

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**17 FEBRUARY 2011**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION**

**Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Ann McCoy**

**EIT Review of Youth Services**

1. Summary

The EIT review of Youth Services was reported by the Children and Young People Select Committee to Cabinet on 16 December 2010. Cabinet approved the report and agreed the recommendations (appendix 1).

With regard to recommendation 2, which was :

that, recognising that there are currently a large number of universal youth club settings with several of these being poorly attended:

- a. the provision of universal youth services be reconfigured around a smaller number of high quality settings; those settings to be identified through the application of the matrix at appendix 2 to assess the sustainability based upon factors which include attendance, footfall, footfall costs, potential reach and deprivation;
- b. final decisions on service reconfiguration be made by Cabinet taking the matrix into account but also other relevant factors including available finance, geographical spread and wider youth provision;
- c. prior to implementation, Children and Young People Select Committee be consulted on the service reconfiguration at its meeting on 9 March 2011 (or earlier if appropriate), together with an action plan as part of the monitoring of the review;

this report presents the outcome of further discussion with ward councillors and analysis of the matrix and potential provision of universal youth services through a number of settings.

The financial savings which have been identified to come from this review are £210k. This along with further consideration of geography, discussions with ward councillors and updating of practical issues around some of the settings have been used to identify specific settings which are being proposed will continue to provide universal youth services. The proposed settings are identified in the body of the report.

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet agree the proposed settings for the continuation of the delivery of universal youth service as identified in the body of the report.
2. Cabinet agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care, in consultation with the lead elected member to progress a restructuring of the universal youth services in line with supporting the identified settings and meeting the required savings, identified for this review.

3. Cabinet confirm that prior to implementation, Children and Young People Select Committee will be consulted on the service reconfiguration at its meeting on 9 March 2011.
4. Cabinet confirm that consultation will take place with staff and union representatives on the proposals for restructuring of the service in line with due process, following the meeting of the Select Committee on 9 March 2011.
5. Cabinet confirm that the proposals on restructuring of the universal youth services be aligned with proposals on restructuring of the Integrated Youth Support Service, which is subject to separate reporting.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To ensure that the Council's universal youth services continues to deliver high quality services, in line with budgetary constraints.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**17 FEBRUARY 2011**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION**

**EIT review of Youth Services**

**SUMMARY**

The EIT review of Youth Services was reported by the Children and Young People Select Committee to Cabinet on 17th December, 2010. Cabinet approved the report and agreed the recommendations (appendix 1).

With regard to recommendation 2, which was :

*that, recognising that there are currently a large number of universal youth club settings with several of these being poorly attended:*

- a. the provision of universal youth services be reconfigured around a smaller number of high quality settings; those settings to be identified through the application of the matrix (appendix 2) to assess the sustainability based upon factors which include attendance, footfall, footfall costs, potential reach and deprivation;*
- b. final decisions on service reconfiguration be made by Cabinet taking the matrix into account but also other relevant factors including available finance, geographical spread and wider youth provision;*
- c. prior to implementation, Children and Young People Select Committee be consulted on the service reconfiguration at its meeting on 9 March, 2011 (or earlier if appropriate), together with an action plan as part of the monitoring of the review;*

this report presents the outcomes of further discussion with ward councillors and analysis of the matrix and potential provision of universal youth services through a number of settings.

The financial savings which have been identified to come from this review are £210k. This along with further consideration of geography, discussions with ward councillors and updating of practical issues around some of the settings have been used to identify specific settings which are being proposed to continue to provide universal youth services. The proposed settings are identified in the body of the report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet agree the proposed settings for the continuation of the delivery of universal youth service as identified in the body of the report.
2. Cabinet agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care, in consultation with the lead elected member to progress a restructuring of the universal youth services in line with supporting the identified settings and meeting the required savings, identified for this review.
3. Cabinet confirm that prior to implementation, Children and Young People Select Committee will be consulted on the service reconfiguration at its meeting on 9 March 2011.

4. Cabinet confirm that consultation will take place with staff and union representatives on the proposals for restructuring of the service in line with due process, following the meeting of the Select Committee on 9 March 2011.
5. Cabinet confirm that the proposals on restructuring of the universal youth services be aligned with proposals on restructuring of the Integrated Youth Support Service, which is subject to separate reporting.

## DETAIL

The EIT review of Youth Services reported its conclusions and recommendations to Cabinet on 16 December 2010. The recommendations are attached at appendix 1.

Cabinet agreed the recommendations and confirmed that following consultation with ward councillors a further report should be presented back to Cabinet with firm proposals around the actual settings that would be maintained for the future provision of universal youth services. The proposals were to take into account the matrix of factors as presented in the initial report (appendix 2) along with consideration of the finances available and other factors such as geography and wider youth provision. A map of all settings is provided at appendix 3.

Ward councillors were consulted through 4 separate meetings based on the Area Partnership clusters and 15 councillors attended. All councillors were given the opportunity for further discussion with officers, if they were not able to attend one of the briefings. A range of issues were identified by councillors in attendance, which are summarised at appendix 4. The key issues arising were about concerns for particular areas across the borough, where there would be a lack of presence of an actual youth club setting, issues around accessibility of services from some of the rural areas and small villages and a need to ensure those settings with high usage continue. A particular issue arose around the impact on some settings, if the youth service element was no longer being delivered and whether the EIT review of assets should be more closely aligned with this review.

Final decisions have also not been made around “myplace”, though it is anticipated that if it goes ahead in some form, that an element of youth provision will be identified as part of the proposals. If it does not go ahead, then alternative arrangements will be considered to support delivery within the area.

The matrix of factors (appendix 2) has been used to identify a rank order for prioritising which settings should be maintained for the delivery of universal services. Highest ranking across all the factors is presented first with the lowest ranking presented last. Consideration was given to the issue of the possible weighting of the factors in the matrix. The Children and Young People’s Select Committee agreed to the factors being equally weighted, but that consideration would also be given to other relevant factors, including finance, geographical spread and wider youth provision. In using the matrix and in consideration of these other factors, including the comments by ward councillors, the following is proposed;

### Highest Ranked across all factors.

Robert Atkinson	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Thornaby Youth Cafe	To cease. Café is situated in Thornaby Academy, who have indicated that they are unlikely to be able to continue with the existing usage.
Hardwick	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Fairfield	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Stockton Youth Café	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Billingham Youth Café	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Grangefield	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.

Ragworth	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Ingleby Barwick	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
All Saints	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Billingham Campus	To cease. Primarily sports on offer and there is a range of other activities in the area which are reasonably accessible, including the Forum.
Chapel Road	To maintain- high ranking on all factors.
Albany	To cease. A range of alternative provision does exist through voluntary sector organisations. Discussions are still ongoing around “myplace” developments and links to North Shore Health Academy.
St Michael’s	To cease. A range of alternative provision does exist through voluntary sector organisations.
Redhill	To cease. No attendance since April, 2010. Provision has been through Blakeston School. Setting is a Children’s Centre and is not appropriate to delivery of youth services.
Egglescliffe	To maintain- additional geographical considerations.
Elmtree	To cease. Proximity to Grangefield and Fairfield. Presently only open one night a week and numbers have been low.
Willows	To cease. Numbers low and facilities limited. Other provision available in the area.
Primrose Hill	To cease. Range of alternative provision available in the area. Facilities are limited.
Stillington	To cease. Low numbers. Consideration will need to be made over ensuring a level of access to other provision.
Kirklevington	To cease. Low numbers. Consideration will need to be made over ensuring a level of access to other provision.
Elmwood	To cease. Relatively low attendance and proximity to Grangefield and Fairfield.
Layfield	To maintain- additional geographical considerations and limited alternative provision in the area.
Long Newton	To cease. Low numbers. Consideration will need to be made over ensuring a level of access to other provision

**Lowest Ranked across all factors.**

Access to provision is problematic for those living in the more rural settings and smaller villages across the borough. As part of the action plan development for consideration by Children and Young People Select Committee, proposals will be identified for supporting access either through specific outreach sessions or appropriate transport arrangements to alternative provision.

Although it is proposed to continue with the support of provision at All Saints, this is primarily sports based (football) and discussions will take place with the school and other providers as to how this could be more appropriately sustained into the future.

The delivery of universal youth services is one element of the overall services for young people. A range of targeted services are also delivered through the integrated youth services and a review of these services, along with the Connexions service is being reported to Cabinet in a separate report. An analysis was also done of the full scope of positive activities for young people as part of

the review by the Children and Young People's Select Committee. This identified a wide range of services provided by the voluntary and community sectors, including the uniformed services and private organisations.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial savings to be identified from this review are £210k. The direct delivery staffing costs have been identified (appendix 2) and have been used as part of the deliberations in arriving at the above proposals. The total savings on existing budgets would be £222,743. These savings will need to be factored into the development of the proposed restructuring of universal youth services. There was wide variation in management costs with regard to the individual centres. The Children and Young People's Select Committee took the view that in consideration of the costs of the service for this review, that only the direct delivery costs should be included. It was acknowledged that for each of the centres, there was a range of provision being delivered, with different management arrangements and that this was being addressed through the overall Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review of Assets.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The local authority, under present legislation needs to ensure a sufficiency of universal youth services. It is not defined as to what level of service this should be and it is clear that it can include services delivered by others. The proposals would be deemed to be within what the local authority must provide.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

These proposals are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

These proposals support the Children and Young People's elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan. The move to more targeted interventions, whilst also maintaining some level of universal provision is in line with present Government guidance.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

This report has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a neutral impact. An action plan for further improvements has been developed / no remedial actions are required.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

Young people in the care of the local authority will continue to be able to access universal youth services, in line with existing policy and procedures.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

Consultation has taken place with ward councillors through 4 meetings, based on the Area Partnership clusters.

**Name of Contact Officer: Peter Seller**

**Post Title: Head of Children and Young People's Strategy**

**Telephone No. 01642 527043**  
**Email Address: peter.seller@stockton.gov.uk**

Education related

None

Background Papers

Cabinet report – EIT review of Youth Services, 16 December 2010

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All have been consulted or have had the opportunity to respond

Property (<http://sbcintranet/library/64521/RES/Capital.doc?view=Display>)

This review does have implications for the ongoing EIT review of assets. The outcome of decisions made will be fed into the review process. Discussions have taken place with the key officers involved to ensure there is appropriate alignment of decision-making between the reviews.