

PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE SHAPE OF YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Drawing on the information gleaned from a range of key stakeholders since the publication of Youth Matters and Youth Matters: Next Steps it is proposed that formal consultation with all stakeholders is undertaken on the 'direction of travel' set out below. It is recommended that:

1. Stockton-on-Tees Youth Services are designed and delivered around a 'hub and spoke model' based on the five proposed Integrated Service Areas and Extended School Clusters. Those services and activities that are provided through the central hub would provide outreach support and intervention, as appropriate and required, to young people, services and activities in the five areas and young people, services and activities can refer into the targeted support and activities in the hub;
2. All mainstream and specialist services (early intervention, prevention and referral part of core roles) should be delivered locally through the Integrated Service Area model of service delivery, informed by the views of young people. This would include, for example:
 - youth club provision and activities and 'things to do, places to go';
 - provision of Information, Advice and Guidance through schools, colleges, remote access;
 - youth inclusion and preventative programmes in the YOT;
 - the 'youth' element of the current Youth and Leaving Care team;
 - young people's participation at a local level, including Youth Forums, volunteering opportunities and community involvement opportunities;
 - young people's 'public health' services;
 - generic housing services.
3. Targeted support services should be delivered, informed by young people's views, through a central hub. This would include for example:
 - support for Care Leavers;
 - support for homeless young people;
 - Youth Offending Service;
 - Youth Inclusion, outreach and mobile elements of the Youth Service, including E2E programmes;
 - initially, to facilitate capacity building, Youth Empowerment Services and Volunteering support;
 - targeted/specialist support for specific groups provided by the voluntary, community and independent sector, for example, those working with sexually exploited young people; ethnic minority young people; homeless young people; substance-misuse.
4. Data collection and the tracking of young people to be a borough-wide central function.
5. Information, advice and guidance is delivered in accordance with agreed national standards by suitably experienced and/or qualified staff, drawn from across existing local young people's services, under the Connexions brand.

6. Young people's participation and involvement is delivered in accordance with agreed national standards by suitably experienced and/or qualified staff, drawn from across existing local young people's services, under the Youth Service brand.
7. The centre of Stockton town is actively developed as the central hub, or Youth Quarter, where the range of statutory, voluntary and independent services and organisations work in ever closer partnership and collaboration to provide a menu of activities and support in an environment that is safe for all young people. (An initial audit of targeted and mainstream support and activities for young people has shown that the great majority of services and facilities, particularly those that support the most vulnerable young people, are located in the centre of Stockton town.)