

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

## Youth Provision Task Group Report 12 Month Review

### Background

The Overview and Scrutiny Board received a presentation on the work of the Local Strategic Partnership at its meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. Following this presentation the Board agreed at its following meeting, in November 2012 to set up a Task Group which would investigate the youth provision within the District. The key objectives of the Task Group were to consider current arrangements to providing services for young people, to analyse opportunities to participate in youth activities, to scrutinise accessibility of current services provided by the Council and to identify any gaps within the services provided. Members believe that as Young People are a significant proportion of the local population an effective review of the subject would potentially enable them to address the needs of young people living in the District and in the long term have a positive impact on their future prospects.

The Task Group held a total of 18 meetings, which included 6 site visits and interviews with numerous internal and external witnesses. The Task Group also considered written evidence from a number of sources and considered information provided by both Ward Councillors and Parish Councils. The initial meeting of the Task Group took place on 5<sup>th</sup> December when Members considered the Terms of Reference and discussed in detail how it would carry out its investigation, from the early stages Members were keen to visit facilities for young people within the District in order to find out what was available to them. The penultimate meeting of the Task Group took place on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 when Members formulated the recommendations which are detailed below and the final meeting took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the draft report before submitting it to the Overview and Scrutiny Board at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

The Final Report was then submitted to Cabinet and the report and recommendations were discussed at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013, with a response being provided to the Board at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013. For purpose of ease – the Cabinet Responses are detailed in **Green** below.

### Recommendation 1

That Worcestershire County Council ensures that regular meetings between the commissioner and local providers of Positive Activities (within the Bromsgrove District) take place to ensure there is no overlap of services and to enable best practices to be shared.

## **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

Councillor M. J. A. Webb indicated he was happy to attend a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board when the Cabinet response was discussed by the Board. There was concern that Positive Activities would suffer as a result of County Council budget cuts. The Leader indicated he had been discussing this with the Leader of the County Council in order to understand the extent of potential cuts so that alternative budget provision could be considered by this Council.

## **12 Month Review - Update**

*Completed – meetings held as and when required.*

## **Recommendation 2**

That Bromsgrove District Council writes to Worcestershire County Council highlighting its concerns in respect of the limited life span and uncertainty over the provision of a building for the youth services provided by EPIC in the Rubery Ward.

## **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

Members were concerned that little progress appeared to have been made by the County Council in identifying alternative accommodation. Whilst there was Youth provision at Longbridge and cross boundary working should help to alleviate the situation it was important there was provision within this District.

## **12 Month Review - Update**

*This matter has now been resolved.*

## **Recommendation 3**

That Worcestershire County Council ensure that the activities, which should focus on the Town Centre and provided by the £15,000 from Sandwell Leisure Trust, are commissioned through the Positive Activities process to ensure that no further delays occur.

## **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

The Cabinet queried however whether the County Council had in fact provided the £15,000 funding rather than Sandwell Leisure Trust and also what the situation would be if the money was not spent within the year i.e. would it be carried over to the following year.

#### 12 Month Review - Update

*This was clarified for the Cabinet and WCC have used the funds to commission appropriate activities.*

#### **Recommendation 4**

That Bromsgrove District Councillors familiarise themselves with all facilities for young people within their Ward and build relationships with local providers where appropriate.

#### **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

The Cabinet felt however that it was for Group Leaders to deal with this recommendation rather than the Leader.

#### 12 Month Review - Update

*As Cabinet felt this was more appropriate for Group Leaders to deal with this matter Officers are unaware as to whether any action has taken place.*

#### **Recommendation 5**

That through the Local Strategic Partnership's Balanced Communities Group a process is found whereby all providers of youth activities throughout Bromsgrove District are given an opportunity to support each other and share ideas and best practice.

#### **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

#### 12 Month Review - Update

*Positive Activities is a standing item on all LSP Balanced Communities Theme Group agendas. All WCC commissioned Positive Activities Providers in Bromsgrove District were invited to join Theme Group and the WCC*

*Commissioning Manager for Youth (Paul Finnemore) also attends the meetings.*

### **Recommendation 6**

That the Chairman of the Task Group (supported by Democratic Services Officers) gives a presentation of the Task Group's findings to the County Association of Local Councils in order to encourage Parish Councils to support local Youth Groups.

### **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed

### **12 Month Review - Update**

*To date, this has not taken place.*

### **Recommendation 7**

That Bromsgrove District Council launches a Twitter campaign to promote activities for young people across the District.

### **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

The Cabinet did request however that it be confirmed that there would be no cost implications in respect of this recommendation.

### **12 Month Review - Update**

*It was the Communications Manager understanding that this was superseded by VIPA and then the Council was working with them to do retweets and they retweeted our activ8s and Go4Fun activity news. VIPA continues to communicate with children and young people through this communication process.*

### **Recommendation 8**

That Bromsgrove District Council uses active young people to help with and schedule the Twitter campaign including creating the # tag.

### **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

The Cabinet did request however that it be confirmed that there would be no cost implications in respect of this recommendation.

#### 12 Month Review - Update

*As per recommendation 7 above.*

#### **Recommendation 9**

That via Twitter, Bromsgrove District Council carries out a consultation on youth activities in the District including which activities young people would like to see more/less of.

#### **Cabinet Response**

This was agreed.

The Cabinet did request however that it be confirmed that there would be no cost implications in respect of this recommendation.

#### 12 Month Review - Update

*As per recommendation 7above.*

#### **Recommendation 10**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Board includes within its Work Programme an investigation into the provision of services available to disaffected young people and those not in education, employment or training within the District.

#### **Cabinet Response**

Cabinet that this was a matter for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine as part of their future work programme.

#### 12 Month Review - Update

*This has been included on the O&S Board's Work Programme, for its consideration if they so wish.*