

Divisions Affected – All

Cabinet

21 December 2021

Oxfordshire Youth Offer

Report by Corporate Director for Children's Services

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Cabinet is asked to note:

- The progress on delivering a new Oxfordshire Youth Offer and how the model will support activity across all districts in the county
- The continued commitment to working in partnership with the voluntary sector
- The plans for future roadshows to showcase the new provision

Executive Summary

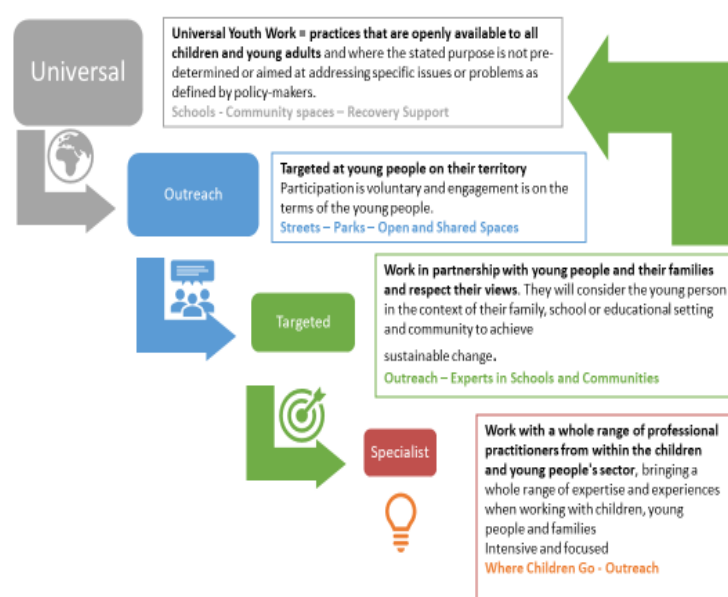
1. The purpose of this report is to share progress of the youth offer development. It provides details about the structure for the Youth Services that the Children Education and Families Department are currently putting in place
2. It acknowledges that the wide and comprehensive Youth Offer for young people is something that the council can only deliver by working in partnership with other services and organisations, particularly the voluntary sector

Key Issues

3. Following the pandemic, we are seeing young people's mental wellbeing being impacted, increases in those who are NEET, risk of exploitation and increasing gaps around key transition points from school and into adulthood.
4. The past decade has seen a growth in voluntary sector support for young people and they are doing some fantastic work. There is also great creativity and a willingness to collaborate and support within the sector. By maximising

partnerships and cross sector opportunities we stand the best chance of meeting need and reach.

5. The Council's directly employed youth workers will work alongside partners in the voluntary sector but have a greater focus on targeted work
6. The new service will predominately provide support to young people at the targeted/specialist end of the continuum, along with some outreach capability. Strong links and referral routes into support across sectors will provide earlier intervention in advance of statutory thresholds being met. Focus will be on reducing risk of exploitation, offending behaviour, substance misuse, exclusion, housing issues as well as improving mental wellbeing. It will also enable the opportunity for young people's voices to shape future direction of services. Using partnerships across sectors to refocus input from targeted to universal, children will be supported at every stage of their adolescent development as well as many joint outcomes being achieved across sectors.



7. Insufficient numbers of young people are currently being reached and although some targeted work is in place it is not consistent across the county. There is no integrated/holistic offer with common points and easy access into targeted support at present. A co-ordinated response will support young people and families with re-engaging with their communities, rebuilding support networks and ensuring young people are hopeful about their futures.
8. The Model:

9. Workers will be split across the 5 districts of the County to enable consistent approach and relationships into local communities initially. There will be 4 workers within each area which will be linked to schools via catchment areas. There will also be 2 county wide youth workers who will be flexibly deployed to respond to short term issues and concerns in specific areas. This is a total of 22 workers across the County with 1 Service Manager.
10. A resource for capacity building alongside the voluntary sector is also built into the model at the universal level.

Cherwell District	West Oxfordshire	Oxford City	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse
Service Manager				
Senior Youth and Communities Worker	Senior Youth and Communities Worker	Senior Youth and Communities Worker	Senior Youth and Communities Worker	Senior Youth and Communities Worker
2 Countywide Youth Workers				
Youth Worker	Youth Worker	Youth Worker	Youth Worker	Youth Worker
Youth Support Worker	Youth Support Worker	Youth Support Worker	Youth Support Worker	Youth Support Worker
Level 3 Apprentice	Level 3 Apprentice	Level 3 Apprentice	Level 3 Apprentice	Level 3 Apprentice
Digital Community Licence				
Youth Offer Performance Lead				
Expenses E.g. Travel, CPD, Staff Costs, Premises				
Community Capacity Building				

11. The delivery model provides resources (performance/digital management and licences) to establish a framework for monitoring and measuring impact across the county. This will also ensure that all planning, monitoring and evaluating takes into account equality and diversity issues and can offer an appropriate response where required by adjusting interventions. Digital resources also offer the opportunity to collaborate with voluntary sector partners to ensure delivery is joined up and effective responses to equality and diversity are put in place as a whole system approach.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

12. The youth offer has been developed in line with the Council's corporate strategy. We will work with our partners and local communities to address health, social and educational inequalities focusing on those in greatest need. We will do this by mapping and coordinating approaches to supporting young people, identifying gaps and areas of inequality and targeting need with appropriate opportunities across the County.
13. We will prioritise the health and wellbeing of our young people by working with our partners to deliver and support services that make a vital contribution to our residents' physical and mental wellbeing. Having access to a wider range of support earlier through this service, offers hope of requiring less support later in life. We will work alongside our young people to transition them into future resilient adults regardless of their starting point.
14. The service focus is around prevention, helping people to stay active and supported. We will build on pathways across sectors to ensure access to opportunities where positive transitions take place. By working at a local level we will promote positive engagement of our young people which will in turn benefit all generations and improve resilience within communities.
15. We will support all our children and young people, and their families, to achieve their very best and to prepare them for their future, including those more vulnerable and with additional needs. We will invest additional resources in holiday activity programmes across the county, with a focus on the highest areas of deprivation. The Council will receive further holiday activity funding over the next 3 years which will enable us to embed our offer and widen access to more children. Supporting delivery through partners within the voluntary sector, we can maximise our reach across the County and enable those most at need to gain positive experiences and future lifelong opportunities.
16. Service outcomes aimed for include a reduction in children being assessed for council support and intervention, clear referral pathways to support children earlier, reduction in children experiencing or at risk of exploitation and offending behaviours.

Communications with Stakeholders

17. The council currently works in close partnership with the voluntary sector who themselves have significant relationships and links into communities. Delivery of the Council model must complement the current youth offer in place. We anticipate significant work will take place at District and Locality level to ensure effective collaboration. Using this 'from the ground up' approach provides the best opportunity to ensure cohesion and acceptance at community level.
18. Service leads will be in contact with Local Councillors, as well as District and Community partners to ascertain and acknowledge the current youth

offer. Soft launch roadshows in each district/locality area will be scheduled in March/April 2022. The roadshows will be designed to showcase the new Council offer alongside any existing voluntary and community sector provision. There will be the opportunity for staff to be introduced and for pathways into support to be explained further. Focused workshops will offer opportunity for internal and external colleagues to look at integration of the new offer to maximise outcomes and future potential.

Key Dates

19. Recruitment to posts is currently taking place. The service will mobilise incrementally as soon as workers are appointed with a target date for completion of full recruitment by end February 2022.

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Annex: Nil

Background papers: Nil