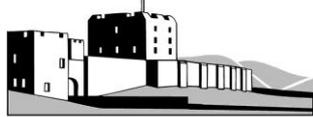


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



www.carlisle.gov.uk

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 12th January 2012

Title: WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Report of: The Assistant Director Community Engagement

Report reference: CD 06/12

Summary: This report describes activities, joint working arrangements and proposed new ways of working to improve wellbeing and address worklessness in young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS)

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

Members are asked to comment on the current activities offered to young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS)

Recommendations:

Contact Officer: Keith Gerrard

Ext: 7350

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. Introduction

1.1 This report highlights how the Community Engagement directorate supports young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and through this contributes to the employment priorities outlined in the corporate plan. It references partnership working, programme management and direct delivery. The report is in two parts. Part one focuses on the current programmes and activities. Part two contains an update on how a more coherent, joined up approach has made better use of resources and identified new ways of working.

2.0 Part One: Current Work

2.1 Within Community Engagement, individual teams currently enable, facilitate and/or deliver a wide range of programmes to children and young people aged between 0 – 19 and up to 25 if they have a learning difficulty or a disability. None of the current programmes are specifically targeted at young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), although NEETS do access the programmes. We do not formally report outcomes for NEETS though it is clear there are positive impacts in terms of confidence, self esteem, motivation, acquisition of new skills and increased take up of education and employment opportunities.

2.2 Project Overview

The Community Housing and Health service is contracted to provide services to young people through Cumbria Youth Support Services Contracts (CYSS). This is funded through the County Council and managed by the lead contractor Connexions. The range of services delivered includes:

- BASE library drop in
- Accredited learning
- School Partnerships
- Skateboarding and BMX skills and coaching
- Outreach services to Gypsy and Travellers
- Youth Newsletter (abstract magazine)

In addition to CYSS contracts, Community Housing and Health also works with NEETS through the following programmes:

- Youth/ SAFE clubs
- HALO – football skills for homeless men
- Attendance Centre

2.3 BASE library drop-in

BASE library drop-in, attracts young people who are NEET, but is not exclusive to them. It offers a safe informal space for people to talk to youth workers about their options and access information and support. It provides the opportunity for young people to use computers to develop and enhance their CV's, write job applications and complete any school/college/university work. This service also allows staff to signpost young people onto other services, such as Connexions.

2.4 **Accredited learning**

Through a variety of different projects it enables young people to access alternative curricular nationally accredited and recognised qualifications such as Open College Network. 'Health and Safety' was delivered on request by some young people after consultation sessions, because they wanted to enter employment and recognised that this certificate would aid them in their success.

2.5 **Schools partnerships**

The service has worked closely in partnership with different schools within Carlisle. Trinity School approached the Service to work alongside groups of year 11 (school leaving age) young people who were at risk of social exclusion and/or disengagement and therefore at risk of becoming NEET. The teachers wanted to deliver programmes that would inspire, motivate and highlight the importance of learning outside of the formal education system, emphasising that education can be fun. The aim of this was to re engage in the hope that the young people did not fall into the NEET category when they left school. Accredited courses delivered with these groups included environmental awareness (11 young people obtained this) and bike maintenance (14 young people obtained this)

2.6 **Skateboarding and BMX skills and coaching**

Young people who are NEET regularly access the outdoor skate park facility and as a result have got involved in the development group's activities. Young people who are involved with this project have accessed level 1 coaching courses and now contribute positively to society by volunteering, coaching skateboarding to younger children alongside Carlisle City Council staff. These new skills enhance their employability and chances of finding training or accessing further/higher education. There are currently over 1600 members who contribute to ideas and developments through the face book skate group. Overall we Support young people in partnership with other agencies such as Carlisle Youth Zone, the newly established B4 and Carlisle Leisure to develop better facilities for indoor and outdoor skating, blading and BMXing in Carlisle.

2.7 **Outreach services to Gypsy and Travellers**

Many Gypsy and Travellers are identified as NEET as they might not access education or training and are not registered as employed. Through multi agency working with Cumbria Travellers, we have engaged with groups on multi media projects. This is designed to reduce negative stereotypes, generate a better understanding of Traveller's heritage and reduce NEET status.

2.8 **Abstract - Young Persons magazine**

Young people are also involved in the development of Abstract. The magazine is written and produced by young people and is for young people, focusing on youth homelessness and school related topics, targeting specific NEET groups such as care leavers.

2.9 **Harraby Youth Club**

Communities, Housing and Health are currently running Harraby Youth Club in partnership with Connexions Cumbria. Many young people who are at risk of being NEET or who are NEET attend these sessions on a Thursday evening from 6:30pm – 8pm. Over 100 young people have accessed the youth club since 25th November 2010. The extension of the SAFE (Sport, Activity, Fitness, Exercise) programme into Harraby ward, will extend our offer to young people supporting them to access college courses, training opportunities and apprenticeships and consequently encouraging young people to make positive life choices. The service works in partnership with the police, enhancing provision and also reducing the levels of anti social behaviour within the Harraby area.

2.10 **Base Drop-In and Chill Out**

The Service has combined these two projects. The session provides the opportunity for young people to drop in for an informal chat, information, advice and guidance. Workers can sign post young people to other suitable agencies who can give appropriate and relevant advice.

Working in partnership with the Purple Lotus, 'Chill Out!' was originally piloted in July 2010 it attracted over 20 young people during a three week period. As a consequence of positive feedback and demand for such a programme from other agencies (schools, Connexions, Community centres), the Service has now launched the sessions again. 'Chill out' is a wellbeing/health project for young people, where they can come and relax and 'chill out' whilst still being physically active. Schools in particular requested this type of programme during exam time to help relieve additional pressures and stress.

Sessions, delivered at the Purple Lotus include Aerial Yoga, Zumba, Nia dance, Yoga, Tai Chi and Body Confidence. This has attracted NEET young people who are looking to restore their self esteem and confidence before being integrated back into education, training or employment.

2.11 **Halo**

Communities Housing and Health, the HALO Project and Carlisle United Football Club work in partnership to deliver the HALO Football project targeted at homeless men aged over 19. Its purpose is to reduce isolation in a hard to reach group by improving access to playing football and support to engage in training and volunteer opportunities. This will in turn boost an individual's confidence, increase their skills and employability and in turn will have a positive impact on the local community and economy by reducing the chances of them becoming NEET. The project can demonstrate positive employment outcomes and positive press feedback.

2.11 **SAFE Clubs**

SAFE (Sport, Activity, Fitness, Exercise) Clubs aim to deter anti-social behaviour by offering localised sporting activities on different nights of the week for 11-18 year olds. SAFE clubs currently operate in four wards in Carlisle. Trinity, Belah, Morton and Brampton. The programme offers support services through Connexions and the police to engage those in the NEET group. Trinity is the most popular of the SAFE clubs running, currently attracting over 100 children per week, engaging them in

activities such as Swimming, Football, Basketball and Fitness and Exercise in the gym.

There is documented evidence to prove that SAFE Clubs are successful in tackling anti-social behaviour and re engaging with hard to reach young people through Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP annual reports and feedback from Prevent and Deter meetings. The SAFE scheme was also held up as Best Practice and has been rolled out county wide.

- 2.13 In 2010/11 Community Engagement staff worked with a number of young people aged between 14-18, referred in through the magistrate's courts and Youth Offending Service to address offending behaviour. A large number of these young people are NEETS. (Exact figures will be provided at the COS meeting on the 12th) Through engagement and practical help with life skills including CVs, budgeting, healthy eating, addressing risky behaviour (drugs, alcohol, sexual health), certificated first aid, some young people are able to change their behaviour and have gone on to education and training.

3.0 Part Two: A Strategic Joined Up Approach – An Update

- 3.1 Transformation and the creation of the Communities Housing and Health Team provided the opportunity to look carefully at our work to date and build on successes. Obviously this is being done when the City Council and its partners are facing difficult challenges including budget reductions. Working in partnership, prioritising key activities and looking to complement and support rather than duplicate was fundamentally important. Work linked to supporting NEETS (including with schools and Connexions around prevention) have formed part of our programme to deliver against our priorities for employment and the prevention/alleviation of homelessness.

A more strategic approach to working with young people has resulted in good joint working between service teams in housing, homelessness and wellbeing and with external agencies. These arrangements have varied between partners but have included enabling around pathways to work, outreach and referral. Partners working with the City Council in supporting NEETS programmes into 2011/12 include:

- Carlisle Youth Zone
- Community Resource Centre (contractor)
- Carlisle Leisure Limited
- Secondary Schools - (includes the new Richard Rose sporting academy)
Connexions
- The Job Centre Plus
- Cumbria Police (North BCU)
- Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service

The letting of the contract for the new Community Resource Centre and developing a young person's foyer is developing and will allow new improved provision in a vital area. A update report will be presented to COS in February 2012.

3.2 SPAA Foundation Delivery

Many partners are represented on Carlisle's Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) that reports in to the Carlisle Partnership. Reporting in through this framework raises awareness and contributes to improved employment prospects and will stimulate new opportunities for joint working and/or funding. It is now proposed that SPAA will establish itself as a social enterprise, comprising a group of organisations whose aim is to improve health and wellbeing by providing a co-ordinated approach to physical activity, sport and recreation.

Under the new SPAA Foundation, the Service delivers a range of different sports based activity sessions in schools. These sessions are currently all based in primary schools in both the urban and rural areas. Sessions differ depending on what they are, but as a general rule, aim to deliver high quality sport sessions that encourage young people to make positive life choices, encourage higher aspirations and assist them to believe in themselves; valuing and respecting others.

Sessions are currently being delivered in St Margaret Marys (Full Day) High Hesket (PPA and Afterschool) Newlaithes (Sport Specific) Bishop Harvey (Sport Specific) Cumwhinton (Afterschool).

3.3 Responding to local need/supporting local work

Resources were put in place to support a number of ongoing programmes, co-ordinated in conjunction partners, for example in December 2011 an indoor skate event was held at the Sands Centre. Providing free board and blade coaching and targeting young people aged 6 to 19, it proved to be a huge success and attracted over 70 young people.

In 2010, between the period of 23 July and 31st August there were 132 incidents of anti-social behaviour across the rural area of north Cumbria. In the same period in 2011 incidents of anti-social behaviour fell by 22%. Further analysis also identifies a 51% reduction in youth related anti-social behaviour throughout the target period. Attendance figures for this project were 759.

Here and elsewhere the City Council's team sought to encourage collaboration around the delivery of educational support, such as addressing risk taking behaviour via drug and alcohol awareness courses.

3.4 Rural Summer Outreach Programme

A rural summer outreach programme 'Fun in the Sun', led by Carlisle City Council in conjunction with a number of other agencies such as Cumbria Constabulary, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service, Youth Offending Services, Youth Zone and Riverside Housing Association. Included a wide range of free activities offered to families and young people every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout

August. The main aim of the project was to reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents in rural locations over the summer period.

3.5 **Summer Splash (City West)**

Cumbria Constabulary and Connexions ran Summer Splash for young people aged 10 to 17 on Friday nights from 29th July to September 2nd 2011. The venue alternated weekly between Chances Park- Morton and Hammonds Pond – Upperby.

Throughout this period there was a 43% decrease in incidents of criminal damage. Incidents of ASB also fell by 40% and there was a 58% reduction in youth related disorder. Attendance figures for this project were 1064.

3.6 **Operation Roman Candle**

Operation Roman Candle ran between Friday 21st October – Sunday 6th November 2011. A multi-agency operation designed to reassure the community, reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and to improve the quality of life for local residents throughout the autumn months. The operation was in response to an increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour throughout the October- December quarter. This quarter encompasses key dates such as half term, Halloween and Bonfire night.

The operation has now been running for 3 years, and has been successful in achieving its aims. Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour have reduced by 41% since 2008 and incidents of deliberate fires have reduced by 63% since 2008.

3.7 **Social Inclusion Programmes**

SAFE (Sport, Activity, Fitness, Exercise) Schemes.

The successful SAFE programme continued to be delivered across the city at a number of community based facilities (Trinity Leisure Centre, St Augustine's Church Belah, William Howard School Brampton, Morton School and Harraby). Since they began over 4 years ago they have contributed to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and have proved to be an important mechanism for working with young people who might not otherwise be involved in structured activity. As part of the Safe Clubs delivery the young people who attend select a charity or cause to help. An example of positive activity was demonstrated at the Trinity Safe Club. Young people who attended decided to support Mencap and will be presenting the charity with a bag of sports equipment for the Grace Little Centre.

MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) Schemes

A programme of delivery on 4 MUGA sites (Hammonds Pond Upperby, Melbourne Park Botcherby, Petteril Bank and Raffles) continued to take place in evenings during term time and activities are co-ordinated through the school holiday periods. The Trinity Church site in Castle Ward has now been completed; the official opening will take place in the New Year. Following which a programme of activity will be in place.

3.8 **Independent Living Programme 2012**

In November Carlisle City Council participated in a task and finish group entitled Carlisle & Eden Early Intervention in the Child's Journey. The remit for the group was to prevent homelessness amongst 16 to 17 year olds and develop a joined-up approach to prevent young people being classed as NEET's.

The aim is to develop and deliver an accredited series of sessions; designed to target a group of 8 to 10 young people in Year 11 who have expressed an interest to live independently. This target group has been chosen as research shows that 16 year olds living independently are more likely to struggle to successfully manage the transition from compulsory schooling into sustained employment, training or learning and are more likely to experience periods of unemployment.

There will be direct input into the design and delivery of the programme from young people who have had direct experience of accommodation issues, homelessness and or unemployment. It is envisaged that the programme will provide a positive learning experience for both the target group of 16 year olds and also those young people who are involved in informing and assisting in the delivery of the programme.

The programme has a range of outcomes and the impact on the lives of the young people will be carefully monitored and evaluated.

3.9 **Schools and Connexions**

Links with local schools have remained strong, helping young people move into employment, training or continuing in education. Connexions are the lead agency and its collaboration with the City Council is recognised as valuable, focusing on the curricular-extra curricular link and particularly around preventative activity.

3.10 **Abstract - Young person's magazine**

The successful young person's magazine has continued. Available funding was allowed the project to move into its second year. The magazine has recently released it's 4th edition. A promotional and distribution 1st Birthday party will take place on the 13th January 2012. The magazine has promoted issues affecting young people such as homelessness and school related topics, targeting specific NEET (Not In Education, Employment or Training) groups such as care leavers. The programme also drew on involvement from young people across the city and was supported by students from the University.

3.11 **Ucanshine**

Ucanshine is a programme aimed at primary school children (years 3-6). The programme is split into two elements, practical, geared around Olympic events and classroom based, focused on goal setting. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, working in small groups unsupervised where ever possible. Each child set goals in 5 specific areas including Health and Fitness, Family and Friends, Confidence and Self Esteem, Talents and Aspirations and Self Belief and Positive Attitude. Children are asked to identify strengths and weaknesses in each area and then set their own personal improvement goals. The programme has a number of aims:

Children as learners:

- Develop skills of self assessment in order to measure and raise their own personal achievement
- Develop emotional intelligence and creativity
- Develop strategies for setting and achieving goals
- Develop self belief and resilience
- Develop collaboration and social skills to become positive role models

Children in the community:

- Develop sympathy, respect and understanding of race, ability, disability and cultural diversity
- Respect other people's beliefs and value everyone's right to have a voice and opinion
- Recognise the achievements of others and value those attributes which make other people feel special
- Be prepared to take personal and collective responsibility for both their immediate and wider environment they grow up in

For Ucanshine to be at its most effective, the Service aims to access the school for 1 year, going in once a week and working with each year group (3, 4, 5 and 6), this helps build continuity and helps build relationships with the school and the children. Currently 3 schools in Carlisle have signed up to the programme; Petheril Bank, Upperby and St Margaret Marys.

4.0 Conclusion

The City Council has a strong track record helping to either prevent or reduce the NEET statistics in the area and more generally supporting the needs of young people from across all communities. We plan to continue this moving forward. In the future the emphasises will be on a more strategic and joined up approach with a clearer focus on Corporate and Community Plan outcomes

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age		
Disability		
Race		
Gender/ Transgender		
Sexual Orientation		
Religion or belief		
Human Rights		
Health inequalities		
Rurality		

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

.....

.....

.....

If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.