

CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL



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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 10th January 2013

Title: WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Report of: The Director of Community Engagement

Report reference: CD 01/13

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

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

1. Do members think that proposed new ways of working to support NEETs is appropriate?
2. In the context of the report, what suggestions advice does Panel have to ensure that, within available resources, provision is as effective as possible?

Recommendations:

It is recommended that members consider and comment on the report.

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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

Introduction

1.1 This report is in three parts.

Part 1 - focuses on the current programmes and highlights how the Community Engagement Directorate supports young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). It references partnership working, programme management and direct delivery.

Part two - summarises ways of working in the future with an emphasis on delivering in partnership, seeking a more coherent joined up approach, making better use of resources, new structures and ways of working.

Part three – Reports on work of the Carlisle and Eden Young Persons' District Delivery Group (the local group the County Council's Children's Trust)

2.0 PART ONE

2.1 Current Work

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 Development Officer (Young People's Champion) who sits within the Wellbeing team delivers on an external contract 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 Inspira. The range of services delivered includes:

- ABSTRACT Magazine
- Working with young homeless people within the hostels
- Providing Wellbeing projects (Chill Out)
- Accredited learning and Peer Mentoring
- Police and Inspira Partnership working – Harraby Youth club

In addition to CYSS contracts, the Community Engagement team also work with NEET young people through the Youth/ SAFE clubs programme:

2.3 ABSTRACT Magazine

ABSTRACT is Carlisle's only magazine that is written by young people for young people. The young people involved explore all aspects of development: Editorial, graphics, reporting, writing, photography and so on. The magazine covers a wide range of information, specifically focused on what young people want. For example: reviews (books, shows, festivals, films), what's on for young people across the city, adopting healthy lifestyles, opinions from young people about issues that directly affect them, adverts (young person related) and so on. The young people have been supported to promote diversity and appeal for more freelance work from other youth groups and individuals to be submitted for print in order to be as inclusive as possible. The magazine promotes 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.

Below are quotes from two young people who are part of the core editorial group of ABSTRACT highlighting what they have personally achieved from being a part of this project.

"Abstract is a fantastic opportunity offered to all young people in our area. It has taught me skills I would have never learned elsewhere, mimicking the industry on a manageable scale. I have used these skills to gain other work, win a scholarship and further my future career. You also meet some fantastic people and some will be friends for life. But best of all, it's fun!" Young person aged 18

“ABSTRACT has been a whirlwind experience for me. It’s opened so many new doors and changed my life in ways I didn’t expect. I absolutely love doing something positive for our community, and helping to promote a positive media perception about young people today.” Young person aged 16

2.4 Working with young homeless people within the Carlisle hostels

Our aim is to provide provision in a variety of hostels within Carlisle engaging with the vulnerable 16 – 25 year olds, children and families.

We have been providing provision centred around overall improved health and wellbeing

- Learning to cook healthy family meals on a budget
- Support with application forms/searching for further education, training and employment
- Health and wellbeing days
- Play provision for the children
- Baby support For example feeding under fives

We have been delivering healthy cooking on a budget sessions within John Street hostel (Men only hostel) which has been received extremely well by both the residents and staff there. They are gaining important life skills, working together as a team and improving self confidence.

We also deliver sessions in Staffield House hostel working with young mothers and their children, delivering information about health and wellbeing related issues.

2.5 Providing Wellbeing projects (Chill Out! Project)

These sessions provide the opportunity for young people to drop in for: Informal chat, information, advice and guidance sessions. Workers are to sign post young people onto other suitable agencies and give appropriate and relevant advice.

‘Chill Out!’ is a wellbeing/health project for young people, where they can come and relax and distress whilst still being physically active, working in partnership with the local business Purple Lotus.

Schools in particular expressed an interest for this type of programme when during exam periods in order to help relieve additional pressures and stress.

Sessions are delivered at the Purple Lotus in the centre of Carlisle, which has attracted young people from Dalston and Brampton. Sessions include: Aerial Yoga, Zumba, Nia dance, Yoga, Tai Chi and Body Confidence. This has attracted NEET young people who are looking to restore self esteem and confidence before integrating back into education, training or employment.

One young person stated that: *“They (the sessions) relieve stress after a long day at school...there was someone to talk to and it taught me to be positive about myself”*.

The Chill Out group have recently made a short DVD of the aerial yoga sequence they were taking part in that can be shown in schools and to youth groups to help promote health, physical activity and overall wellbeing.

2.6 Accredited learning, peer mentoring and volunteering

Through a variety of different projects, young people have had the opportunity to access alternative curricular nationally accredited and recognised qualifications such as Open College Network. ‘Mentoring Skills’ Level 2 is currently being 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.

The concept behind the peer mentoring projects is that young people respond well to other young people and prefer important messages to come from their peers rather than adults.

A group of young people have recently delivered road show style workshops about the ABSTRACT Magazine including key area’s such as journalism, graphic design, communications and photography encouraging young people to get involved in order to enhance their skills and CV’s for the future.

We have targeting young people within the schools who are:

- On the Special Educational Needs register
- At risk of NEET For example those who need support developing their reading and writing skills.
- We want more young people involved in the ABSTRACT project to increase the magazines diversity, enhancing its inclusivity to all young people so they are able to either submit freelance work or become a part of the core editorial group.
- Supporting those young people who may want to pursue a career within this industry or who want to study media related subjects in the future.

The projects offer a great opportunity to the 'peer mentors', increasing confidence, and self esteem and improving presentation skills. They are able to pass on knowledge and skills in order to help the projects be sustaining.

We also provide the opportunity for young people to volunteer (over the age of 18) on some of the projects we deliver. For example, we were approached by a student from the University of Cumbria to come and volunteer at the chill out! sessions. From this, she has decided to use this project as a focal point to her final year dissertation. This valuable research will support the project and highlight any other areas that can be developed in the future.

To date we have had four local schools approach us to take on work experience students; one from Richard Rose Central Academy, one from Richard Rose Morton Academy, one from Trinity and the other from Brampton's William Howard school. This has led to the students becoming peer mentors and participators of other City Council lead initiatives.

2.7 Harraby Youth Club

Communities, Housing and Health are currently running Harraby Youth Club in partnership with Inspira and Cumbria Police. Many young people who are at risk of being NEET or who are NEET attend these sessions on a Thursday evening from

6:30pm – 9pm. Many of the young people who have accessed the youth club have been supported with application forms and have been successfully signposted onto college courses, training opportunities and apprenticeships. The extension of the SAFE (Sport, Activity, Fitness, Exercise) programme into the Harraby ward, which has recruited the support of Cumbria Police has extended and enhanced our offer to young people and reduce the levels of anti social behaviour in the Harraby ward.

2.8 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 five wards within Carlisle: Trinity, Belah, Morton, Harraby and Brampton. The programme offers support services through Inspira 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 sessions 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.

3.0 PART TWO FUTURE WORK: DELIVERY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Statutory responsibility for the planning and delivery of services to meet the needs of Children and Young People rests with the County Council. Budget and staff reductions within Communities Housing and Health, will require a more joined up and targeted approach to partnership working to ensure that we can continue to deliver our priorities for employment and the prevention and alleviation of homelessness.

Arrangements will vary between partners but will include enabling around pathways to work, outreach and referral. Partners working with the City Council in

supporting NEETs programmes into 2013 include:

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

Many of these partners report into 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.

3.1 Carlisle Youth Zone and existing youth clubs etc

Carlisle 'Youth Zone' has been officially open for over a year now. They are working in partnership with Inspira on the national citizen project, which is aimed at those young people who are or are at risk of being NEET. This national initiative has involved engaging with young people through a series of workshops and sessions, often focusing on an alternative curricular accreditation, building aspirations, developing enhancing skills and confidence and contributing to their curriculum vitae, therefore reducing the number of young people who could find themselves NEET. This is a key opportunity to multi agency work with the Youth Zone, with the City Council signposting young people to access this city centre facility. However, there is an emphasis that this is in line with, and not at the expense of, existing neighbourhood based provision.

3.2 Responding to local need/supporting local work

Going forward into the next financial year, quantitative data from the police, CDRP, locality based problem solving meetings supplemented by feedback from

Neighbourhood forums, Councillors will be used to target positive engagement with young people, principally through partnership working.

Resources are being put in place to support a number of ongoing programmes which will be co-ordinated in conjunction with, for example youth clubs/SAFE clubs/MUGA schemes, in Currock and Upperby and the more rural areas of Brampton and Longtown. The City Council's Wellbeing team will seek to encourage collaboration around the delivery of educational support, such as addressing risk taking behaviour via drug and alcohol awareness courses and the young fire fighters scheme.

Other programmes that already have secure funding of £7,000 for 2013 is 'Summer Splash'. These events are designed to engage young people in positive youth activities. This will commence in the summer holidays and involve the police, Inspira, Riverside Housing, and the City Council.

3.3 Social Inclusion Programmes

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

The successful SAFE programme is 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 Community Centre). It has been funded through 2012 and will continue to be an important mechanism for working with young people, who might not otherwise be involved in structured activity. The 2013 programme aims to work more closely with partners to create a more educational and structured programme for the young people accessing the SAFE clubs. This is aimed at complimenting the current sporting activities that are available, ensuring that more relevant sign posting to other local agencies occurs, utilising their facilities to their full potential.

MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) Schemes

A programme of delivery on 4 MUGA sites (Hammonds Pond Upperby, Melbourne Park Botcherby, Petteril Bank and Raffles) has taken place in the evenings during

term time and activities are co-ordinated through the school holiday periods. Trinity Church site in Castle Ward is now complete where a programme of activity is now taking place. The SPAA Foundation are currently being commissioned by the City Council to deliver this programme of activities on the MUGA'S.

3.4 Work with Housing and Homelessness Team

The Wellbeing team have been working with the City Councils housing and hostel team, taking on a new focus, concentrating on working more closely and effectively, combining resources and skills. It has considered in particular the needs of young people who are at risk of becoming homeless and therefore more at risk of being NEET. A priority was to ensure that young people have the independent living skills to support themselves to work, train or achieve in education. Community Development Officers (The Young Persons Champion and Health officer), have worked to ensure that service users have the correct benefits and are secure financially (to the best of their ability) in order to support themselves and remain motivated to continue working towards their future and not find themselves in a position of being NEET. The letting of the contract for the new Community Resource Centre and developing a young person's foyer is a key platform for this work and allows new improved provision to take place in a vital area.

3.5 Schools and Inspira

Ensuring links with local schools remain strong will support young people to move into employment, training or continue in further education. Inspira is the lead agency and has a key role focusing on the delivery of extra curricular qualifications and activities to prevent NEET.

4.0 PART THREE - CARLISLE PARTNERSHIP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS GROUP

The District Delivery Group takes a project and delivery based approach to addressing the priorities that the Children's Trust have identified, along with any other priorities that the group has identified locally. Inspector Willetts from Cumbria

Constabulary chairs the group. His most recent report to Carlisle Partnership Executive, dated 10 December 2012, identified three priorities:

4.1 Group A: Prevention of adolescent neglect/harm/risk taking aged 8-10 years

The focus has been multi agency planning work for named primary - key stage 2 age year 5/6 children with significant social and emotional difficulties at home and in school. This group of children are at risk of being excluded from communities, schools and their families as a result of neglect and active risk taking behaviour. An initial pilot has been completed and a report, including evaluation of the work to date is due to be completed and circulated at the next District Delivery Group Meeting

4.2 Group B: Prevent Homeless/16/17 year olds and multi agency approach to NEET

The focus has been on vulnerable adolescents with significant social and emotional difficulties and existing pronounced behavioural difficulties, most of whom have had the experience of being homeless. Initially year 11 students were identified, however as a result of secondary school concerns the cohort has focused on 16/17 year olds.

A progress report and evaluation will be circulated at the next DDG meeting.

4.3 Stay Safe Initiatives

Children and young people are identified as being at risk for a range of different reasons. To date this has included alcohol misuse, being in the vicinity of dangerous buildings and associating late at night with much older people who were drunk. There was a 'Stay safe' initiative in Penrith on Halloween night in order to address some of the above issues. There are also plans to develop this work and incorporate it within other multi agency partnerships, for example, Safe clubs; MUGA schemes and summer splash/blast events.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1** The City Council has played a significant part in preventing or reducing the NEET statistics and more generally supporting the needs of young people from across all communities. In the current constrained operating environment, future direction will be on a more strategic and joined up approach through partnership working.

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:

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