

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

29th November 2012

YOUTH SERVICES IN RUTLAND

Report of the Strategic Director for People

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a Brighter Future for All
----------------	---

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an overview of the Youth Support provision in Rutland.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **That Scrutiny Panel considers the information provided within this report.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 This report refers to the current Targeted Youth Support Service and does not include the Youth Options Service (formerly Connexions) or the Counselling Service that is provided.

3.2 Since 2006 The Youth Service has evolved from a universal open access youth service consisting mainly of Youth Clubs to a Targeted Youth Support Service offering a range of services specifically for vulnerable young people whilst ensuring there is a generic offer for all young people too. Vulnerable young people refers to those young people in the following groups but not restricted to these groups:

- i. Teenage Parents
- ii. Statement of Educational Needs
- iii. Young Offenders
- iv. Young Carers
- v. Looked After and Care Leavers
- vi. Open cases to Social Care/ Common Assessment Framework / Troubled Families and Intensive Family Support
- vii. Not in Employment, Education and Training

3.3 In total there are 7.12 (FTE equivalent) staff within the Targeted Youth Support Service totalling 15 members of staff. Youth Work Managers are professionally qualified to the equivalent of a BA in Youth and Community Development. The majority of Youth Support Workers with the exception of 4 people are qualified to NVQ Level 3 Youth Work. Youth and Community Development Officers have wider responsibilities in addition to managing youth service provision.

- 3.4** The service runs from Jules One Stop, Oakham but has satellite sites in Whissendine, Uppingham, Ketton, Greetham and the two MOD bases of St George's and Kendrew Barracks. There is also a 7.5 tonne vehicle "Rutland Wanderer" that is used to provide outreach youth work in rural areas where there is no centre based provision. This usually rotates on a 12 week programme responding to hotspot areas where there are anti social behaviour issues identified by Parish Councils and the community.
- 3.5** The Youth Service has very strong partnerships with services such as Youth Offending Service, Education, Police, Social Care, Parish Council Forum, Town Councils, Health and the voluntary sector, represented both locally and regionally at partnership meetings.

4. LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

- 4.1** Youth Work has a key feature and role identified within the government policies and initiatives listed below:
- i. Every Child Matters 2002
 - ii. Hear By Right – Participation of young people in decision making
 - iii. You're Welcome – Young people involved in decision making on health service provision
 - iv. Childcare Act 2006
 - v. Education Act 2011
 - vi. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2012
 - vii. Positive for Youth Strategy 2012
- 4.2** Local Authorities have a statutory duty to secure so far as is reasonably practicable, access to educational and recreational activities for the improvement of young people's well being which includes explicitly a duty to secure sufficient activities for the improvement of young people's personal and social development .The duty also requires local authorities to take into account young people's views and publicise information about what is available. (Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 507B Clause 3).
- 4.3** Within the Council's Strategic Aims, Objectives and Priorities, the Youth Service fits within;
- i. Creating a Safer Community for all
 - ii. Creating an Active and Enriched Community
 - iii. Meeting the health and wellbeing needs of the community
 - iv. Creating a Brighter Future for All
 - v. Championing a positive image for young people

5. CURRENT DELIVERY AND IMPACT

- 5.1** The following projects are delivered within Rutland, specific details are contained within the Rutland County Council Youth Service Report (Appendix A);

Universal Youth Projects
Targeted Specialist Youth Projects
Mentoring and Counselling

Democratic Engagement and Participation
 Outreach and Detached
 Extra Curricular programme
 Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy
 Accreditation Programme
 Partnership Work

5.2 The Youth Service records the number of young people they work with in two ways:

Contact – Contact made with a young person less than 3 times and not substantial, (often one off events etc)

Participant – Engaged with the young person for more than 3 sessions (9 hours)

The Youth Service follows the Best Value Practice Indicators model where the Government set out a list of outcomes young people should achieve through participation with youth services. These outcomes underpin the youth work curriculum and are monitored through delivery and recorded on a formal database IYSS (Integrated Youth Support Services).

Outcomes are split into two areas:

Recorded Outcome – Soft outcomes demonstrating a young person’s progress in an area such as confidence, increasing knowledge, improved behaviour

Accredited Outcome – Hard outcomes demonstrating knowledge gained and work produced to achieve a formal nationally recognised award.

5.3 Contacts, Participants, Outcomes and Evaluation

2010 – 2011	2011 – 2012	2012 – to date
1000 Contacts	918 Contacts	545 Contacts
495 Participants	700 Participants	296 Participants
270 Recorded Outcomes	291 Recorded Outcomes	253 Recorded Outcomes
138 Accredited Outcomes	350 Accredited Outcomes	206 Accredited Outcomes

Based on youth population figures of 3,400 (Census 2001) the Youth Service aims to make contact with 25% of the youth population 11 – 19 year olds (850) with 15% effectively engaged as participants (510).

5.4 Anti Social Behaviour

Overall anti social behaviour has continued to reduce annually. Mapping the universal projects against the reports of ASB shows a steady decrease although figures suggest there will be an overall increase for 2012-13.

ASB Incidents – Young People aged 11 – 19

Location	2010-11	2011-12	2012- 2 0 1 3
Whissendine	2	0	0
Uppingham	2	2	2
Cottesmore	4	6	1
Ryhall	3	3	4
Ketton	6	4	5
Greetham	0	1	0
Wing	1	0	0
Total	18	14	12

- 5.5 The Youth Service was successful in applying for consultancy support from the national Youth Agency to review participation and engagement processes for young people. Whilst the report had recommendations to improve practice, it highlighted the work in the team with the quote below;

Finally, in an era where public perceptions towards young people are often negative, this review would like to acknowledge the observed dedication and professionalism of the young people involved with Rutland County Council's democratic engagement processes and in particular those young people involved with the Rutland Youth Council. Rutland Youth Council members give up a substantial proportion of their free time, often during periods of significant school work and exam pressure which may impede some of their peer's ability to engage in democratic processes. Compared to other local authority youth councils, members of Rutland Youth Council dedicate a higher proportion of their spare time to voluntarily progress Rutland Youth Council's work and are keen to continue to develop their involvement in wider Rutland County Council work.

*Peta Halls
National Youth Agency
Development Officer
April 2012*

6. CONCLUSION

The Youth Service in Rutland provides a mix of universal and targeted provision designed to meet the needs of the local community whilst maximising impact through targeting enhanced outcomes. The full report demonstrates evidenced based practice where by voluntary engagement of young people in a range of informal settings enables them to participate fully in targeted interventions required.

In addition it provides clear evidence the impact targeted youth support can have in reducing key priorities such as caseloads open to social care, teenage pregnancy and anti social behaviour.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Medium	Current and future monitoring, support and challenge are required to be sustained.
Viability	Medium	Significant amounts of Youth provision are non statutory, changes in funding strategies may leave this service vulnerable
Finance	Low	The Local Authority provides this service through current budget provision.
Profile	High	There are consistent concerns from communities regarding youth opportunities and anti social behaviour which are ameliorated through this provision
Equality and Diversity	High	Vulnerable youth people are at significant risk of poor outcomes, of living in homes suffering poverty and of a continuing a cycle of deprivation.

Background Papers
None

Report Author
Adrian Wells
Head of Service: Stronger Communities

Tel No: (01572) 722577
e-mail: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.