Division(s): All	
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# 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in September 2011 with the creation of the Early Intervention Service, previous structures for reporting to Members are no longer applicable.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 voung 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 Wellbeing 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 9Section 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.

Department for Education June 2012

### Rationale and scope of the duty

- 1. With the right supportive relationships, strong ambitions and good opportunities all young people can realise their potential and be positive and active members of society. Most get these from and through their families and friends, their school or college and their wider community enabling them to do well and to prepare for adult life. All young people benefit from additional opportunities and support, but some young people and their families, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, need specific additional and early help to address their challenges and realise their potential.
- 2. It is therefore local authorities' duty to secure, so far is reasonably practicable, equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being. This includes youth work and other services and activities that:
- a. Connect young people with their communities, enabling them to belong and contribute to society, including through volunteering, and supporting them to have a voice in decisions which affect their lives;
- b. offer young people opportunities in safe environments to take part in a wide range of sports, arts, music and other activities, through which they can develop a strong sense of belonging, socialise safely with their peers, enjoy social mixing, experience spending time with older people, and develop relationships with adults they trust;
- c. support the personal and social development of young people through which they build the capabilities they need for learning, work, and the transition to adulthood communication, confidence and agency, creativity, managing feelings, planning and problem solving, relationships and leadership, and resilience and determination;
- d. improve young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- e. help those young people at risk of dropping out of learning or not achieving their full potential to engage and attain in education or training; and
- f. raise young people's aspirations, build their resilience, and inform their decisions and thereby reducing teenage pregnancy, risky behaviours such as substance misuse, and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

### Responsibilities of local authorities

### Involving young people

3. Local authorities must take steps to ascertain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them, in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). They should establish and maintain structured arrangements for doing so. To inform continuous improvement, these arrangements should enable young people to inspect and report at least annually on the quality and accessibility of provision. As appropriate they should also be involved actively in service design, delivery and governance. Young people should receive the support they need to participate,

ensuring representation of the full diversity of local young people, and those who may not otherwise have a voice.

Securing access to sufficient services and activities

- 4. The Government will not prescribe which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. They should take 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 to:
- a. understand the needs of local young people, particularly the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, taking full account of equality and diversity issues;
- b. enable parents and communities to meet young people's needs wherever possible, and engage businesses and other employers to contribute funding and expertise to help enhance and sustain local provision;
- c. plan how aspirational personal and social development programmes, including National Citizen Service, and youth work and youth workers can contribute to meeting the needs of young people and reduce demand for more specialist services;
- d. determine the mix of open access, targeted, preventative and specialist provision needed to meet local needs, and how to integrate all services around young people;
- e. decide what facilities are needed and how to make these available and accessible, wherever possible maximising the utilisation and potential of all local partners' assets including any Myplace centres and other high quality youth facilities;
- f. determine which services and facilities need public funding and which can be secured through other means so that public funding is targeted primarily on young people at risk of poor outcomes;
- g. determine which services and facilities can be delivered by third parties so that the local authority delivers directly only where it is clearly best placed to do so;
- h. plan how to best support and grow the role of voluntary, community, and faith organisations, including through a transparent commissioning process, given the benefits the sector can bring to work with young people, families and communities;
- i. agree priorities for publically funded services and facilities with local partners and how these can be most effectively and efficiently delivered, including considering with their employees the options for them to set up and transfer into a public service mutual in line with their 'Right to Provide';
- j. ensure providers have the capacity and skills to deliver effective services to young people, by learning from good practice and developing their workforce;
- k. publicise effectively to young people and their families the overall local offer of all services and activities available for young people locally;
- I. put in place actively-managed systems for assuring the quality of local services and driving improvement, including in response to feedback from young people,
- m. publish at least annually details of the feedback young people have given on the quality of the local offer and of how they have influenced local decisions; and

- 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):
SEC	CURING ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT SERVICE	S 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> <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>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</li> </ul>	October, January, April, July Ongoing
		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	October, January, April

		<ul> <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> <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>	July
2	Ensure the local offer is well publicised and understood by young people	<ul> <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> <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>	On-going On-going
3	Provide additional opportunities to increase the local offer (through OCC)	The Positive Activities Fund provides funding for projects against set criteria – bids are made by young people and funding decisions funding are made by a young people's PAF panel.	Monthly  Monthly

		<ul> <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> <li>Funding criteria available on <a href="https://www.oxme.info/funding">www.oxme.info/funding</a></li> </ul>	Monthly On-going
4	Measures to contribute to, and influence the services and activities to improve the well-being of young people 2012/13	<ul> <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> </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 date exclusively to the 13 – 19 age group nor providing data over the	February 2013

		same timeframe.		
INV	INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE			
4	Involvement in decision-making	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="https://www.oxme.info">www.oxme.info</a> website	On-going	
		<ul> <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> </ul>	Monthly	
		Panel decisions are posted on the <u>www.oxme.info</u> website	Monthly	
		Young people representatives sit on the <a href="https://www.oxme.info">www.oxme.info</a> steering group and contribute actively to decision making	On-going On-going	
		Young people involved come from the diversity of the population in Oxfordshire and vulnerable young people are particularly supported to be involved		
5	Involvement in evaluation of activities	PAF – young people led evaluation is provided from all successfully funded projects	On-going	
		PAF – young people evaluate the quality of a random sample of successful bids by a visit and direct observation writing up feedback	On-going	
		Chill Out Fund – young people from all projects that receive	On-going	

		<ul> <li>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>	On-going April 2013
6	Involvement in service delivery	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	On-going
		<ul> <li>Children and Young people complete feedback cards providing evaluation of their experiences with the Early Intervention Service</li> </ul>	December 2012
		<ul> <li>Children and young people complete an annual Customer Satisfaction Survey (EIS)</li> </ul>	May
		Young people are regularly involved in topical consultation to elicit views prior to action and then involved to ascertain effectiveness	Ongoing
			November
		Young people are involved in Takeover Day	Ongoing

		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	Actions to meet the statutory duty for improving young people's well-being are benchmarked across the South East region	Ongoing
8	Feedback	<ul> <li>Feedback to young people is provided through youth forums and <a href="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="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> </ul>	Ongoing October, January, April, July
		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)	February and September

# Appendices:

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



### **Children & Young People's Board**

## Young People's Well-being Group

### **Terms of Reference**

The Young People's Well-being Group (YPWG) is a standing advisory group established to oversee Oxfordshire County Council's compliance with the Statutory Duty to improve young people's well-being through access to leisure time services and activities (section 507B of the Education Act 1996, inserted by Section 6 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006). The Act gives local authorities a responsibility to ensure young people have access to positive services and activities in their leisure-time.

The key activities of the Group relate to the Council's 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, in accordance with the revised statutory guidance published in June 2012: "statutory guidance for local authorities on services and activities to improve young people's wellbeing" (attached as annex 1)

### Membership

#### **Elected Members**

Oxfordshire County Councillors:

5 non-executive councillors on the nomination of the political groups according to political balance, to reflect as far as possible the geographic areas of the county; the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People (ex officio)

### **County Council Officers**

Early Intervention Service - Senior Manager or nominated deputy

Early Intervention Service - Service Manager, Youth Engagement and Opportunities or nominated deputy

Early Intervention Service - Opportunities Co-ordinator or nominated deputy

Early Intervention Service – Accreditation and Opportunities Manager or nominated deputy

Joint Commissioning – Public Engagement Manager or nominated deputy

### Other

I member nominated through Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action

### Management

A Chairman drawn from the (non-executive) elected member representatives will be selected by the YPWG every 3 years.

The Group will meet formally twice a year. Additional meetings may be arranged at the discretion of the Chairman.

The agenda will be agreed by the Group Chairman with agenda items drawn from the group members

The Group will be managed through the Early Intervention Service officers who will provide secretarial support.

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

