

## Scrutiny Review of Youth Provision and Leisure

### Follow Up Meeting

#### Notes of meeting- 31 January 2012

**Present:** Cllr Emily Westley (Chair)  
Cllr Matthew J Lock  
Cllr David Elkin, East Sussex County Council  
Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director Children's Services, East Sussex County Council  
Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service, East Sussex County Council  
Kevin Boorman, Head of Communications and Marketing  
Virginia Gilbert, Head of Amenities, Waste and Leisure  
Keith Duly, Leisure Development Manager  
Emile Tambah, Youth Support Worker  
Liz Smith, Chair Youth Council  
Paris Roserharte, Youth Council  
Michael Courts, Democratic Services Support Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr Bruce Dowling  
Cllr Matthew Lock

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### 1. Update on Targeted Youth Support

Cllr Westley welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Cllr Westley invited PG to give an update on Targeted Youth Support.

PG acknowledge from the notes of the review teams' meeting with Cllr Glazier details of the financial pressures facing ESCC. Since that meeting, further discussion had taken place, both internally at ESCC and with external stakeholders to design a new service for each area. The intention was for ESCC to maintain the most valued services in each area and to complement the provision of other organisations.

PG then introduced BH to the group and asked him to provide further details of the Briefing Note which had been circulated at the meeting.

BH explained the two strand approach to the delivery of services to young people through one to one case work and community based interventions.

BH noted that work with local partners was ongoing to analyse the needs of young people in Hastings. ESCC intend to work with other organisations to provide a clear, consistent and committed service.

## INFORMATION ITEM: 8

BH added that the model adopted by ESCC across five districts and Boroughs was nationally recognised as the most effective means of service delivery.

BH invited questions from the review team.

Cllr Westley asked how ESCC had engaged with local partners to explain the referral system?

BH explained the new service begun on 1 November 2011. ESCC works with local youth partnerships and other agencies to raise awareness of the new system. The service must be able to respond to local changes and signpost young people to other relevant organisations. BH noted that the local youth partnership in Hastings was not as well established as in other areas, but this will continue to develop over time. An information leaflet had also been produced to raise awareness of the referral system amongst GP's.

PG highlighted the need to ensure information was disseminated throughout organisations.

Cllr MJ Lock asked what the change in full time equivalent posts employed in Hastings compared to last year was?

BH underscored that this was a new service; therefore roles may not be directly comparable. Under the new service, efforts have also been made to remove any duplication of resources. BH agreed to circulate the information requested by email.

LS Chair Youth Council asked how often services are reviewed and will young people be involved in this process?

BH responded that a review of services aimed at those aged eleven years or older was about to begin. ESCC would welcome a nominated member of the Youth Council to be involved in this process.

The briefing note states that there are currently twenty community based interventions happening across Hastings and St Leonards – how many had been taking place before the new system was introduced?

BH highlighted that this was a different service and that in the past there had been a poor participation rate in some activities. In general, the community based offer is now better attended.

PR from Youth Council asked how young people find details of the activities on offer in their communities?

Information is currently available from the Youth Hub. Work with HBC was ongoing to find effective non-web based means of communicating this information.

Is there a waiting list for the one to one case work?

No, unlike the Connexions service, which was mainly focused on issues around schooling; this service aims to deal with a broad range of challenges facing young people with an emphasis on gaining positive outcomes.

How does the service engage a broad number of young people with a reduced number of activities on offer?

BH replied that the service focuses on the town wide offer. Once the youth partnership is more established in Hastings, this will enable the service to respond more effectively to the needs of a specific community.

PG continued that services should be delivered collectively and transparently. As a result of the cuts, ESCC was unable to sustain the same level of investment in direct provisions. The service has received positive feedback, and it must be evaluated in the context of provision by other agencies.

How is the quality of services monitored - some of the smaller sessions previously provided may have accessed harder-to-reach individuals?

BH agreed there was a need to ensure focused delivery which could be achieved through greater community involvement.

ET asked for details of the mechanisms in place to allow for greater community involvement through the provision of training etc?

BH highlighted the need for flexible mechanisms which enable voluntary working to be coordinated and developed.

Cllr Elkin noted that there was a history of successful community involvement in projects across Hastings.

How can the service support key initiatives provided by local people, often on a limited budget?

PG replied that key decisions must be informed by input from the youth partnership.

BH supported this, adding that the service had the potential to support the voluntary sector in producing robust bids for funding.

LS asked how quickly work to promote the community based activities currently on offer will begin?

KD responded that young people must be involved in raising awareness of projects amongst their peers. This could be achieved through social media and word of mouth.

## INFORMATION ITEM: 8

Cllr Elkin underscored the importance of involving young people in the communication process.

PS suggested disseminating information by email and through school assemblies.

The review team noted that the briefing noted contained statistics regarding the engagement of young people in the new service. BH emphasized that resources are allocated according to need.

How will the development of a youth partnership be progressed?

PG replied that BH and his colleagues consulted with local stakeholders to create a dialogue between ESCC and local partners. BH is then able to evaluate the required resources to develop the youth partnership. PG acknowledged the significant interest from stakeholders in Hastings. A youth partnership would be required to inform decisions for the next financial year.

ET advised drawing on the experiences of other youth partnerships when designing the service in Hastings.

Cllr Elkin highlighted the importance of a successful youth partnership in enabling the service to identify the needs of young people.

How do young people outside the target age range of eleven to nineteen access services?

BH noted that services are often focused around lifestyle. Young people can also be signposted to other services and organisations.

KD noted that projects are sometimes adapted to deal with the barriers which prevent certain groups from accessing services.

Cllr MJ Lock referred to an issue raised during the last review concerning restrictions on the use of some facilities, such as the music pods at Hollington Youth Club.

Cllr Westley noted that since the initial review a number of these restrictions have been relaxed. Cllr Westley continued to say that existing facilities could be used by local groups to counter reductions in direct provision by ESCC.

BH noted that the service aimed to identify those young people who may be at risk in the future and enable them to become more resilient and access further support should they require it.

Cllr Westley noted that the cuts to Children's Services were not part of the original remit for the review; however it was felt that they would impact significantly on young people in Hastings, and therefore became a key consideration.

## INFORMATION ITEM: 8

PG requested that members of the review team and Youth Council continue to provide feedback on the changes to ESCC.

Cllr Elkin thanked the review team for the invitation to attend the meeting and commented on the good and effective use of the scrutiny process which this review had demonstrated.

All present agreed that the active involvement of the Youth Council had been invaluable, and a real strength of this particular review. The ongoing involvement of, and engagement with, the Youth Council was similarly essential.

- ACTION:**
- 1) An electronic copy of the briefing note to be circulated to the review team by email, together with a copy of the referral information leaflet and any further information requested by the review team (BH/MC)**
  
  - 2) Julie Powell, Targeted Youth Support, to contact Emile Tambeh re nomination of Youth Council members to input into the review process (BH/ET)**