

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR - 4 FEBRUARY 2013

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING ACTION GROUP

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. The Department for Education released new statutory guidance in June 2012 "Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being". This is statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education under Section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It relates to local authorities' duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 – 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being, as defined in Subsection 13. This guidance replaces the previous statutory guidance for the duty (section 507B) to secure access to positive activities for young people in their leisure time dated 2008. The revised statutory guidance is attached as Annex 1.
2. The document outlines the rationale and scope of the duty and details responsibilities for local authorities under two main headings a) Involving young people and b) securing access to sufficient services and activities. Following the structural changes in September 2011 with the creation of the Early Intervention Service, previous structures for reporting to Members are no longer applicable. The report recommends a model to report on services and activities under this duty to Elected Members ensuring compliance with the statutory duty.

Involving Young People

3. The statutory guidance requires Local Authorities to take steps to ascertain the views of young people and take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them. Young people should be actively involved in service design, delivery and governance and be enabled to inspect and report on the quality and accessibility of the provision.

Securing Access to sufficient services and activities

4. Government does not prescribe which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. The guidance states that "Local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being and personal and social development." The

guidance directs local authorities to: understand the needs of local young people, particularly the most vulnerable; and enable parents and communities to meet young people's needs wherever possible. This should be done taking the strategic lead to work with young people; the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector; health and wellbeing boards; schools and colleges; and agencies including health and police.

5. In Oxfordshire a county-wide steering group is in place comprising the representatives above. This group has worked to an annual action plan since the inception of the duty in 2007. Following publication of the revised statutory duty in June 12 the steering group has set a revised action plan (see Annex 2)

Reporting

6. Reporting responsibilities are three fold: a) publicising effectively to young people and their families the overall 'local offer' of all services and activities available to young people locally, this is done through www.activitiesoxfordshire.info hosted on Oxfordshire County Council's children and young people's website b) providing details to young people and others details of the feedback young people have given on the quality of the local offer and how they have influenced decisions (see Annex 2) and c) reporting to Elected Members on the sufficiency of the local offer to young people and young people's views on sufficiency and quality.

Financial and Staff Implications

7. There are no financial and staff implications

RECOMMENDATION

8. **The Cabinet Member for Children & the Voluntary Sector is RECOMMENDED to agree the setting up of the 'Young People's Well-being Group' as a standing advisory group to oversee Oxfordshire County Council's compliance with the statutory duty. (Draft terms of reference are set out in Annex 3)**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Background papers: Education and Inspection Action 2006 9(Section 507B)

Contact Officer: Ruth Ashwell

January 2013

**Statutory Guidance
for Local Authorities
on Services and Activities
to Improve Young People's Well-being**

This is statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education under Section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

It relates to local authorities' duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being, as defined in Subsection 13.

n. publish at least annually, in a form that enables young people and others to hold them to account, their plans for improving young people's well-being and personal and social development, together with relevant funding and performance data.

5. Local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being and personal and social development – having regard to the general principles of the UNCRC. They should strive to secure the best possible local offer within available resources, reviewing the sufficiency of the offer if it does not result in positive feedback from young people on the adequacy and quality of local provision and positive trends in qualitative and quantitative data that are indicative of local young people's well-being and personal and social development.

6. Local authorities should do all that is reasonably practicable to secure a sufficient local offer for young people, including:

- a. acting on all of the considerations in this and other relevant statutory guidance;
- b. benchmarking their approach and performance relative to other similar areas to identify how they might improve impact and cost-effectiveness; and
- c. drawing on available support and challenge to drive continuous improvement in the quality and impact of local services, including from the local authority sector nationally.

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):
SECURING ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES			
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"> • 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 • www.activitiesoxfordshire.info 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 • 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 	<p>October, January, April, July</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>October, January, April</p>

		<p>remove gaps and barriers within the offer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Young people are able to comment, rate and promote activities via a variety of online tools, including showing their own creative work. 	July
2	Ensure the local offer is well publicised and understood by young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness and distributing publicity for the site is the responsibility of all partners and is managed creatively through the AAAGs • 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"> - leaflets, cards, adverts and posters - Branded items including wristbands, t-shirts, and more - web app and social sharing - Oxme – OCC children and young people’s website, and other local websites including District Councils - Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. - Regular email newsletters - Representation at events and celebrations 	<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"> • 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. 	<p>Monthly</p> <p>Monthly</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chill Out Fund provides matched funding for projects – bids are made by the organisation proposing the project • The Short Breaks Fund provides funding for activities with children and young people with disabilities – bids are made by the organisation • The Big Society Fund is provided to each local Oxfordshire County Council Elected Member to allocate as appropriate in their patch <p>Funding criteria available on www.oxme.info/funding</p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>On-going</p>
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"> • Increase local offer • Provide feedback from young people on quality and sufficiency in a 'you said we did' format • Increase usage of libraries by young people, making them accessible venues in local communities • Increase in young people's participation in sports and physical activity • Increase in access for young people to music and the arts • Uptake in additional funding streams to increase activities and evaluation of these • Increase in awareness of wellbeing benefits of activity participation 	<p>February 2013 (measures) February 2014 (data)</p>
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 date exclusively to the 13 – 19 age group nor providing data over the	February 2013

		same timeframe.	
INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE			
4	Involvement in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Activities Fund (PAF) - young people apply to the fund supported by the organisation they are working with. Details are posted on the www.oxme.info website • 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 • Panel decisions are posted on the www.oxme.info website • Young people representatives sit on the www.oxme.info steering group and contribute actively to decision making • Young people involved come from the diversity of the population in Oxfordshire and vulnerable young people are particularly supported to be involved 	<p>On-going</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>On-going On-going</p>
5	Involvement in evaluation of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAF – young people led evaluation is provided from all successfully funded projects • PAF – young people evaluate the quality of a random sample of successful bids by a visit and direct observation writing up feedback • Chill Out Fund – young people from all projects that receive 	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>

Annex 2

		<p>funding provide evaluation and a sample of projects are evaluated directly by 'independent' young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 	<p>On-going</p> <p>April 2013</p>
6	Involvement in service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Children and Young people complete feedback cards providing evaluation of their experiences with the Early Intervention Service • Children and young people complete an annual Customer Satisfaction Survey (EIS) • Young people are regularly involved in topical consultation to elicit views prior to action and then involved to ascertain effectiveness • Young people are involved in Takeover Day 	<p>On-going</p> <p>December 2012</p> <p>May</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>November</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
7	Benchmarking with other authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to meet the statutory duty for improving young people's well-being are benchmarked across the South East region 	Ongoing
8	Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback to young people is provided through youth forums and www.oxme.info including in the "you said, we did" format Feedback to the CYPWAG from the AAAGs is published on the www.activitiesoxfordshire.info site including data demonstrating effectiveness of the site, evaluation from young people about the quality of the local offer 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) 	<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

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Voting if required will be in accordance with the Procedure Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution.

Reporting

Reports to the Group will be received with the agenda and provided ten days in advance of the meeting.

October 2012

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