



CHILDREN AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE, 13 FEBRUARY 2020

Subject Heading:

Youth Service Update

SLT Lead:

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Policy context:

The Council has a statutory duty to “secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people” and to make sure young people have a say in the local offer. This is often referred to as the ‘youth services duty’. (**Education Act 1996**)

Financial summary:

In 2020, the council is establishing a multi-disciplinary adolescent safeguarding approach to address serious youth violence and exploitation in Havering as per June 2019 cabinet decision. This is a preventive, multi-disciplinary and long term approach to safeguard children and young people vulnerable to a range of exploitation factors.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering
Places making Havering
Opportunities making Havering
Connections making Havering

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SUMMARY

The report details the work of the Council to deliver Youth Services during 2019, and its focus upon targeted work and the increasing need to develop a contextual safeguarding approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is aligning its service provision via the Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy, bringing together services to better to respond to the needs of children and young people at risk outside of the familial context. This includes the Youth Service. The committee is asked to note the content of this update report of the Youth Service.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

Havering Youth Service provides a wide range of opportunities for young people to grow and develop new and existing skills, make a positive contribution to their community and, where relevant, reduce their involvement in risky, antisocial or criminal activities. Havering Youth Service will deliver an inclusive service that will be available to all young people in Havering, as well as providing targeted and preventative work in partnership with the wider Children's Services, Education and Housing. Youth work is an educational process that engages with young people in a curriculum built from their lived experience and their personal beliefs and aspirations. This process extends and deepens a young person's understanding of themselves, their community and the world in which they live and supports them to proactively bring about positive changes. The youth worker builds positive relationships with young people based on mutual respect.

Young people choose to attend a youth provision and engage with youth workers. The youth workers help young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and

learning. This includes direct contact with young people, street projects and supporting the voice of young people in design delivery and governance of services in a variety of settings.

The Youth Service also operates the myplace and the Robert Beard/Olive facilities. The myplace centre is open every day during the week until 10pm, and at weekends for specific events and activities. At the Robert Beard/Olive site, the Youth Service delivers programme most evenings, and on occasional weekends. There are programmes open to young people every night of the week (See timetable below), and the Service delivers a range of additional activities on occasions at weekends and during the holiday periods. In 2019, the Service worked with over 1000 young people. 10% SEND; 20% CLA & Leaving Care; 40% Detached/Outreach; 7% Under 11's; 23% Open Centre Universal. The Service delivers 18 weekly projects/clubs and over 10 bespoke additional programmes. The myplace centre and Robert Beard sites have a good reputation with young people and will be valuable assets to further the youth work and provide bases for wider community engagement and participation. This is integral to maintaining and increasing income to ensure the sustainability of the Youth Service.

Youth Service Weekly Timetable and Projects 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sun
<u>LGBT+ Group</u> – A social and supportive setting for LGBT+ young people. (myplace) (6 – 8pm) <u>A-Star Fun Club</u> A social group for children with high functioning Autism. <u>Royals Juniors (Rainham)</u> (4.30 to 6pm)	<u>Outreach/Youth Bus</u> – Working with targeted youth & communities (Hill Rise) (6 – 8pm) <u>Revellers – Juniors</u> – SEND project for 12 to 18 year olds (Myplace) (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme</u> (Robert Beard) (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Royals Youth Club – (Rainham)</u> (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Go Girls – Self Esteem & Wellbeing Project</u> (myplace, schools and other locations) (5 – 7pm)	<u>Goodfellas– Self Esteem & Wellbeing Project</u> for young men/ (myplace, schools and other locations) (5 – 7pm) <u>Youth Club – Wing Project</u> – Targeting yp from local area (Myplace) (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Youth Club – A range of positive activities</u> for young people (Robert Beard) (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Outreach/Youth Bus</u> – Working with targeted youth & communities (Maygreen) (5 – 7pm)	<u>AMPS/Big Music Project</u> – YP learning music and social skills (Myplace) (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Revellers – Senior</u> – SEND project for 18 to 25 year olds (Myplace) (6.30 – 9.30pm) <u>Outreach/Sports</u> – Targeting young people from Central Park (Harold Hill) (5 – 7pm)	<u>Friday Night Junior Club</u> – For children/young people transitioning between years 5 to 7 (Robert Beard/Olive) (6.30 – 8.30pm) <u>Myplace Drama and Musical Theatre Club</u> (myplace) (4 – 7pm) <u>Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme</u> (School Based) (4.30 – 6.30pm)	<u>Swim and Gym</u> – SEND Project – Health and Wellbeing project (Hornchurch) (10 – 1.30pm)

Other Non Weekly Projects - Holiday Activities and Programmes (Half Terms, Easter and Summer) / Schools Personal & Social Education / DofE Expeditions / Volunteer Training / Youth Voice Groups / Street Football Projects / Bespoke Music Projects / One to One Mentoring and Support / Support YP at the Cocoon / Bikes & Cycle Projects / Partnership Events and Festivals / Bespoke Group Work

The Youth Service has an ambitious approach to support the development of all young people by providing structured, yet informal, education with specific outcomes that young people are willing to opt into and enable the involvement of young people in planning, delivery and evaluation of services. Although this is

similar to other youth work opportunities for young people, the ethos of the youth offer will not only have the fundamental voluntary participation, working with young people in a variety of settings; but primarily allowing the young people to set the agenda and be part of the development of the service.

In developing trusting, impartial and empowering relationships with young people youth workers are able to apply key youth work principles even if the involvement is not voluntary but compliments work of formal education through links with schools and colleges and other statutory services. 85% of young people's waking hours are outside of formal education and what they choose to do in that time can impact upon them in the long term.

The myplace centre statistical breakdown of participants (2019). This is made up of those accessing the Youth Service Offer run by the council and a range of provision offered by partners.

Under 11 Totals: **37645**

11 to 18 Totals: **10089**

SEND 18 to 25: **343**

2. Main strategic ambitions:

To provide an Informal Learning Service

- The purpose of the work must be predominantly to support young people's personal and social development as distinct academic or vocational learning. The values of the work include the voluntary engagement of young people in the process.

Quality, safety and well-being

- Good quality services are provided by staff with appropriate safeguarding training, linked to a wider network of support. Ideally this includes professionally qualified youth workers with the skills, expertise and competencies to support safe, quality services with appropriate levels and types of intervention, and adherence by youth workers to a statement of ethical conduct. The youth offer helps to keep young people safe and supports their mental, emotional and physical health, improves their social and economic wellbeing, and makes sure they can access education, non-formal learning and recreation.

Improving outcomes for young people.

- Improved life chances, and an increased participation in, and benefit from cultural opportunities. Increased volunteering, training and employment opportunities Improved wellbeing and reduced health problems.

Focusing on young people who are vulnerable to exploitation

- This includes young people with additional needs and/or disabilities, offer them a protected time to develop new skills, and assets such as confidence, resilience and independence. Work in partnership with voluntary sector and community groups to enhance the provision for developing young people and their assets and community resources, supporting an integrated approach to working with young people across the borough.

Adolescent Safeguarding

- Recognising that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. Youth Services engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

Participation and Co-production

- **Participation** as the process of involving children and young people in decision making at increasing levels of control and autonomy and the outcome of this participation process in terms of children and young people's increased power and influence. **Co-production**, where services and young people can work together in a genuine partnership to design and deliver services and support.

Community Capacity Building and Partnership Work

- The Community are major stakeholders in the Youth Service. The Service recruits and trains volunteers who want to work with young people and who offer a wide range of skills and life experiences. The Youth Service works with partners from the voluntary and third sector in order to increase and

enhance the offer for young people, and to creatively pool resources. Strong links across the partnership are integral to the success of the new Service.

3. Youth Work Methods of Engagement

- **Early Intervention and Prevention**

The purpose of early intervention is to support young people through their life transitions as early as possible; to deter and divert them from negative influences and harm, and enable them to make choices that support their development and learning.

The Youth Service provides youth workers who deliver a range of universal and targeted projects – through Outreach and Detached work (including the use of a Mobile Unit – “The Youth Bus”), Building Based clubs and programmes (at myplace, Olive Academy, the Royals Centre for example), Life Skill Groups (such as Go Girls and Good Fellas), Bespoke Projects (which includes holiday programmes and residentials), and Partnership Interventions (working with Schools, Early Help, the Voluntary Sector for example)

- **Targeted Work**

The Youth Service provides a range of targeted programmes to address specific Contextual Safeguarding needs and issues. Outreach and Detached Work (in partnership with Housing Engagement Team) offers young people living on council housing estates and socialising in open spaces, a variety of support, activities and learning opportunities. Much of this work is delivered through the Youth Bus mobile unit. The Service also provides One to one support for young people (on the edge of care, in care or Leaving Care) and Group life skills projects (which young people can be referred to). As well as this, Co-production projects are also part of this offer, where young people, from all backgrounds and contexts get the opportunity to have their say and input in the design and delivery of youth services. All youth programmes, take into account, young people feedback, ideas. Young people are also given the opportunity to participate in the design and delivery of ongoing or new programmes within the Service.

- **Information sharing and partnerships**

Multi-agency information sharing is an important part of the Youth Service process, in order to collaborate with Partners to ensure safeguarding, support, and effective services are in place for young people.

4. Impact and success of Services during 2019

Engaged with over 1000 individual young people through club based and outreach projects. The predominant age is 13 to 19 (up to 25 with additional needs)
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The Youth Bus – During the summer, the Youth Bus visited 10 different areas
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and communities within Havering to engage in a range of projects – this has included knife crime awareness, art activities, life skill consultations, sport projects, positive activities, group work and more. Over 200 young people have benefited. This project has also supported other activities such as Street Wheels – young people riding and fixing bikes, parkour and community summer events. A young person who has engaged in the Youth Bus for some time said this about the youth bus: - ‘it helps build a community among young people...it has helped me make friends and have many good memories.’ Billy

Knife Crime Summit – In November 2019, the Youth Service worked in partnership with Community Safety to put on a Knife Crime Summit. Young people were involved in this event.

Go Girls, Goodfellas and Life Skills Projects –

Go Girls: 36 Referrals – 26 attended in 2019

5 LAC, 4 Early Intervention, 6 CIN

Referrals came from Schools, CSE Panel, Social Workers and CAMHS.

Goodfellas – 8 young people were referred to the programme and the programme will commence in January 2020.

Co-Producing a Life Skills Project – This is currently taking place with Havering Youth Council and other young people from schools and clubs

Central Park, Harold Hill Sport Engagement - This project was co-produced by a young person leaving care – where youth workers have engaged with up to **60 young people** in Central Park Harold Hill –. The project, which takes place on a Thursday evening between 5 and 8pm, has also taught young people how to skate board safely as well engage in positive team games. Central park is a targeted area and, there has been no reports of anti-social behaviour and young people during this time - just an increase in community cohesion. One young person (Zoe) said, ‘when youth workers are in the park, I feel more protected and supervised.’ This project has also led to a recent consultation with **35 young people** to develop a new project called the Bike Shed – where young people can learn to fix and maintain their bikes.

The Junior Transitions Project (for young people transitioning from primary to secondary school). Since the new re-build of the Olive Academy/Robert Beard site, this programme was re-launched in the summer, with 30 regular attenders, The programme has looked at key themes such as ‘Developing skills & confidence for school and life transitions’, ‘Overcoming fears’, ‘personal safety’, ‘friendships and relationships’ and healthy life style.

Increase in use of **Bikes and bike projects** has led to a new funded programme called the Bike Shed. (£10, 000 from Ground Work, with another £10,000 from Sport England). The project will enable young people to develop bike maintenance skills, provide peer education, and expand on bike and cycle projects within key targeted areas. Youth workers will also support young people to develop communication skills (with their peers and the wider community), self-worth (through a positive relational environment) and collaboration (through a coproduction approach to expand the project as well as develop new ones). The project will also help to divert young people away from any potential negative influences and open up new opportunities.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE): 60 young people participated and completed DofE awards. 4 SEND young people were part of this cohort.

Outreach - Worked in 12 different community areas with Youth Bus/Outreach Team (Rush Green, in Partnership with YMCA / Harold Hill – Central Park Area / Brittons & Ongar Way – Rainham / Maygreen Crescent - Hornchurch / Hill Rise – Collier Row / Malan Square - Elm Park / Cottons Park – Romford / Harrow Lodge – Hornchurch / Will Perin – Rainham / Macon Way – Upminster / Knights Bridge Circus – Harold Hill / Royals & Tesco Area - Rainham)
Summer Programme - 27 different weekly projects/events over the 6 week school summer holidays.
Youth Bus engagement in Brittons Park to support Kelvedon/Ongar Way. Creation of Kicks Football project at Brittons School.
Harold Hill Festival: hundreds of young people, and a range of members of the public (Some young people involved in local performances)
One to One Support – Over that last year, 23 young people have been supported and mentored on a one to one basis. The impact of these interventions has reduced the need for young people to access higher tiered services, and young people gaining resilience and independence.

5. Next steps

- Align service provision via the Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy, bringing together services to better to respond to the needs of children and young people at risk outside of the familial context.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no apparent risks or implications in noting the content of the report. In 2020, the council is establishing a multi-disciplinary adolescent safeguarding approach to address serious youth violence and exploitation in Havering as per June 2019 cabinet decision. This is a preventive, multi-disciplinary and long term approach to safeguard children and young people vulnerable to a range of exploitation factors and has been considered as part of the adolescent safeguarding strategy.

Legal implications and risks: There are no apparent risks in noting the content of the Report.

Human Resources implications and risks: The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

Equalities implications and risks:

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

(i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010

(ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;

(iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

A full Equality Analysis (EA) has been undertaken on all the arrangements relating to admissions to schools and academies for the school year 2019/20. The Code will be reviewed annually and any significant changes will be reflected in the corresponding EA.