



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET

18 May 2004

Report of the Director of Education

Youth Service Plan 2004-05

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To approve the 2004-05 Youth Service Plan.
- 1.2 To refer this plan to the Education Commission for its comments prior to submission to full Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Youth Service is required to submit an annual Service Plan to the Government Office in the East Midlands by the end of May 2004, subject to approval by full Council, as part of the budget and policy framework.
- 2.2 The Annual Service Plan must reflect the Government's specification for an 'Excellent Youth Service' and describe the Local Authority's role in providing it both directly and in partnership.
- 2.3 In December 2003, the Government issued a set of indicators to enable Youth Services to measure their own performance. The Youth Service is now required to assess its own performance against the measures, and set appropriate improvement targets.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Government issued its planning guidance document 'Planning for the Local Youth Services' in September 2002. It sets out a common national planning framework for all statutory Youth Services in England.
- 3.2 In December 2002, the Government published its 'Resourcing Excellent Youth Services' document, which sets out its specification for an 'Excellent Youth Service'. The document provides a specification of a sufficient Local Authority Youth Service. It describes what the Government expects a Local Authority to provide through its strategic leadership role.
- 3.3 The Government expects the Local Authority to:
 - Provide strategic leadership for the whole Youth Service;
 - Ensure the Local Authority Service is a key contributing partner to the Connexions Service and local preventative strategies;

- Ensure the active participation of young people in the specification, governance, management, delivery and quality assurance of Youth Services;
 - Secure appropriate and coherent youth work provision through coherent partnership arrangements;
 - Take a leading role in representing Youth Service interests at local, regional, national and European government levels;
 - Provide high quality youth work in settings where the local authority is uniquely placed to make direct provision;
 - Ensure safe environments supervised by skilled and caring workers, providing a facility in which the community has the utmost confidence.
- 3.4 The Youth Service Plan (YSP) takes into account other key elements of the Resourcing Excellent Youth Services specification, particularly in relation to quality, curriculum development and measuring performance.
- 3.5 The Government has identified the following indicators to enable the Youth Service to measure its own performance. The Youth Service should:
- Reach 25% of the 13 – 19 population through its various delivery points;
 - Participate regularly with 15% of the 13 – 19 population
 - Enable 60% of participants to gain recorded outcomes through their involvement in the Service;
 - Enable 30% of participants to gain an accredited outcome through their involvement in the Service.
- 3.6 A key task for the Service is to assess its present performance against these four benchmarks and set a 10% improvement target, in relation to recorded and accredited outcomes.
- 3.7 The Youth Service Plan highlights many excellent examples of partnership work with the voluntary sector and other statutory agencies and services, including Derwent New Deal, Youth Offending Service, Health Service, Derby Homes and the Derby Voluntary Youth Sector Forum.
- 3.8 A key component of the plan describes the role played by the Youth Service with the Derbyshire Connexions Partnership, particularly in utilising the Service's unique skills to engage young people on the margins of our communities, to access a wide range of personal development opportunities and specialist advice and support services.
- 3.9 The YSP describes the key priorities for 2004-05, which can be summarised as follows:
- Supporting the development of Youth facilities on Parks;
 - Establishment of a Mobile Youth Project in targeted Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy neighbourhoods;
 - Supporting the development of a new Youth and Community Pavilion on Vicarage Park;
 - Developing a new guidance and support structure for evening youth provision;
 - Completion of refurbishments of Southgate and Firs Youth Centres;
 - Increased participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

3.10 In addition to the priorities listed in paragraph 3.6, the Service commenced last year on a three year plan to meet a range of long term challenges identified by the Government within the 'Resourcing Excellent Youth Services' document. The challenges include:

- Measuring performance
- Providing a curriculum for youth work
- Contribution to Connexions
- Working with the voluntary and community sectors
- Standards of Youth Work provision
- Workforce development.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. None

For more information contact:	David Finn Tel No 716956 Email: david.finn@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Transforming Youth Work consultation document – March 2001 Transforming Youth Work – Planning for the Local Authority Youth Services 2003-06 Guidelines – Sept 2002 Transforming Youth Work 'Resourcing Excellent Youth Service' – Dec 2002
List of appendices:	Derby City Council Education Service Revenue Budget Strategy 2003-06 Appendix 1 - Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 In April 2003, the Government through its Resourcing Excellent Youth Services document, established a Youth Service sub block within the LEA block of the Education Formula Spending Share. Funding for this sub-block increased at a faster rate than for the remainder of the LEA block in 2004/05, reflecting government priorities.
- 1.2 Within the Authority's 2004-05 budget settlement, approval was given for a £70,000 increase in the Youth Service budget above inflation to support and sustain development in the following three delivery areas:

- Derby Runaways Project;
- The EDGE Project;
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

- 1.3 The Government is also providing separate grants to support the development of Youth Services through two funding streams, the Transforming Youth Work Development Fund (TYWDF) and the Special Educational Needs Disability Act 2001 Fund (SEND A). The Youth Service 2004-05 allocations are:

TYWDF	-	£45,329
SEND A funding	-	£27,091

Both funding streams require a separate development plan which are detailed in appendix 3 and 4 of the Youth Service Plan.

Legal

- 2 The Education Act 2002 extended the previous provisions of the Education Act 1996 regarding the Secretary of State's power of intervention to secure proper performance by LEAs of their functions. The Secretary of State's powers to issue directives, now extends to all LEA functions, including provision of maintained youth services.

Personnel

3. The YSP has an associated annual Training and Staff Development Plan.

Equalities

- 4 The Youth Service provides a full programme of inclusive activities for young people from all communities as well as a range of specialist activities targeted at specific groups including those who are socially excluded and those with disabilities.

Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives of **strong and positive neighbourhoods, education and protecting and supporting people.**
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of **tackling under-achievement in schools and enhancing the community leadership role of the Council both at strategic and neighbourhood level, through partnership working and listening to, and communicating with, the public.**