

# Oxfordshire County Council's Early Intervention Service approach to statutory guidance on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being

## September 2012 – September 2013

The Department for Education released new statutory guidance in June 2012 relating to local authorities' duty to secure services and activities for young people (YP) aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being. (Appendix A.) The table below shows how Oxfordshire County Council's Early Intervention Service plans to ensure this new statutory guidance is met between Sept 2012 and September 2013.

This duty contains two main focuses:

- i) Securing access to sufficient services and activities
- ii) Involving young people

No.	Objective: (Why)	Delivery: (What)	Timescale: (When):
<b>SECURING ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES</b>			
1	Secure a sufficient local offer - provision of a collated offer of activities for young people across Oxfordshire offered through OCC, District Councils , Parish and Town Councils, Voluntary and Community Sector and commercial sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The multi-agency County Young People's Well-Being Action Group (CYPWAG) meets quarterly to look at strategic developments and ensure adherence to the duty</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.activitiesoxfordshire.info">www.activitiesoxfordshire.info</a> database available on the internet with searches and links available through council websites and other local websites including voluntary youth sector organisations. The site is accessed by young people, parents/carers and professionals</li> <li>• Development of the site is overseen by the CYPWAG. The Area Activity Action Groups (AAAGs) work with young people to ensure effective and relevant promotion, identify and remove gaps and barriers within the offer.</li> <li>• All listed providers are contacted four times per year to update their entry in the database. Additionally providers can update any time, and changes and additions are checked every working day.</li> </ul>	<p>October, January, April, July</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>October, January, April July</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people are able to comment, rate and promote activities via a variety of online tools, including showing their own creative work.</li> </ul>	
2	Ensure the local offer is well publicised and understood by young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness and distributing publicity for the site is the responsibility of all partners and is managed creatively through the AAAGs</li> <li>• The AAAGs work with young people to ensure the publicity is relevant, effective and reaches the target audience. Routes for promotion include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- leaflets, cards, adverts and posters</li> <li>- Branded items including wristbands, t-shirts, and more</li> <li>- web app and social sharing</li> <li>- Oxme – OCC children and young people’s website, and other local websites including District Councils</li> <li>- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.</li> <li>- Regular email newsletters</li> <li>- Representation at events and celebrations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
3	Provide additional opportunities to increase the local offer (through OCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Positive Activities Fund provides funding for projects against set criteria – bids are made by young people and funding decisions are made by a young people’s PAF panel.</li> <li>• The Chill Out Fund provides matched funding for projects – bids are made by the organisation proposing the project</li> <li>• The Short Breaks Fund provides funding for activities with children and young people with disabilities – bids are made by the organisation</li> <li>• The Big Society Fund is provided to each local Oxfordshire County Council Elected Member to allocate as appropriate in their patch</li> </ul> <p>Funding criteria available on <a href="http://www.oxme.info/funding">www.oxme.info/funding</a></p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>On-going</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Citizen Service (NCS) is provided for 16/17 year olds in the summer and autumn 2013,14 and 15. Young people signing up and participating in the scheme are monitored.</li> </ul>	August, November 13,14,15	
4	Measures to contribute to, and influence the services and activities to improve the well-being of young people 2012/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase local offer</li> <li>Provide feedback from young people on quality and sufficiency in a 'you said we did' format</li> <li>Increase usage of libraries by young people, making them accessible venues in local communities</li> <li>Increase in young people's participation in sports and physical activity</li> <li>Increase in access for young people to music and the arts</li> <li>Uptake in additional funding streams to increase activities and evaluation of these</li> <li>Increase in awareness of wellbeing benefits of activity participation</li> <li>Increase in young people volunteering</li> </ul>	February 2013 (measures) February 2014 (data)	
5	Baseline measures	Use the above measures to establish a baseline position for improvement . Data will be held by a range of organisations and cannot be seen as mutually exclusive nor providing data exclusively to the 13 – 19 age group nor providing data over the same timeframe.	February 2013	7

## INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

4	Involvement in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive Activities Fund (PAF) - young people apply to the fund supported by the organisation they are working with. Details are posted on the <a href="http://www.oxme.info">www.oxme.info</a> website</li> <li>Young people are trained in decision making for the fund and apply the funding criteria to each application. Those applying for funds present their 'idea'. Panels meet monthly to make the funding decisions</li> <li>Panel decisions are posted on the <a href="http://www.oxme.info">www.oxme.info</a> website</li> </ul>	On-going  Monthly  Monthly	
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5	Involvement in evaluation of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAF – young people led evaluation is provided from all successfully funded projects</li> <li>• PAF – young people evaluate the quality of a random sample of successful bids by a visit and direct observation writing up feedback</li> <li>• Chill Out Fund – young people from all projects that receive funding provide evaluation and a sample of projects are evaluated directly by ‘independent’ young people</li> <li>• Young people from the range of partners involved i.e. County and District Councils, Community and Voluntary Sector evaluate activity in their area looking at variety, range, accessibility, location, focus, quality and overall sufficiency of the activities offered</li> <li>• Young Inspectors – young people are trained to evaluate the quality of the youth activity in the Oxfordshire County Council Early Intervention hubs. To commence from April 2013 following training</li> </ul>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>April 2013</p>
6	Involvement in service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each hub has a Youth Forum linked to the wider multi-agency Hub Partnership Group enabling young people to be involved in design and delivery of services and activities</li> </ul>	<p>On-going</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young people complete feedback cards providing evaluation of their experiences with the Early Intervention Service</li> <li>• Young people are regularly involved in topical consultation to elicit views prior to action and then involved to ascertain effectiveness</li> <li>• Young people are involved in Takeover Day</li> <li>• Children and young people are consulted through the OCC Sounding Board, Oxfordshire Youth Enablers, Children in Care Council, Oxfordshire Youth Parliament and UK Youth Parliament</li> </ul>	<p>December 2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>November</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
7	Benchmarking with other authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to meet the statutory duty for improving young people's well-being are benchmarked across the South East region</li> </ul>	Ongoing
8	Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback to young people is provided through youth forums and <a href="http://www.oxme.info">www.oxme.info</a> including in the "you said, we did" format</li> <li>• Feedback to the CYPWAG from the AAAGs is published on the <a href="http://www.activitiesoxfordshire.info">www.activitiesoxfordshire.info</a> site including data demonstrating effectiveness of the site, evaluation from young people about the quality of the local offer</li> <li>• Feedback to Oxfordshire County Council Elected members via a Member forum held at bi-annually. Feedback from meetings sent to the Children and Young People's Board (within the Health and well-being arrangements)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>October, January, April, July</p> <p>February and September</p>

### Appendices:

#### **Appendix A - Statutory Guidance for LA on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being**