

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues
2.	Date:	10 th October 2011
3.	Title:	Update on Youth Service
4.	Directorate:	Schools and Lifelong Learning.

5. Summary.

This report will provide an overview of current issues relating to Rotherham Youth Service, including an update on the recent restructure of the Service, the MyPlace project, Mobile provision, summer and Fawkes provision, the recruitment of new Apprentices, Marketing of the Service and Service feedback on Positive for Youth.

6. Recommendations

Elected Members are asked to:

Note the content of this report.

7. Proposals and Details

This report contains a general overview of key issues currently appertaining to Rotherham Youth Service.

7a Restructure update.

The restructured Youth Service began operations from June 1st 2011. This was a difficult and at times stressful period for the majority of Youth Service staff. However the new staff teams have worked hard to get provision up and running initially focusing on creating good quality summer provision across the borough. (See item 6c)

In addition Friday evening and weekend working is now in place. The standard session length of provision has been extended from a two and a half hour face to face session to a three hour session.

In terms of the buildings affected by the restructure:

Chislett. The handover to the Community Partnership has been completed and Youth Service continues to have close relationships with the workers there. Attendances are high, therefore adding significantly to the local Youth Offer.

Bramley. Progress has been slower than expected, mainly because of the completion of legal processes. We are assured that the signing of the Lease Deed of Surrender is imminent. All premises costs from June 1st have been taken on by the Parish Council and the process has been ratified by the full Parish Council. The Youth Club provision has continued uninterrupted with strong attendances exceeding previous levels.

Dinnington. Following the closure of the centre transitional provision has been set up in the Salvation Army Hall in Dinnington. Progress has been made re the Dinnington Youth Café with the identification of premises and the creation of an action plan by the steering group. It is possible that the Service will be able to sustain the Salvation Army provision as well as the Youth Café due to close partnership working.

International Centre.

There are issues re the International Centre in that Youth Service has been unable to withdraw from stewardship of the IC as some of the tenants have been unable to move because their new premises are not ready. Risky Business and Grow have moved leaving the Ferham Wood Pupil Referral Unit. It is hoped that they will move in mid October. The building can then be handed over to EDS.

7b MyPlace.

The building is complete.

The MyPlace Business Manager, employed by White Rose YMCA starts in post on Monday October 10th. This should accelerate the forward momentum of the project significantly.

Current proposals are for a gradual opening of the provision from mid November with a high profile launch in the second or third week of November.

The Youth Café has remained open and will continue to do so until the new provision is available.

In terms of staffing, there will be a Business Manager, a full time Youthworker, some Sessional Youth workers and a full time worker to head up the Café facility. These workers will be employed by White Rose YMCA. Youth Workers employed by the Youth Service will use the building to deliver work to groups, projects and activities at the building. In addition 2 new Youth Work apprentices will be allocated to MyPlace. (see item 6e)

7c Mobile provision.

The project is on track for the delivery of the Mobile provision in November. It is anticipated that there will be a launch possibly coincidental with the MyPlace Launch. The graphic wraparound for the vehicles has been finalised following consultation with Young People at the recent Rotherham show.

7d. Summer provision and Fawkes period.

During the summer holiday period 2142 named, individual young people participated in a broad range of activities including activities, sport, short courses, projects trips and residentials, in addition a further 1,656 individual young people were worked with via additional detached work.

The Universal team ran Aiming High short break provision at Habershon house, enabling young people with disabilities and their families to enjoy a short break together. Feedback from this project was very positive. They also ran an Arts week for young people with disabilities.

The Early Intervention Teams ran a borough wide standing camp at Skegness. This was for specifically targeted young people who were at risk of involvement in crime or ASB.

70 young people attended the camp on a roll on roll off basis.

This 2 week residential was in place across the whole of the week beginning 8th August ensuring that some of the most challenging young people in the Borough, including core members of the "Rotherham Town Soldiers", were away from Rotherham during the UK civil disorder.

Youth service also refocused detached work during this week in an effort to prevent issues arising in the Town Centre and other at risk areas. The service also liaised very closely with local SNTs.

Youth Centres remained open throughout the majority of the summer, detached workers also worked throughout the summer.

Staff have been working closely with local SNTs and NAGs to create additional provision across the Fawkes period. There is very little additional funding for these activities this year however the Service has put together a good programme of additional activities over this period, a copy of which is attached.

7e Apprentices.

This project is the result of partnership working between RMBC Human Resources, RCAT and the Integrated Youth Support steering group which includes Janet Andrew Apprenticeship Manager, the School Effectiveness Service, Children & Young People's Services. Sue Barratt from Grow, who is the Voluntary Sector lead and Youth Service via Kerry Byrne.

The project is funded through Youth Service Support worker posts and through a grant from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

There will be twenty places available to local young people aged between sixteen and eighteen.

Fourteen will be placed within youth work settings, two at the Ministry of food and four with EDS. Young people will be placed across the Voluntary and Community sector with placements including MyPlace and some of the provision recently taken up by communities following the Youth Service restructure.

Young people will gain functional skills and a level 2 qualification certificate in Youth work practice.

The project will begin in January.

7f Marketing.

Youth Service has been working towards improving the overall marketing of the Service's offer to young people across Rotherham. Part of this has been the creation of a new RGFL based Website:

<https://public.rgfl.org/youthservice/Pages/default.aspx>

This contains a range of information for young people, their parents and carers and the public in general. Strenuous efforts are being made to ensure that it is kept continually up to date and processes are in place to facilitate this.

We are currently working towards also providing space on this site for partners including the former Youth Service provision taken up by local communities.

We are also beginning the process of revamping the information to be found on the main website.

7g. Positive for Youth Feedback.

The Service recently engaged in the Positive for Youth Consultation process. The time frame on this was difficult, however the Service endeavoured to involve as many staff and partners as possible. A copy of the feedback is attached to this report.

8. Finance

The items within this report are costed and budgets identified. However there are issues re providing ongoing support to the International Centre due to tenants not yet moving on.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

As 8.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Positive for Youth Consultation feedback report.

Fawkes Programme.

12. Author

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