

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2010

**STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT, AND YOUTH SERVICES**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEATHER GARNETT

Adult Learning and Skills Service

The new Adult Learning and Skills Service prospectus was available from week commencing 12 July. This year we have been working very closely with the Communications Unit to develop a Countywide prospectus, rather than seven separate area prospectuses as we have done in the past. There will be three Countywide prospectuses produced during the year, one at the start of each term which will be available in libraries, local Adult Education Offices and other public buildings. We will be using the NYTimes to promote the online enrolment option and to carry good news stories to generally encourage learner participation. Course listings will not be placed in the NYTimes as we did last year. This new approach has been taken in order to promote the Adult Learning and Skills Service effectively throughout the academic year so that learners can always access up to date course information.

The on-line enrolment process is currently being piloted and this is on track for public use at the start of the enrolment period.

We have successfully recruited to all but one of the new posts created during the 2009-10 staffing review and the outstanding actions from this review have been followed up. The Supportive Learning review has been completed and the informal consultation paper for the Skills for Life / Family Learning review has been sent to all staff as an information gathering exercise. The review of area based administration staff will take place after the first enrolment period is complete.

Youth Councils

There are currently 14 youth councils in operation across North Yorkshire with two more due to be established in the autumn. The North Yorkshire Youth Council (NYYC) is made up of representatives from the area councils and was established in January 2010. It meets every two months and six members of NYYC have also been elected as North Yorkshire's representatives on the UK Youth Parliament.

Area youth councils have been involved in a range of activities including distributing Youth Opportunity Fund funding (£100,000 for 2010-11) to local groups and campaigning on local issues e.g. Selby Youth Council recently secured a new bus route between Selby and Xscape.

Information on youth councils can be found on NYYC's website: www.nyyc.co.uk

Cultureshock festival 2010

The annual Cultureshock Festival took place over 3 days (July 1st-3rd 2010), on Stone Cross Fields in Northallerton. This year the event, (delivered by CYC - the 4Youth Service arts delivery unit), included Secondary and Primary school days, a Proms evening, an International Acts event, a Camp over and the main Youth Arts day. With over 30 arts workshops, five music stages, a performance Big Top and international circus show, around 5,000 young people attended this year and experienced an inclusive, diverse and exciting range of positive activities.

Cultureshock provides opportunities for children and young people to be performers, creators, viewers, participants, producers and organisers alongside inspirational professional artists in the context of a high quality and visually inspirational festival site.

Young people are at the heart of shaping Cultureshock and a full colour evaluation report has recently been produced setting out how this has been achieved. The report is called 'Creative Consultation with Young People' and a copy is available upon request to Hannah.ley@northyorks.gov.uk

Integrated Youth Support - Connexions

Connexions provides careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) to all young people through the contract with the Careers Service (igen) and through the Integrated Youth Support hubs. There has been a lot of activity in the April-June period with a questionnaire being issued to Year 11 pupils to capture information about intended destinations, current contact details and offers of learning. Last year this was successful and contributed to the speed with which we attained the September Guarantee. Additional support, including drop-ins, are being planned to coincide with exam results.

North Yorkshire remains one of the best performing Local Authority areas in the country with one of the lowest numbers of young people whose circumstances are 'not known'. (0.8% May 2010)

There has been a lot of speculation about the Government's intentions regarding careers education and, specifically, the future of Connexions. Until such time as the policy directives are clear, work is continuing as usual with the aim of all young people receiving good quality, impartial careers Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).

Targeted Youth Support

Monitoring of the quality of support and the impact of Targeted Youth Support is currently being undertaken. During April and May, 24 case files from 12 practitioners were audited. The exercise was helpful in highlighting good practice and areas for improvement. A series of practitioner and manager events followed the audit and training has been provided to improve specific areas of practice.

Numbers of referrals to Targeted Youth Support have increased which is placing a pressure on the relatively small numbers of practitioners. However progression for young people exiting from the service remains good with over 90% having a successful transition to universal provision.

Targeted Activity programme

The Targeted Activities Programme (TAP) was introduced by the 4Youth Service in North Yorkshire in April 2009 using Area Based Grant funding as a countywide development from the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) schemes which had been operating in selected areas of the county. The aim of the programme is to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour and the number of first time entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice Service by delivering positive activities in known 'hotspot' areas and, in some cases, with targeted groups

Delivering the programme against the two measures, First Time Entrants (FTEs) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASB), has resulted in the targets being exceeded for both. Although TAP alone cannot be considered to be totally responsible for the reductions in this achievement - especially as there have been reductions against both measures across North Yorkshire as a whole - it is worth noting that the reductions are significantly greater in TAP wards than in wards which are not part of the programme: -28% compared to -17% for FTEs and a reduction of 10% compared to an increase of 6% for ASB.

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP)

The NYSP Executive has suspended work on the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) because the Government is considering the future of the LAA and there are to be significant cuts in public sector expenditure. There is general acceptance that NYSP partners should have an agreement in place which defines the key issues for North Yorkshire and how partners will work together to improve outcomes for local people, but that this agreement could be undertaken in a more streamlined way than was required by the current approach to the SCS and LAA.

The NYSP wider partnership conference 2010 will now be held on Monday 8 November 2010. This change of date is to allow discussions at the conference to take account of the government's Spending Review, which is due to be published on 20 October 2010.

Access to Services

Customer feedback continues to be used in order to shape the way in which services are provided. Information is currently being circulated from the Customer Services Centre and an online satisfaction survey on the County Council website. This initiative is being undertaken across the District Councils and with the City of York Council to help ensure that a joined up approach is provided wherever possible for the customer. In addition, the Customer Service Centre continues to absorb more services and is now the first point of contact for calls regarding public rights of way.

County Councillor Heather Garnett
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