

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

14 March 2019

SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Report of the Strategic Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Reaching our Full Potential	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr R Foster, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding – Children & Young People, Armed Forces Champion	
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the contents of the report and the provisions available to support young people in Rutland.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the current provisions delivered through the Young People Services and the wider links to other community services.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 Youth Service - Aims

- 2.1.1 Services for young people are an integral part of Rutland's Early Help Strategy, and underpin the aims within our Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-2019. The key aims of the service are to;

- Ensure young people are supported to function as responsible citizens in their community, to achieve their full potential in education and to utilise positive

activities and individual support that improves their well-being and personal and social development.

- Provide young people with opportunities to participate and to engage in local decision making through effective 'youth voice' mechanisms.
- Respond to emerging local and national issues that are evidencing impact on young people's health and personal safety, for example emotional health and well-being, and child exploitation.

2.2 The Council's legal duties in respect of provision for young people

2.2.1 Services for young people are shaped by Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 which requires Local Authorities to secure 'so far as reasonably practical' sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people aged 13-19, and up to 25 years for those with a special educational need and/or disability.

2.2.2 The service supports the delivery of key statutory functions required of the Local Authority under the Education Act 1996 and Education and Skills Act 2008 relating to securing sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16 to 19 years and for those up to 25 years with Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

2.2.3 The service also delivers functions required in law under section 26A of Children Act 1989 and the requirement to deliver Independent Advocacy services for children in care and care leavers.

2.2.4 The Youth Service in itself is not a statutory function and the law did not intend Local Authorities to be the sole provider of such services. Therefore the levels and the breadth of youth provision across the country vary. Rutland County Council has succeeded in embedding services for young people within its Early Help offer so it reflects young people's stated intention to receive targeted support in non-stigmatised environments.

2.3 Rutland's Youth Service Delivery Model

The delivery model for youth services has been designed to maintain a universal and accessible offer for young people whilst increasing targeted provision to our most vulnerable children and young people, within the demands and constraints on the Council's budget in future years. The service is structured around 5 key themes as follows (see Appendix A for full service examples);

2.3.1 **Targeted Intervention:** The service is providing a range of targeted interventions to young people and families with the highest level of needs. This includes;

- *Advocacy Services:* for children requiring protection, children looked after and care leavers fulfilling statutory functions of the Local Authority under 26A of the Children Act 1989. This is fulfilled by 9 staff in our early intervention service who are trained as accredited advocates.
- *Mentoring:* delivering 6-8 week targeted one to one sessions with young people who require a range of advice, support and guidance covering key themes such as emotional health and wellbeing.

- *Targeted Intervention*: delivering a ‘whole family’ approach supporting young people and addressing whole family issues.
- *Support Groups*: this includes delivery of parenting support groups, conflict resolution, and activities for young carers and children in care.

2.3.2 **Participation and Engagement**: ‘Youth Voice’ remains central to the Council’s early help offer and its intention to deliver the Participation Strategy across the Council. The service support a range of groups including Youth Council, Children in Care Council, Young Carers and Young Inspectors which are key mechanisms to promoting youth voice and young people’s involvement in decision making and in influencing front line practice.

2.3.3 **Universal Provision**: The service maintains a universal offer which includes delivery of a schools programme offering a programme of sessions across all of our primary and secondary schools focussing on key themes that matter to young people, such as self-esteem, healthy relationships and personal safety. The service also offers weekly youth group, 6 week theme sessions such as healthy living, Youth Café during half terms and weekly drop in sessions. The team will work with local partnerships to support provision in areas of neighbourhood concern. Additionally the service focusses on helping to build capacity and confidence within the community to deliver universal youth provisions supporting the voluntary sector to identify and train volunteers, to set up provisions and to identify funding to sustain local groups and communities.

2.3.4 **Health and Well-Being**: Ensuring a robust and co-ordinated health offer for young people. This includes co-ordination of sexual health services and wider mental health and well-being support services for young people. Key to this includes developing collaborative partnerships and co working with health and educational partners and key work has included delivering the children and young people’s IAPT programme by assessing and providing therapeutic intervention for young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues, also collaboration with Rutland First on the Resilient Rutland project, and providers of the Future in Mind projects.

2.3.5 **Education and Careers**: Providing dedicated careers advice and guidance to targeted groups including children in care and SEND. The service undertakes the statutory requirement to track young people in their education and ensure suitable offers are provided, reporting on the destinations and the attrition and retention rates for young people accessing education, training and employment.

2.4 Staffing Structure

2.4.1 Below provides an overview of the existing staff structure. To provide resilience and added capacity across children’s services the practitioners and some volunteers have been trained to provide advocacy and mentoring to our children and young people.

Roles	No.	FTE	Delivery overview
Early Help Co-ordinator Youth & Community Development	1	1.0	Team manager for the service providing overall team and facilities management. Co-ordination and delivery of key statutory functions including Advocacy,

			Children in Care and participation services and single front door.
Targeted Intervention Practitioners	2	1.5	Delivery of targeted rolling parenting support programmes, delivery of targeted one to one case work and whole family support.
Locality Youth Development Worker	1	1.0	Development of universal youth offer, schools engagement work, volunteer development and sessional youth work.
Youth Engagement Workers	3	1.5	Undertake direct universal sessional work, clubs and activities etc. Deliver advocacy and mentoring case work providing one to one support for vulnerable children and young people.
Youth Education & Careers Development Officers	2	1.5	Undertakes statutory tracking of young people in education and monitoring to DfE. Providing direct careers advice and guidance to target groups and across schools.
Health & Wellbeing Officer	1	1.0	Delivery of health and well-being services, co-ordination of local offer embedding effective practice. Co-ordination of key participation services including youth council, young inspectors.
Staffing Total	10	7.0	

3 WHATS WORKING WELL

3.1 Engagement of young people:

- 3.1.1 The service has been successful in maintaining an accessible offer for young people with new memberships in the service increasing 11% year to date. The table below outlines the numbers of sessions which have been delivered and the overall number of young people accessing a provision over the last 2 years;

Service	2017-2018		2018-2019 YTD	
	No. of Sessions	Attendees	No. of Sessions	Attendees
Advocacy Cases Supported	-	10	-	32
Mentoring Cases	-	20	-	14
Targeted Intervention Cases	-	26	-	31
School Sessions Delivered	45	1076	23	1311
Targeted Group Work	13	128	30	128
Careers Workshops	-	27	-	105
Parenting Programmes	2	14	2	12
Club provisions including Children in Care Council, Youth Council, Time out for You	91	752	72	689
Totals	151	2053	127	2322

**Note overall number of sessions are not recorded for one to one services such as advocacy, careers and mentoring. The volumes of sessions can vary with individuals receiving up to 8 individual sessions.*

3.2 Impact:

- 3.2.1 A range of indicators are in place to monitor the impact the service has for young people. Performance is measured and evidenced using qualitative and quantitative evidence.

3.2.2 For example we measure the difference we make to Children Looked After and Care Leavers, through an annual pledge survey which records the views of children over a number of key themes; these are reported to the Corporate Parent Board through the Pledge Scorecard. Example indicators include the following;

Performance Indicator	17/18	18/19
DfE National Reporting Indicator: Children aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training (NEET):	0.9%	0.4%
DfE National Reporting Indicator: Children Unknown i.e. their education destination or if in education:	0.9%	1.2%
Satisfaction with Advocacy Services:	N/A	89%
Targeted Intervention: Closures with needs met:	77%	81%
Pledge Survey Example: % of children looked after who feel their views are listened to:	80%	N/A

*N/A where not recorded or not yet taken place.

3.2.3 Key headlines to note;

3.2.4 Our universal schools offer is proving popular and successful with young people reporting the awareness sessions make a difference. The schools offer enables the service to deliver key messages to young people who do not wish to attend a youth groups, and enables the service to capture a wide audience at low cost. This year 73 sessions are planned during the whole academic year to be delivered across some primary and all secondary schools.

3.2.5 The voice of children looked after, care leavers and young carers are actively sought and are making a difference to how we work. This year a range of activities have been supported and young people have been involved in, for example, the recruitment of foster carers, regional participation work and the design of children in care pledge, work experience within early help and social care, annual big conversation with Members and Senior Officers, review of Life Story Work, redesign of the coming into care booklet, development of the young carers discount card etc.

3.2.6 We provide a robust careers advice service, supporting the most vulnerable and helping schools in their delivery of the Gatsby Benchmark. Our NEET and unknown levels for young people are consistently the lowest in the region and some of the lowest nationally.

3.2.7 More young people and families are receiving targeted support and this is making a difference to them. 32 children have accessed the advocacy support service this year and have been supported to help share their views about their support, for example within child protection conferences, reporting a high degree of satisfaction.

3.2.8 The service has been able to respond to emerging needs and deliver targeted programmes of support which has included Protective Behaviours, Living with Teenagers and Grounded Parenting Programmes. The service also supports onsite delivery of a weekly counselling service for young people and are training staff in order to deliver Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) and targeted sessions in support of young people's mental health.

4 CHALLENGES

- 4.1 The service provides a wide and responsive offer and delivers a number of statutory functions which can create capacity pressures on the service to maintain all these functions successfully. To mitigate this risk staff have been trained to deliver a number of services, such as Advocacy and Mentoring, which allows the team to deliver targeted work whilst maintaining a universal offer supported by volunteers.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The service undertakes a range of consultation with children, young people and families and has a number of mechanisms which place children and families at the heart of decision making.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 The current youth service delivery model followed a redesign which was agreed by Cabinet in 2016. The remodelling of the service was done so in order to make better use of resources and secure an offer which met the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people. The main drivers for the review were;

- The previous model delivered a diverse range of services across the whole week, including evenings, which resulted in staff capacity and provision being stretched too thinly and often underutilised. Consequently the service was unable to be dynamic and responsive to new and emerging priorities.
- The resource available to deploy to the most vulnerable children and young people was limited and increased the risk of young people escalating into higher cost services.
- The holistic nature of the universal offer made it hard to define and measure impact and thus value for money.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications. The current model was approved by Cabinet in 2016 and has been designed to achieve an efficient staffing model whilst maintaining a balanced offer of universal access and targeted support.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 As outlined in section two, the service supports a number of statutory requirements of the Local Authority, namely those under the Education Act 1996, in the suitable provision of services for young people in the County and the requirements to ensure an offer of education is in place.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 There are no changes in provision planned that would require an Equality Impact Assessment.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Services for Young People play a supportive role in helping keep children safe, prevent harm and contribute to positive life outcomes. The service facilitates this by providing a targeted model which supports the most vulnerable children and young people who may be at risk.

11.2 The service forms part of a wider early intervention model aimed at providing support and positive opportunities and the service works closely with the Community Safety team to deliver joint initiatives aimed at promoting community cohesion and preventing anti-social behaviour.

11.3 This year this has included joint delivery of sessions in schools on Internet Safety, and Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness events for parents. The service has jointly delivered assemblies in secondary schools and targeted programmes including the Positive Pursuits programme, engaging small cohorts of individual children at risk into positive activities.

11.4 The service is currently working intensively with the community safety team to focus on concerns in Uppingham town. The youth service and the community safety team have devised a programme to support and divert young people from antisocial behaviour that has been experienced by the community during school holidays. The programme has been tested during February half term 2019. It included activities every day and some evenings in Jules House Café, and at a range of community venues in Uppingham including the Scouts Hut, the Fire Station, the Church Rooms, and Uppingham School Sports Centre. Young people can take up circuit training, football, fire skills and drills, cooking sessions and a pop up cinema, as well as drop in for coffee and a chat at other times. The team will meet with Uppingham councillors and members of community groups to review the impact of the programme and plan for future activities.

11.5 The above work compliments the existing services within the Community Safety team and the contracted services available through the Youth Offending Service such as Impact Outreach support.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The service supports the health and well-being of young people through direct delivery and co-ordination of services. This includes, for example, health awareness sessions in schools, targeted sessions for young people at risk including child sexual exploitation, weekly counselling services and the co-ordination of sexual health

services such as C-Card scheme. The C-Card Scheme gives free condoms to young people which they can access through C-Card Registration Points, which enables them to meet a qualified sexual health advisor who will discuss sexual health topics and provide safe relationship advice.

- 12.2 The service receives £20k per annum from public health funding to achieve the above and support positive outcomes for children.

13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The revised youth service offer has been operating for over 2 years and the service is well used and continues to reach a large number of young people. In this period the service has successfully focussed on ensuring support is available to those young people who need it the most, achieving positive outcomes and making a difference.

13.2 The balance between the delivery of universal open access services for young people and targeted support is operating well and the service has maintained a responsive approach delivering a range of open access provisions, targeted group work and the roll out of a successful schools support programme.

13.3 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

15 APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix A: Jules House - Youth Service Directory March 2019.

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