

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 8 October 2012

ITEM 6(e)
Title: Development of a
Youth Strategy in North
Tyneside

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Lilly
Cllr George Westwater

Report from Directorate: Children, Young People and Learning

Report Author:

Jean Griffiths Head of Schools, Learning and Skills	Tel: (0191) 643 8782
Paul Cook Head of Preventative and Safeguarding	Tel: (0191) 643 7381
Paul Gowans Head of Cultural and Customer Services	Tel:(0191) 643 7401
Iain Betham Senior Manager – Education Capital Planning	Tel: (0191) 643 8092

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to the development of a child and young adult/people strategy, as set out in the document 'Creating a Young Person's Borough', which will transform the provision of youth and play services across the Borough.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Approves the Creating a Young Person's Borough Strategy attached at Appendix 1;
- (2) Authorises the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, to work with partners in the voluntary, community, public and private sectors and with children and young people to formally launch and implement the Creating a Young Person's Borough Strategy.

1.3 Forward plan:

This report appears on the Forward Plan for the period 1st September 2012 to 31st December 2012.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

This report is relevant to the following priority in the Council Strategic Plan 2012-15:

Priority 2: Maintaining excellent education, training and employment opportunities, including apprenticeships and working in collaboration with partners.

1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 The Creating a Young Person's Borough Strategy sets out a partnership approach to delivering a vibrant offer aimed at improving the wellbeing of those living in the borough aged 8 to 19 years of age.

The strategy sets out how the Council and partners will establish a vibrant entitlement of activities, opportunities and spaces for all children and young people. Our universal provision of parks, open spaces, sport, leisure and art developments, libraries, events and festivals will be combined with targeted and early help and support interventions to improve opportunities and outcomes for all, including those who are disabled and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Our combined efforts will encourage children, young adults and young people to become more active within their community and ensure their contributions are recognised. Children, young adults and young people will promote a positive image of themselves within our localities and play a key role, through their active involvement in developing services, in ensuring the places we live in meet the needs of children and young people living in the area. We will ensure children, young adults and young people are the ones who 'brand' the programmes and extended use of social media will ensure the programme and offer remains vibrant and welcomed by those using it.

This programme will be taken forward through a strong partnership between the Council, schools and colleges, the community and voluntary sector and partners in the Police service and health economy. Universal services provided by a range of agencies and services enjoy huge support from young adults and young people in the borough. The potential to build upon this as we move forward is recognised and will be a strong component of the refreshed service. Schools and colleges also play a major role through the extended curriculum offer and we will ensure strong join up of all services.

Early help and support services are increasingly recognising that some young adults and young people have needs that are not met by immediate family and neighbourhood which can have serious implications for future success in employment and secure relationships. Our strategy will ensure a full range of leisure, sport, art, cultural and volunteering opportunities are targeted at such vulnerable groups to promote success and wellbeing.

Establishing hubs for young adults and young people to meet and enjoy their time together is a major feature of the strategy and action plan. Consultation with young adults and young people has confirmed their wish to have such centres; the action planning for the next 3 years includes such developments. This will be a feature of the contribution we make to young adults and young people in developing the social and emotional skills that ensure they make the transition into adulthood a successful change. Some young adults

and young people require targeted and specialist help to divert them away from activities with the potential to harm or cause distress. We will ensure services are available, quickly and readily, to respond to those needing additional help and support to move constructively into the full range of activities and services available.

The Olympic and Para Olympic experience for the country has been a very positive one. Residents have been inspired by the efforts of elite athletes. The volunteers who played such a part in making the Games possible have also received recognition. Young adults and young people in the borough will have been influenced by what they have seen and heard. We want to build upon this unique phase in our country's life and we will explore all opportunities to engage with national and local opportunities arising as a result of the Olympic and Para Olympic heritage.

Consolidating the position that the borough is positive about children and young people will require a collaborative approach across Council services and partner agencies. The strategy sets out 7 shared objectives that will drive partnership work in the borough. These are:

1. Increasing the level of age-appropriate facilities to support youth and play provision in town centres and neighbourhoods.
2. Increasing participation in the universal youth play, sport and cultural activities available for children and young people across the borough.
3. The introduction of a targeted activity-based programme to reduce risk taking and anti social behaviour amongst young people.
4. Establishing a joined up approach to personal, social and independent living, by developing social and emotional capabilities in young adults and young people to enable them to manage the transition into adulthood.
5. Increasing and celebrating the engagement of children and young adults and young people in making a positive contribution to their community.
6. Improving the capacity of the voluntary, community and statutory workforce sector to support personal, social and emotional development of children and young people.
7. Organising ourselves to deliver a 21st century youth and play offer.

These priorities are based on an analysis of existing provision and taking into account the views of children, young adults and young people and the wider community.

A copy of the full strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

1.5.2 The further development of North Tyneside's positive view about children, young adults and young people, will make a significant contribution to the Children, Young People and Learning Partnership's vision of a borough where:

- Children and young people are respected, valued and listened to;
- Childhood is nurtured;
- Children and young people are happy, healthy, confident and safe, and can develop as enthusiastic learners and tolerant, compassionate individuals who are challenged and supported to be the best they can be; and

- The power of learning is harnessed to transform the lives of individuals and regenerate our communities.

1.5.3 Policy Drivers

Key to influencing our strategy are:-

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Governments worldwide, including the UK, have promised all children the same rights by adopting the 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child' (CRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. They apply equally to every child, regardless of who they are, or where they are from. The convention sets out in detail what every child needs to have for a safe, happy and fulfilled childhood. It enshrines specific child rights in international law, defining universal principles and standards for the status and treatment of children worldwide. The convention came into force in the UK on 15 January 1992 and specific reference is made to **Article 29** 'every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live' and **Article 31** 'every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities'.
- The Creating a Young Person's Bourough strategy sets out all aspects of government policy for 8 -19 year olds. It sets out a vision of a society that works together to improve the life chances of young people, particularly the most vulnerable.
- 'A framework of outcomes for young people', published in July 2012 provides a secure base from which to develop quality assurance and improvement methods in relation to youth provision. This influential paper from The Young Foundation offers a number of tools by which the impact of youth provision can be measured to gauge the effectiveness of services upon the social and emotional capabilities of our young adults and young people.
- In June 2012 government released the new statutory 'guidance for local authorities on services and activities to improve young people's well-being'. Key within the duties placed upon councils is the duty to:
 - Ensure young people are actively involved in the development of youth services
 - Ensure young people receive the support they need to participate in service development
 - Enable parents and communities to meet young people's needs wherever possible and engage businesses and other employers to contribute to and enhance local provision.

The development of the North Tyneside Strategy will take full account of the above policy drivers.

1.5.4 North Tyneside Strategic Priorities

Establishing North Tyneside as a young person's borough is consistent with the borough's wider strategic framework. It will directly contribute to strategic objectives within the borough's Sustainable Community Strategy and Children and Young People's Plan.

1.6 Decision options:

The following options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

- (1) Cabinet may agree the strategy. This will ensure that the Council continues to develop a borough that is positive for young people, where children and young people are valued, respected, healthy, happy, protected from harm and able to realise their potential.
- (2) Cabinet may not agree to the strategy. This will require the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Learning to consult further and formulate an alternative Strategy.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Youth and play continues to be an important and valuable part of the borough's offer to young people. By approving the Strategy, the aims of Priority 2 as outlined within the Council's Strategic Plan 2012-15 will be fulfilled; this will allow young people to contribute to their community and also help improve the life chances of vulnerable young people.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Creating a Young Person's Borough Youth Strategy 2012 – 2015

1.9 Contact officers:

Jean Griffiths: Head of Schools, Learning and Skills – tel: 643 8782

Paul Cook: Head of Preventative and Safeguarding – tel: 643 7381

Paul Gowans: Head of Cultural and Customer Services – tel 643 7401

Iain Betham: Senior Manager – Education Capital Planning – tel: 643 8092

Anthony Gollings, Finance Business Manager supporting Children, Young People and Learning and Finance and Resources - tel: 643 8071

Keith Hardy: Play and Urban Games Manager – tel 643 8384

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- 14 November 2011 Cabinet Report: Response to the Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny regarding Youth Facilities
http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=538293
- 12 March 2012 Cabinet Report: Development of Youth and Play Provision in North Tyneside

- http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=533481
- 14 May 2012 Cabinet Report: Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget Proposals – Youth Facilities
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=534654
- North Tyneside Children and Young People’s Plan 2010-2014
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=524260
- HM Government National Youth Strategy: Positive for Youth
http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=538294
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 29 and Article 31
http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=538296
- A Framework of Outcomes for Young People – The Young Foundation
http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=538295

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

All associated revenue implications will be contained within existing budget provision. Any capital implications will be considered as part of the £0.830m funding that is included within the 2012/2013 Capital Plan for Youth Provision (Capital Plan reference ED177).

2.2 Legal

Section 507B of the Education Act 2006 and related guidance places a duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient services and activities to improve the wellbeing of young people. The duty also requires Local Authorities to take into account young people’s views and publicise information on what is available. Creating a Young Person’s Borough Strategy in North Tyneside, sets out a strategic approach to building upon our existing strengths in order to further develop services and activities in the discharge of this duty.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal consultation

Internal consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, and with Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Young people via the Young Mayor and her Cabinet, representatives from the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and Young Disabled Persons Network have been fully consulted in relation to the proposals.

2.3.2 External consultation/engagement

Consultation has taken place with partner agencies via the Children and Young People’s Provision Group, the community and voluntary sector, schools and with young people via the Youth Council.

2.4 Human rights

The youth and play programme supports the rights of children and young people to a secure and enjoyable childhood.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The youth Strategy and services, opportunities developed by it are available to all children and young people in the borough.

2.6 Risk management

The proposals will be appropriately risk managed to ensure the Council and partners are not exposed to unmanageable operational risks.

2.7 Crime and disorder

The proposals support the action plans of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Community Safety Plan to address issues of crime and disorder amongst young people.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Strategic Director(s) X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Strategic Manager for Policy and Partnerships X

Report authors:

Jean Griffiths, Head of Schools, Learning and Skills
Paul Cook, Head of Preventative and Safeguarding
Iain Betham, Senior Manager – Education Capital Planning