

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 7 December 2015

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Youth Services Review
Report of:	Director of Operations
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure Strategy
Corporate Objective:	Leisure for Health & for Fun

Purpose:

To consider options to provide support for youth services in the Borough in light of a proposed reduction in funding of the service by Hampshire County Council.

Executive summary:

In early 2015 Hampshire County Council announced the intention to significantly reduce its budget for the provision of youth services. This decision is still under review but has prompted the Council to consider the current youth service provision in the Borough and how support for the service can be provided going forward.

The proposed cuts will result in a dramatic reduction in the current level of youth service provision in Fareham. The indication is that in future the County Council is only likely to provide funding to deliver youth support services for vulnerable young people.

Bridging the funding gap in order to maintain the current level of service is not a viable proposition for this Council. However, the Council recognises the need for an open access youth service in the Borough. Consultation with young people and local agencies has highlighted both concerns and potential consequences resulting from a dramatic reduction in the current level of service.

The report provides options for the future provision of open access youth services in the Borough. This includes the potential for funding this type of service which can be achieved without increasing the Council's revenue budget.

The Fareham Youth Council has been in existence for some 12 years and has provided the opportunity for young people to have their say about the services the Council provides. The proposal is to dissolve the current Youth Council and establish 'Y-CATs', a new arrangement for engaging with young people. This will involve use of social media and opportunities to meet with the Executive Leader to ensure Fareham's young people are able to make their voice heard.

Recommendations:

That the Executive approves:

- (a) the establishment of a 'Youth Activities Fund' to support open access youth services in Fareham Borough Council, as detailed in option 2 paragraph 17; subject to confirmation of Hampshire County Council's decision on future funding for youth services in Fareham;
- (b) that the estimated £30,000 saving resulting from the reorganisation of the Leisure & Community staff restructure be allocated to the Youth Activities Fund;
- (c) a review of the current Community Fund Grant scheme to consider local groups and organisations to submit one off bids for running costs;
- (d) that further consideration is given to the opportunity to provide a Mobile Youth Resource, as detailed in option 4 at paragraph 17 of the report, and that a report on this opportunity is presented to a future meeting of the Executive; and
- (e) that the current arrangements for the Youth Council are dissolved and replaced with the new 'Y-CAT' arrangements as the new way of engaging with young people in the Borough of Fareham.

Reason:

To ensure that young people can continue to access youth services in Fareham following Hampshire County Council's proposal to dramatically reduce the funding for this service.

Cost of proposals:

The estimated cost of implementing the recommended option is £30k and the cost of the proposals can be met from within existing budgets.

Appendices:

A: Sample of Current Youth Service Provision in Fareham
B: Sample of Young Persons Opportunities & Activities in the Borough of Fareham

Background papers: None

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	7 December 2015
Subject:	Youth Services Review
Briefing by:	Director of Operations
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. A majority of young people take part in a variety of leisure and recreational pursuits in their spare time. Although many young people participate in organised activities, some young people seek less formal alternatives. Conventionally this need has been met by providing activities for young people in the traditional 'youth club' environment.
2. Providing informal open access activities in this way has the added benefit of offering help and support to young people. It provides a safe environment for them to participate in fun activities and access services to help address any issues or concerns. This support is generally delivered by youth workers who also provide positive and inspiring adult role models.
3. The funding to support services for young people aged 11 to 19 in Fareham has traditionally come from Hampshire County Council, with Fareham Borough Council providing some of the buildings and facilities that host the activities. In the past, while the level of funding has been below the national average, it has been sufficient to provide an adequate service for young people in the Borough.
4. In February 2015, Hampshire County Council wrote to all Borough and District Councils informing them of their intention to significantly reduce the budget for youth services. The County Council subsequently reviewed the decision and made a commitment to continue to fund the service at the present level until 2016. Beyond this date the funding situation is uncertain but it is likely that a significant amount of the current funding for organised youth activities will be withdrawn.
5. After Hampshire County Council announced the proposed cuts to Youth Service budgets, Fareham Borough Council's Executive Leader, when presenting the budget for 2015/2016, made a commitment to find a way for young people in Fareham to continue to access youth activities in time for 2016/2017.
6. Over recent months officers have undertaken a review of the current youth service provision in the Borough and considered the potential options available to the Council to continue to provide open access youth activities, albeit on a reduced scale.
7. Therefore the focus on the review is on open access activities such as the traditional 'youth club' where young people can go and meet friends, participate in informal activities and seek help and support from a suitably experienced youth worker.

BACKGROUND

8. The localised nature of provision has meant wide variation in spending on youth services, county and countrywide. Over a number of years the pressure on local government finances has resulted in Hampshire County Council reducing the budget for youth services for the Borough of Fareham. In 2009/10 the budget was £315,000 but in 2012/13 this budget reduced to £124,000.
9. This budget has provided funding for local charities and organisations to deliver commissioned services for young people on behalf of the County Council. A sample of the current open access youth service provision in the Borough is contained in Appendix A.
10. The Borough of Fareham is fortunate in that there is a plethora of different activities available to young people. This ranges from organised sport and uniform groups to skate parks and multi-use games areas. Appendix B provides a sample of the groups and organisations that provide activities for young people in the Borough of Fareham.
11. In addition to providing skate parks, recreational facilities and organised activities for young people such as SNAP and Access All Areas, the Council also owns and maintains four buildings dedicated to youth activities:
 - Oasis Youth Project (Titchfield Community Centre)
 - Genesis Youth Centre – (Locks Health Shopping Centre)
 - Crofton Youth Project (Crofton Community Centre)
 - X-Perience Youth Centre (Fareham Town Centre)
12. The Council's total spend on these buildings varies annually according to maintenance requirements, the total expenditure in 2013-2014 was £17k and in 2014-2015, £44k.
13. In October 2014 the County Council Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gave approval for consultation on new arrangements for providing youth services in Hampshire. At the core was a reduced level of funding distributed to the Hampshire Districts.
14. Consultation with different groups and organisations about the future funding arrangements is ongoing and due to conclude in January 2016. However, the indication is that County Council funding for youth support services in the future will be focused on the needs of vulnerable young people and not for the informal open access activities as listed in appendix A.

OPTIONS FOR FUTURE PROVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

15. Hampshire County Council's decision to withdraw funding for open access youth services, other than those for vulnerable young people, will have a dramatic impact on the current level of provision and will make some of the current arrangements and facilities unviable. Consultation undertaken by Fareham Borough Council with a number of the current providers of youth services indicated that many of them will not be able to continue to provide a service if there is no Hampshire County Council funding.
16. Initial consultation with young people about the impact of the budget cuts, revealed concern about how they would be able to access services in the future. There was a

clear indication that there is demand for informal youth provision which meets the needs of particular group of young people. They do not generally engage in mainstream activities but value the opportunity to meet with friends in a safe and comfortable environment. Many of these young people also seek support from youth workers who in turn signpost them to where they can get help and support with any issues they may be experiencing.

17. In light of the implications, consideration has been given to the potential options available to this Council to continue to support informal open access youth activities for young people; most of which currently take place in various built facilities around the Borough. The following provides a summary of the options:
 - **Option 1- Do Nothing** - The Council would simply 'do nothing' and accept the changes resulting from the reduction in funding for youth services. As of April 2016 there could be no Hampshire County Council funding for informal open access youth services in Fareham. The Council would continue to provide the youth buildings only where a viable service could be delivered.
 - **Option 2 - Youth Activities Fund** – Establish a “Youth Activities Fund” to support local groups and organisations providing open access youth provision. Specific criteria will be developed with a clear focus on providing revenue funding to run informal open access activities for young people; these must provide a safe environment to meet with friends and participate in activities with access to help and support from a ‘youth worker’. Consideration for funding will be given to all groups providing open access youth provision in the Borough; priority will be given to the four Fareham Borough Council owned youth facilities. A form of Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be developed for each funding arrangement which will set out the terms and conditions and the outcomes expected from the funding.
 - **Option 3 – Review of the Community Grants Criteria** – The criteria for Council’s Community Fund grant scheme only allows bids for one off capital based projects. The purpose of the review would be to consider amending the current criteria to allow one off bids for running costs. This would then enable charitable groups and organisations in the Borough the opportunity to access start-up funding to provide open access youth provision.
 - **Option 4 - Mobile Youth Resource** - The resource would either be a bus or an articulated unit. It could be adaptable to the needs of different groups, whether issue or neighbourhood based and could be accommodated at any location in the Borough. Additionally, when not being used for youth work, this presents an opportunity for other groups and organisations to reach people in a community setting or for other private/commercial bookings to be taken to maximise income.
18. In order to enable the different groups and organisations across the Borough the opportunity to access funding, option 2 is considered to be the preferred option. It will enable the Council to target available funding to where it is most needed. This will then provide the opportunity for young people to continue to access informal youth activities, albeit this is likely to be on a reduced level of service.
19. The Council’s ability to manage the longer term commitments of providing and maintaining a collection of youth buildings will be the subject of further consideration in the future. In particular the future of the X-Perience Youth Centre in Trinity Street, as well as the longer term future of Genesis Youth Centre and the youth wing at Titchfield Community Centre.

20. Therefore, in consideration of the longer term strategic provision of youth services, option 4 the mobile youth resource, has the potential to provide a cost effective and responsive service. The intention would be to explore this opportunity in more detail and come forward with a more detailed business case in the future.

REVIEW OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

21. The current Youth Council has been in existence for the last 12 years and has had variable success during that time. At present the Youth Council is supported by a Youth Officer for which there is a budget of £4,300 per annum. This resource facilitates support for the Youth Council for five hours per week.
22. At the beginning of the year, over fifty young people came out on a Friday night to an open meeting with the Executive Leader and Executive Member for Leisure and Community. The event proved very popular and the young people valued the opportunity to articulate their views and raise concerns on local issues important to them. As a result of being able to raise an issue directly with the Leader at this meeting, young people were able to influence the installation of a seating area at the new skate park in Park Lane Recreation Ground.
23. A further meeting with young people and the Executive Leader took place last month at X-perience in Fareham Town Centre and was again very well attended, this time by over 60 young people.
24. In future the proposal is to engage with young people using this approach and the meetings will be called 'Y-CATs'. The intention will be to develop a network of 'youth campaigners' in each locality. These young people will be given support to assist their peers to gather and articulate their views at the Y-CAT meetings. Creative use of social media will be used to communicate with young people and to encourage them to share their ideas and concerns.
25. It is proposed that the current budget of £4,300 for the Youth Officer will be used to support the provision of youth services in Fareham, as outlined in the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

26. A reorganisation in the Leisure & Community team has released £30,000 to establish the Youth Activities Fund.
27. A further recommendation is to undertake a review of the Community Funding grant scheme criteria to consider amending the current criteria to allow one off bids for running costs. This would then enable charitable groups and organisations in the Borough the opportunity to access start-up funding to provide open access youth provision.
28. The reorganisation of the Leisure & Community team and the deletion of the Youth Officer post will enable a part time Community Development Officer post to be created which will focus on youth engagement. This post will coordinate the provision of youth activities, administer the Youth Activities Fund and coordinate the new arrangements for Y-CATs.
29. This means that the revenue required to provide a Youth Activities Fund and the new arrangements for Y-CATs can be met from within existing budgets.

CONCLUSION

30. The provision of youth support services is a Hampshire County Council responsibility and the proposal to significantly reduce the funding for youth services is likely to result in a dramatic reduction in the current open access youth provision in Fareham.
31. The consultation with young people highlighted their concerns about the consequences of losing the local youth network. Meanwhile, agencies and statutory partners are concerned about the wider impact of young people having limited access to worthwhile projects. In particular fears have been expressed about young people being bored, having nothing much to do or nowhere 'friendly' to go.
32. The Council has limited opportunity to provide funding to subsidise the provision of youth services. Bridging the funding gap in order to maintain the current level of service is not a viable proposition for the Council.
33. However, the Council is keen to make every effort to ensure that young people still have the opportunity to access youth services in the Borough of Fareham. While it is anticipated that Hampshire County Council will continue to provide youth support services for vulnerable young people, Fareham Borough Council will focus on enabling opportunities for the continued provision of informal open access youth activities in the Borough.
34. The report considers the options for the Council to reallocate resources in the Leisure & Community budget to create a 'Youth Activities Fund' and a review of the Community Grant Fund to allow one off bids for running cost. This positive commitment from the Council will enable youth services to be maintained in Fareham.
35. As voters of tomorrow, it is important to encourage young people to have a say about the area in which they live and how the Borough of Fareham evolves in the future. A new approach to youth engagement is outlined in the report and the intention is that this approach will help young people to raise issues through social media channels and provide direct access to decision makers in the Council.
36. Both of the initiatives outlined in the report demonstrate the Councils commitment to ensuring young people's needs are recognised and that positive steps are taken to ensure that the services they value are supported and remain accessible.

APPENDIX A: A Sample of Current Open Access Youth Service Provision in Fareham

Youth Project	Provider	Details
The Beacon, Stubbington	Holy Rood Church	Thursdays 7:30pm to 9pm ages 14 to 18
Broadlaw Walk Youth Club (Senior)	Y Services	Tuesdays 6:30pm to 8:30pm ages 14 – 17
Broadlaw Walk Youth Club (Junior)	SEHCO and Y Services	Thursdays 3pm to 5pm, ages 7 – 13
Café Imbizo Drop In	Fareham Community Church	One night per week planned 3:30 to 5:30pm
Central, Locks Heath	Locks Heath Free Church	Friday 8:15 to 10pm ages 14 to 18
Crofton Youth Project, Stubbington	Y Services and Crofton Youth Project	Monday 7 to 9pm (ages 12 – 14), Wednesday 6:30 to 8:30pm (ages 10 - 12)
The Edge	Locks Heath Free Church	Years 11 to 13, 6:30pm to 8pm on Fridays
Fareham detached	Y Services	Flexible – 3 sessions per week
Fareham North West	Y Services	Thursdays and Fridays, external funding (Clued Up 2 Go). Highlands Baptist Church enquiring about linking in
Fast	Holy Rood Church	Friday once per month from 7:30pm ages 14 – 18, more structured
Flame, Stubbington	Holy Rood Church	Ages 11 – 14, Fridays from 3:15 to 5pm
Fuel	Fareham Community Church	Friday fortnightly ages 11 to 14, 7 to 8:30pm ages 14 to 18, 8 to 9:30pm
Genesis, Locks Heath	Y Services	Monday, Wednesday 6:30 to 8:30pm, Thursday 6:30 to 8:30pm – sexual health, drugs and alcohol and NEET guidance.
Health and Wellbeing	HCC	4 sessions per week, Fri 3pm at Portchester, Mon 3:15pm at XP, Tues 2:45pm at Genesis.
The Milkbar	Portchester Community Centre	Tuesdays, 3 – 6pm, ages 9 - 12
Moving On Project, Fareham	No Limits	At X-Perience, Monday evenings
Music Fusion	Music Fusion	At The Beacon every fortnight, Jammit at Odyssey every Thursday 7 to 9pm, 13 – 19 years of age. 30 ad hoc sessions remaining in Youth Centre locations.
Oasis +, Titchfield	Y Services	With Titchfield Community Association, Thursdays 7 to 9pm, ages 13 to 18.
Oasis Youth Club, Titchfield	Y Services	Tuesdays 6:30 to 8:30pm, Age 10+.
Odyssey, Portchester	Y Services	Monday, Thursday and Friday
SNAP	FBC	4 times per year Friday 7 – 10:30pm
Whiteley Youth Club	Whiteley Community Association	Friday evenings from 7:30pm to 9:30pm for 10 – 15 year olds. Struggling with volunteers.
X-perience, Fareham	Y Services	Tuesday (ages 12 to 14), Wednesday (ages 14+) and Friday.
Yoof, St Johns Youth Group, Locks Heath	St Johns	Ages 11 – 16, 2 nd and 4 th Sundays from 6:30 – 8pm.

APPENDIX B: Current Youth Services Provision in Fareham

		Club / Group	Ward	Venue
Scouts / Guides	Scouts	1st Fareham Scouts	Fareham	Crescent Road
		3rd Portchester Sea Scouts	Portchester	White Hart Lane
		2nd Stubbington Scouts	Stubbington	Holy Rood Church
		2nd Portchester Scouts	Portchester	Adurni Hall
		2nd Fareham Sea Scouts	Fareham	Quay Street
		17th Fareham Scouts	Fareham	Holy Trinity Church
		1st Park Gate Scouts	Park Gate	St Anthonys Primary School
		1st Whiteley Scouts	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
		1st Sarisbury Green Scouts	Sarisbury	Coldeast Hospital
		1st Catisfield Scouts	Fareham	Blackbrook Road Scout Hut
		1st Stubbington Scouts	Stubbington	Stubbington Scout Hall
	1st Warsash Sea Scouts	Warsash	Warsash Maritime Academy	
	Guides	1st Fareham Girls Brigade	Fareham	Fareham Baptist Church
1st Portchester Girls Brigade		Portchester	Portchester Methodist Church	
1st Whiteley Guides		Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre	
Cadets	Army Cadet Force	Park Gate	1 Platoon, Bridge Road	
	ATC Air Cadets	Titchfield	Farm Road	
SPORT	Cricket	Portchester Cricket Club	Portchester	Portchester
		Sarisbury Cricket Club	Sarisbury	Allotment Road
		Locks Heath Cricket Club	Locks Heath	Warsash Road
		Fareham & Crofton Cricket	Fareham	Bath Lane Rec
	Rugby	Fareham Heathens Ruby Club	Fareham	Cams Alders
		Locks Heath Pumas	Locks Heath	Brookfield Community School

SPORT

	Netball	Fareham Fireflys Netball	Fareham	Henry Cort Community College
	Martial Arts	Aikido - Ken Shin Kai	Fareham	Fareham Leisure Centre
		Jason Boh's Martial Arts School	Portchester	Portchester Community School
		Shotokan Karate	Stubbington	Crofton School
		RC Southern Kickboxing	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
		Ju Jitsu	Stubbington	Crofton Community Centre
		Karate	Titchfield	Titchfield Community Centre
		British Taekwondo South	Fareham	Henry Cort Community College
		TaeKwon- Do	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
		Solent Martial Arts Academy	Stubbington	Crofton Community Centre
		Holbrook Judo Club	Warsash	Hook With Warsash School
		Fareham Choi Kwang Do	Fareham	Henry Cort Community College
		Amaetur Boxing Club	Titchfield	Mill Lane, Titchfield
		Portchester Karate Club	Portchester	Portchester Community School
		Kick Boxing	Titchfield	Titchfield Primary School
		Little Pumas Martial Arts	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
	Yoshinkan Aikido	Fareham	Fareham Leisure Centre	
	Martial Arts	Sarisbury Green Choi Kwang Do	Sarisbury	Brookfield Community School
	Basketball	Whiteley Oaks Basketball Club	Fareham	Meadowside Leisure Centre
		Locks Heath Tennis Club	Locks Heath	Locks Heath Tennis Club
		Warsash Junior Tennis	Warsash	Warsash Tennis Club

SPORT	Tennis	Advantage Tennis Academy	Stubbington	Stubbington Tennis Club
	Gymnastics	Cheryparkes Gymnastic Club	Fareham	Henry Cort Community College
		Gymnastics	Warsash	Abshot Community Centre
		Fareham School Of Gymnastics	Fareham	Fareham Academy
		Eclipse Gymnastics	Warsash	Warsash Road
		Stubbington Springboard Gymnastics	Stubbington	Crofton School
		Teenage Pilates	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
	Football	Crofton Saints Football Club	Stubbington	Stubbington Rec
		Locks Heath Lions FC	Park Gate	Brookfield Community School
		Stubbington FC Under 14's	Stubbington	Stubbington Rec
		Stubbington FC Under 16's	Stubbington	Stubbington Rec
		Warsash Wasps FC	Warsash	Club House, New Road
		Burridge FC	Sarisbury	Botley Road
Sarisbury Sparks FC		Sarisbury	Coal Park Lane, Southampton	
Portchester Youth		Portchester	Wicor Recreation Ground	
Football	Whiteley Football Club	Fareham	Meadowside Leisure Centre	
	Fareham Town FC	Fareham	Cams Alders	
	Jubilee 77 Youth Football Club	Fareham	Henry Cort Community College	
	Ranvilles Rangers Football Club	Fareham	Henry Cort Community College	
	Music	Solent Rock School	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
JUSE (Junior Operatic Society)		Stubbington	Crofton Community Centre	
Easylearn Pop Music School		Fareham	Henry Cort	

				Community College
Arts	Dance	Redmonds Dance School	Sarisbury	Whiteley Community Centre
		Sandras Dance Studio	Sarisbury	Sarisbury Community Centre
		In Time Dance	Locks Heath	Priory Park Hall
		Yasmin Taylor Academy of Dance	Warsash	Brookfield Community School
		Timestep Academy of Dance	Portchester	Portchester Community Centre
		Everyone Active School of Dance	Fareham	Fareham Leisure Centre
		Starz Academy	Stubbington	Park Lane
	Dance	Amber Andrews Dance School Kim Ellen School of Dance	Fareham Fareham	Fareham Scout Hut Ranvilles Community Centre
		Drama	Youth Theatre	Sarisbury
	Youth Theatre		Fareham	Ashcroft Arts Centre
	Stagecoach		Sarisbury	Whiteley Primary School
	Dante Academy		Stubbington	Crofton Community Centre
	Laura Dunkley Performing Arts		Sarisbury	Parish Rooms, Barnes Lane
	Titchfield Festival Youth Theatre		Titchfield	Titchfield Festival Theatre
Fareham Musical Society Youth Theatre	Fareham		Henry Cort Community College	