

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 June 2010

Positive Activities Agenda

- Covering Report

1. Purpose of Report

This report asks the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee to:

- note the information in this covering report and the *4youth's Contribution To The Wider Positive Activities Agenda* report attached at Annex A.

2. Introduction

Your Chairman requested a report and presentation on the Positive activities and active engagement agendas for young people in North Yorkshire.

Positive activities and active engagement agendas have received increasing attention in recent years supported by national legislation and guidance and the growing awareness of the benefits to children and young people.

Positive Activities covers all activities undertaken by children and young people, both educational and leisure based which are not part of the school curriculum and includes provision from our many partnership agencies

6. Recommendations

The Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the information in this report and the Report attached at Annex A.

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HEAD OF SCRUTINY & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE
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Background Documents:	none
Annexes:	Annex 1

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH June 2010

4YOUTH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WIDER POSITIVE ACTIVITIES AGENDA

Purpose of Report

1. This report briefly outlines the policy background and the core delivery areas around the theme of Positive Activities that the 4Youth Service contributes towards and which will be covered in a presentation to the Committee.

Policy Background

2. Following the publication of the Green Paper 'Youth Matters' in 2005, the previous Government launched in 2007 *Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities*. This highlighted a statutory duty on local authorities to work with partners to deliver an integrated youth offer to all young people. One of the major components of 'the offer' is reflected in Section 507B of the *Education Inspections Act 2006*. This requires that;

Every local authority in England must, 'so far as reasonably practicable', secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to:

*Sufficient **educational** leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities;
Sufficient **recreational** leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.*

These are referred to in the legislation as 'positive leisure-time activities.'

Section 507B also includes a duty to publicise positive activities, ascertain young people's views on positive activities and consider alternative providers.

3. Following 'Aiming High' a plethora of policy has emerged – including:
 - Public Service Agreement 14 : to increase the number of children and young people on the path to success. Including a measured indicator '*More participation in positive activities*'.
 - National Indicator 110 measures local authorities against: Young peoples participation in positive activities.
 - Local Area Agreement L70 measures 4Youth activity
 - A Place for Culture: Developing a local culture offer for all children and young people
 - Youth Community Action
 - Positive Activities for Young People: Expanding Friday and Saturday night provision
 - Positive Activities: Good Practice Guidance – Delivering sports, arts and cultural activities as part of the Friday/Saturday night Youth Offer
 - National Play Strategy (which includes young people)
 - Quality Standards for Positive Activities
 - Transport Guidance: Supporting access to positive activities
4. It is important to note that while the statutory guidance continues to reflect the current legal position, the detail of the above policies may not reflect current Government policy.

Local Context

5. North Yorkshire County Council directly delivers or commissions a wide range of positive activities across the county and the wider strategy for positive activities for 0-19 year olds is currently being reviewed. This work is being led by Ian Marr – Senior Officer (Active Engagement & Positive Activities)
6. The 4Youth Service (which includes Connecting Youth Culture) is a significant contributor to the provision of positive activities for young people (13-19 year olds). 4Youth also commissions provision through a voluntary sector partnership with North Yorkshire Youth, as well as with small voluntary sector organisations through more localised arrangements.
7. Positive activities are, amongst others, provided by; Integrated Youth Support. Extended Schools, Health Services, Police & Fire Services, Short Breaks funding, Childrens Social Care, Outdoor Education Service, Leisure Services, the VCS, Arts Council funding and the private sector. Positive activities for young people are promoted through the www.Gimi.co.uk website.

Presentation

8. Drawing from 4Youth delivery, the presentation will provide information on the following, with a focus on the use of the 'arts' as a tool for engaging young people in positive activities:
 - Introduction & Overview of 4Youth Service (including Connecting Youth Culture)
 - Where has the notion of positive activities come from?
 - What are 'educational' and 'recreational' positive activities?
 - Who are positive activities aimed at and where and how are they delivered?
 - How do young people (especially 'targeted groups'), benefit from the provision of positive activities?
 - What impact has this work had in local communities?
 - The benefits of using arts and culture to deliver positive activities?
 - How do young people know about, and shape, the offer?
 - How do we ensure our offer is of a high quality?
 - What are the future challenges?
 - Where you obtain more information.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is asked to:

Note the briefing paper in preparation for the presentation being given, which is to be followed by a question and answer session.

Date 27th May 2010

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Background documents: None