

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2011
3.	<b>Title:</b>	Rotherham Youth Service.
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	C&YPS - Community Services

### 5. Summary:

A report with a proposal for a review and restructure of Rotherham Youth Service was considered by Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011, when approval was given to implement recommendations within the report. This report summarises activity and actions in the ensuing period and lays out the final outcome of the review and restructure.

### 6. Recommendations:

- **Cabinet endorse the process and outcomes of the review of Youth Services**
- **Cabinet endorse the new Rotherham Youth Service structure**

## **7. Proposals and Details:**

### **7.1 Background**

Due to the cuts to RMBC revenue from Central Government funding, in excess of £30m in 2011/12, the Council has had to look at all its services, including Youth Services. The way in which services for young people has developed over recent years has been with a focus of fully integrating all youth related provision to provide a comprehensive and all encompassing offer to our young people. As well as RMBC Youth Services, these include:

- Connexions Service – focus on employment and training
- Youth health related services – focus on sexual health, teenage pregnancy, substance misuse, emotional and mental wellbeing
- Youth Offending Services – focus on crime and disorder prevention

The report to Cabinet of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February considered the most appropriate way to manage a budget reduction to the Youth Service and the best way to reconfigure the model of delivery to ensure the borough wide equity of access and opportunity for young people. The proposal primarily focussed upon three key areas:

- A rationalisation of our Youth Centres determined by their location and level of use
- A reconfiguration of staff to ensure full coverage across the Borough, particularly at key times such as weekends and school holidays
- An extension of mobile provision within the borough

The report further proposed that any changes to the Youth Service were better completed in one go, rather than returning in each of the next two financial years to change or reduce provision further. The review and restructure – including full consultation about the proposals – would need to be completed within a short timescale. To a large degree this was helped by the Scrutiny review into Youth Service provision which had been completed in 2009. The aim was to complete all work and have the new delivery model and restructured service operating from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2011.

### **7.2 Consultation**

It was fully anticipated that these proposals would result in a lot of interest amongst the communities of Rotherham, and consequently it has been important from the very outset to give clear and consistent messages.

An extensive consultation has taken place which has included many constructive discussions with local groups and in particular a very positive contribution from young people. In one area, for example, a petition was received with more than 1500 names from the community expressing concern at the possibility of the local centre closing. We were able to work with the local Parish Council and through challenging but productive negotiations, ensure that the centre remained open for the young people of the community. Elsewhere, young people organised meetings with Members and Officers and local community groups, in one case bringing together representatives from three different youth centres / communities to resolve the challenges of ensuring good coverage for our more remote and rural communities.

What has been very evident is the high regard that our youth centres and workers are held in all parts of our communities, and the willingness of many partners to recognise the very difficult financial position of the Council and work in genuine partnership to find solutions for the benefit of our young people. In total more than 70 meetings have taken place with key stakeholders, including young people, staff and community groups over a six week period.

(A summary report of the consultation undertaken is on the Council website).

Considerable media interest has been managed carefully and effectively, and reports have emphasised the way in which RMBC have had to respond to Government cuts, the degree of community concern, the willingness of Elected Members and Officers, on behalf of the Council, to resolve problems constructively and ultimately the positive outcome achieved by the review and restructure. Perhaps most pleasingly has been the media's recognition and acknowledgement given to the young people of Rotherham, who have demonstrated a level of understanding and passion that does them credit.

### 7.3 Outcome of Review and Restructure

- **Centre Provision** – the Cabinet report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February listed those Centres which it was proposed should be considered for closure. Following the extensive consultation and resultant discussions with stakeholders, we are able to confirm that a number of these will stay open:

- **Chislett Youth Centre** – discussions finalised with Community Partnership who will take over the running of the Chislett Youth Centre at the end of June.
- **Bramley Youth Centre** – transfer of the building to the Bramley Parish Council has been completed and in partnership with RMBC, youth provision will continue to be provided from Bramley.
- **Brampton Cabins** - provision has remained available to Youth Services to use and the running costs and upkeep of the building has been taken on by the Cortonwood WMC.
- **Wingfield** – cost of provision has been picked up by the school.
- **Thrybergh Youth Centre** – main provision has closed, some targeted prevention services to continue during the day.

These are in addition to the following Centres which, as proposed previously, will remain open, with some to be the main, or 'hub' centre for the area:

- **Maltby Linx.**
- **Swinton Youth Centre.**
- **Winterhill Youth Centre.**
- **Kiveton Park Youth Centre.**

- **The Place, Clifton.**
- **Herringthorpe Youth Centre.**
- **Treeton Youth Centre.**
- **Wath Youth Centre.**
- **Rawmarsh Youth Centre.**
- **Maltings Youth Centre.**
- **Dalton Youth Centre.**
- **Thornhill Youth Centre**
- **Youth Start**
- **Youth Café / MyPlace**
- **Dinnington Youth Centre** – (which will close on the 17<sup>th</sup> June as a building, pending the conclusion of discussions with a local VCS group to establish a Youth Café in the town centre. In the interim youth provision continues to be provided in partnership with the Salvation Army. Discussions are already in hand with the College who have expressed a desire to purchase the building).

The following centres have closed or will close:

- **Kilnhurst Youth Centre** – has closed
- **Aston Youth Centre** – has closed
- **Catcliffe Youth Centre** – has closed
- **Harthill Youth Centre** – will close at the end of June
- **Rotherham International Centre** – will close mid-August, and the site has been declared surplus to requirements, releasing a significant capital asset. Provision has transferred to Thornhill Centre.

Consequently, the Youth Centre picture for Rotherham (including partner provision) is:

<b>Hub Centres</b>	<b>Additional Centres</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maltby Linx</b></li> <li>• <b>Swinton Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Winterhill Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Kiveton Park Youth Centre</b></li> <li>• <b>The Place, Clifton.</b></li> <li>• <b>Herringthorpe Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Treeton Youth Centre.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wath Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Rawmarsh Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Maltings Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Dalton Youth Centre.</b></li> <li>• <b>Thornhill Youth Centre</b></li> <li>• <b>Youth Start</b></li> <li>• <b>Youth Café / MyPlace</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dinnington</b></li> <li>• <b>Thrybergh Youth Centre</b></li> <li>• <b>Wingfield</b> (in partnership)</li> <li>• <b>Bramley</b> (in partnership)</li> <li>• <b>Chislett</b> (in partnership)</li> </ul>
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• **Mobile Provision** – A key part of the strategy to ensure full Borough wide coverage for Youth Services, and augment to Centre provision above, is the addition of more mobile provision. Rotherham already has two youth service mobiles, and the proposal is to purchase 5 more. Some young people have been to visit Stoke, where the mobile provision is said to be ‘best practice’, and the benefits of this service option have been reinforced. There is a slight change in plan arising from the visit however, in that rather than a total of seven generic vehicles, we will now purchase three long based transit sized vehicles [similar to the two already in Rotherham] and two larger vehicles, which will be purpose built / specialist provision, one for health advice delivery and the other a music vehicle. It is intended to procure the vehicles through a contract between RMBC and Translinc.

Effective use of mobile provision, at the right times for young people, has been shown to be very effective in the delivery of outreach based and targeted work. The mobiles will operate to a widely publicised timetable regarding where they are based and at what times. They will operate from the hub centres.

• **Staffing** – the opportunity has been taken to realign the management of Youth Services, ensuring a more effective and efficient oversight and maximising the amount of face to face contact with young people. It will also now be the norm for Youth Services to operate at weekends and in school holidays. Following the consultation period [which included, for the staff, the new structures], posts were disestablished and a full application and interviewing process against the new structure was undertaken. The consequence of this has been a reduction in staffing of 31 individuals, a full time equivalent of 19 posts [including one Youth Service Manager post]. Most of these have been achieved through voluntary redundancy. We now have an equitable spread of workers, including experience, across the whole Borough, and will be providing Centre based work, outreach work and a full programme of mobile provision.

## 8. Finance:

The revenue budget for the Youth Service in 2010/11 was £2.4m. The revised structure as laid out in this report is provided in 2011/12 at a budget of £2m, and from 2012/13 at £1.85m. The reductions of £400k in this year have been achieved by the combination of the reduction in staffing and running costs of centres as above, the full year equivalent of which is £550k.

In addition to the savings, the Capital Investment agreed in principal previously is being considered by the Capital Strategy Asset Review Team, following which approval will be sought through Cabinet. The figure for the vehicles is yet to be

finalised exactly, but it will remain within the indicative figure given in the previous report of £375k for the purchase of 5 mobile vehicles.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

This report is in respect of our universal youth provision. Youth Services themselves are a major part of ***integrated youth support services*** which means youth related provision working together as a central and essential element of effective prevention and early intervention. Other Services, including those in the VCS [a key partner in the development of youth volunteering opportunities], which are part of this integrated approach are themselves having to manage reductions in funding and a reliance on grants which are only guaranteed to 2013. But without this integrated working, we risk retreating again into silo's of provision to tackle some of our most stubborn challenges – youth crime, teenage pregnancy, 'NEET's', sexual exploitation, adolescent drinking and associated disorder. Past experience and current evidence tells us that this is much less effective, and in many cases pointless.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

Youth Services fully contribute to and reflect

- the Corporate Plan, Vision and Aims for the Borough
- Rotherham Children and Young Peoples Plan
- The LSP Community Strategy Priorities

## **11 Background Papers and Consultation:**

- CYPS Scrutiny Review – 'Future Challenges for the Youth Service' October 2009
- Cabinet Report – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011
- Proposals for the Future of the Youth Service – consultation summary: March 2011

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