

Integrated Youth Support

The Government's vision is for all young people to enjoy happy, healthy and safe teenage years that prepare them well for adult life and enable them to reach their full potential – in short, to achieve the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes and be on the path to success. Young people should be valued members of society, whose achievements and contributions are welcomed and celebrated. This means society viewing young people positively, not seeing them as a problem to be solved.

All young people should have access to the support and opportunities they want and need to:

- succeed in education and continue participating in learning until the age of 18;
- take part in activities that develop their resilience and the social and emotional skills they need for life, and enjoy their leisure time;
- make a real contribution to society, using their energy and dynamism to bring about change;
- be emotionally and physically healthy and able to cope with the demands of adolescence and becoming an adult; and
- grow up in a safe and supportive environment.

While this vision applies to all young people, action to deliver it should be focused on providing support and opportunities to those for whom this vision will be hardest to achieve.

In order to deliver this vision by 2008 all local authority areas are expected to have moved significantly to developing local integrated youth support services.

Derby Perspective

Derby will develop multi-agency Integrated Youth Support teams which will operate with a Locality focus and service young people 11 to 19. Derby will develop a number of Youth Support teams.

Members of the Youth Support Teams will include staff from the following services:

- Connexions
- Youth Service
- Education Welfare
- Social Care
- School Nursing
- Youth Offending (especially preventative services)
- Voluntary sector
- Drugs Service teams
- Extended Services Development Workers

The above teams will form effective links with other service providers who support young people.

Derby City's integrated youth support services will

- Work together to ensure that young people can access the support services they require free from stigma and at a time and place appropriate to their needs
- Work with young people to prevent problems occurring, rather than simply intervening when they do
- Work together more effectively to support the positive development of all young people including those experiencing disadvantage
- Provide high quality IAG (to national standards) to enable young people to make effective choices about learning, careers and lifestyle
- Work with learning providers to enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to make use of the IAG they receive so they can develop and implement their career plans effectively
- Support young people to access services i.e. a wide range of attractive and structured positive activities as well as integrated multi agency support services; by advocating on their behalf.
- Work together to make best use of integrated processes so that young people receive an effective service to meet their needs and are signposted or referred to other services when necessary
- Work together to ensure support for vulnerable groups including the most disaffected and marginalised young people
- Provide targeted support for the most vulnerable teenagers involving tailored packages of education, informal learning opportunities and personal support to help address their needs
- Make accessible a comprehensive range of positive leisure time activities, including those offered by extended schools
- Encourage young people to get involved in volunteering activities and/or make positive contribution to their communities
- Provide young people with the opportunity to influence the design and delivery of services and contribute to evaluation
- Provide support for the parents/carers of teenagers so that they feel better equipped to support their sons/daughters
- Work together to deliver high quality services through a skilled and confident workforce
- Work together to develop a commissioning framework that is supported by robust performance management framework

Integrated Youth Support Delivery

In Area 1 of the City an Integrated Co-located Multi-agency youth support team is currently being trialled. The team has been operating as a virtual team for the past twelve months and are currently in the process of becoming co-located. Members of the YOS and Drugs service will link into the teams but will not be co-located. Key-lessons from the team operating virtually are that there is a much better understanding of the various services within the team and that service delivery is much better communicated and co-ordinated.

Whilst the lessons are being learned about the co-located delivery model in Area 1 the rest of the City will start to operate virtual Youth Support teams from April 2008. Further work is currently being undertaken around the structure for how these teams will operate.

The Youth Support teams will be accessed through a number of deliver points including:

- City centre Access Points including the Space and the Derby Connexions Centre.
- Youth centres
- Voluntary sector locations
- Community centres
- Health centres
- Schools

The Youth Support teams will also negotiate and deliver Partnership Agreements with the way secondary schools in their area.