with respective communications managers from GBC, PCT and Culture and Community. An initial meeting is being sought for late March. The aim is to write a strategy for communication and begin positive promotion of the work of the group but more significantly of young people. Work also needs to progress on the establishment of a training programme for local young people's groups in publicity, promotion and marketing.

In the mean time partners on the group are ensuring that the views of young people are brought in to the group through their respective interaction with young people. The commitment of the group members will be significant towards achieving the overall objectives in the delivery of the issues identified in the review.

Recommendation 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.

The Local Strategic Partnership of which the County Council is a key member has ratified the recommendations. It is understood that the County Council has addressed the issue of vacancies. In particular, the vacant full-time post has now been filled

Recommendation 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.

The Local Strategic Partnership of which the PCT is a key member has ratified the recommendations.

Recommendation 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.

The Nottinghamshire DAAT and Nottinghamshire DAAT Young People's Joint Commissioning Group (YP JCG) gave notice to Compass Young People's Service in June 2004 that they would no longer be commissioning the young people's service in the conurbation for the following reasons;

- * The need for an equal, accessible and consistent provision of young people's drug and alcohol services across the County (specifically between North Nottinghamshire and the Conurbation)
- * Compass' organisational disruptions
- * Lack of evidence / outcomes / low impact
- * Lack of interactivity between Compass and the DAAT Partnership
- * Compass did not have its own young person's treatment and often had to refer outside, mostly to John Storer in the city (adult service provision and therefore not appropriate).

It should be emphasised that this does not affect the Compass Young People's service in the City, nor does it affect the commissioning of Compass Adult and Adult Outreach Service that is delivered in Gedling. The decision was also not reflective of the commitment of the employees who did everything possible to ensure a smooth transition between services for 1 January 2005.

The transition to the alternative provider, Face It Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, took place from 1 January 2005.

Face It were already commissioned to operate a *criminal justice and children looked after* service in the conurbation (as they are commissioned to do so in the North of Nottinghamshire - targets for which are set through the Youth Justice Board and Social Services). Face It already had a well-established young person's outreach and treatment service also operating in the North of Notts. It therefore made sense to expand this well-established young person specific service that was clearly performing well. It also meant that any young people being seen by Face It through the criminal justice / children looked after route in the conurbation did not have to be referred outside of the service for treatment.

Face It are part of the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and fall within their clinical governance / child protection policies etc.

There are still some discrepancies between the service offered in the North and that in the Conurbation, mainly due to the operational experience gained in the North of the County, e.g. specific young person's drug / alcohol outreach workers for each district. These issues are still to be addressed.

Recommendation 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.

This proposal is being addressed through the LSP, specifically through the youth sub-group of the LSP, the work of which has already been outlined previously in this report. It is understood that consideration is being given to a Health and Young People group that will address this issue.

Recommendation 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.

Leisure Services Department currently collates and publishes a list of all halls and rooms available in the Borough. This listing also provides details of the rooms and activities that take place within them. Permission is being sought from the operators of these facilities to allow the Borough to publish their details on its website. This will allow volunteer groups and the County Council access to potential facilities where they may wish to establish youth club activities. This should identify and meet the first part of recommendation 14.10.

Whilst Gedling Borough Council is able to provide facilities and expertise in respect of leisure services it is the role and expertise of Nottingham County Council to deliver mainstream youth provision services. Setting up and running Youth Clubs is effectively a mainstream function of the Young People’s division of the County Council’s Culture and Community Department. Even at that level the County Council’s Sports Development Department is only involved as a provider of technical advice on how young people can move their sporting involvement from Youth Clubs into Voluntary Sports Clubs.

GBC’s Sports Development Officer (SDO) is happy to give advice to any body, whether Youth Club, Community organisation, School, Sports Club, Area Forum etc, on how to ‘provide organised activities’ of a sporting nature - how to get helpers qualified as coaches, child protection needs, how to enter competitive structures, etc. As such the SDO will continue to work with all clubs, new or existing either to help move young people into Voluntary Sports Clubs activities or to enable existing clubs to effectively become part of that network.

Recommendation 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 into 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.

Over half of the work-load of the Sports Development Officer (SDO) is spent liaising with Clubs in order to develop their youth provision and that proportion is scheduled to increase as the new Gedling School Sports Co-Coordinator Partnership increasingly takes over the role of promoting sport in schools and the Gedling team for the Nottinghamshire Youth Games, etc

It is made clear to all Clubs who apply to GBC's SDO that his time and funding will only be used to help those Clubs that wish to establish Junior Sections, or who already have Junior Sections and wish to develop them.

That help includes:

- Assistance with writing Development Plans to assist in funding applications
- Assistance with finding funding sources and with funding applications
- Equipment loans
- Assistance with coach training and professional development
- Assistance in establishing partnerships with schools and community organisations
- General advice
- (shortly) The services without charge of Community Sports Coaches to widen the range of activities offered in line with the principle of Long-Term Athlete Development

It is now the policy of Gedling Leisure Services not to offer new licenses to Clubs that do not have developmental Junior Sections and where licenses are already in existence, to offer reduced rates at renewal to those Clubs that are committed to developing Junior provision.

There are very few major Sports Clubs that do not have Junior Sections. Most of them are expanding their Junior Sections, partly for the reasons mentioned above. In addition Gedling has, particularly in Football, a number of Sports Clubs that are specifically Junior Clubs, and have no Senior Teams. Gedling has recently persuaded Nottingham Athletics Club to open a Satellite Club in Gedling specifically as a feeder club for Primary aged-children.

Generally the speed of Club Development over the past three years means that in most sports there is currently spare capacity at all ages above Under-9's.

Recommendation 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 of co-ordinated patrolling by Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens.

The deployment of Neighbourhood Wardens and to a lesser extent Police Community Support Officers reflects current information on anti-social behaviour and in particular hot spots of activity. Given the limited number of wardens

available (5 wardens from April 2005) it is not possible to patrol parks on a regular basis. Instead action is targeted to known areas of concern, which does include parks and recreation areas.

In addition to the above officers are investigating how better use could be made of the funding already spent on security by the Council including a more proactive and responsive service provided by the private sector. This may allow additional resources to be targeted at hot spots within parks etc.

Dependent upon the outcome of budget bid Leisure LR1 referred to in recommendation 14.3 other resources may be available that help address this concern.

Recommendation 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 services.

This recommendation has been noted and appropriate instructions have been issued to staff.

3 Resource Implications

The majority of the recommendations have been addressed within existing budgets and/or through partnership working co-ordinated through the Local Strategic Partnership. Additional funding has been provided for with the budget for 2005/06 to address recommendation 14.3 of the Youth Review.

4 Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report and consider how they wish to address recommendation 14.4 of the Youth Review Working group.