

- Title:** The Services for Young Peoples, Joint Commissioning Strategy'
- Author(s):** Kerry Clarke - Strategic Commissioner Children, Youth and Families, Brighton & Hove City Council
- Purpose:** To inform the Strategic Partnership of the new Joint Commissioning Strategy and to start a discussion on potential future joint working to ensure we are doing all we can for you people as a city.

1. Summary and Policy Context

- 1.1 Statutory Guidance on Section 507B Education Act 1996 sets a requirement for all local authorities to provide sufficient positive leisure time activities for its young people which promote their wellbeing and are delivered using youth work methods and approaches.
- 1.2 The Government statement Positive for Youth: A new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13 to 19, issued in December 2011 includes a commitment in 2012 to publish and consult on revised statutory guidance on the duty of Local Authorities to secure activities and services for young people
- 1.3 This strategy fulfils the commitment in the council's Corporate Plan to redesign the way in which youth services are delivered to ensure young people have the opportunity to be active citizens through participating in community activities.
- 1.4 This Strategy is one of the first outcomes of the new approach to intelligent commissioning across the city. Produced with young people, partners and staff it is based on an assessment of need and analysis of current provision. By bringing together the council and its partners we have been able to identify more than £6,450,000 that is spent on commissioning services for young people and to set out a strategy for improving the coordination, impact and value for money of those services.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Services for Young People, Joint Commissioning Strategy is noted (link to full document at bottom of this report).

- 2.2 That the Strategic Partnership agrees to engage with the work of Strategic Commissioner – Children, Youth and Families to develop and implement the strategy city-wide and to engage over possible future work on Youth Services, potential areas may be:
- Apprentices
 - Business sponsorships/ grants for youth opportunities / activities.
 - Placement experience for students which could build frontline delivery for specific projects.

3. Summary of Services for Young People 2012-2015: Joint Commissioning Strategy

- 3.1. The Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy document summarises the Youth Review process and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The assessment found very positive youth services that are valued by young people, their families and communities and are delivered by a skilled and committed workforce. The assessment also found:
- Young people are unclear about what is on offer and services vary between different parts of the city.
 - Good research evidence validates open access and targeted youth work and youth provision but it is difficult to assess the impact and comparative value for money of local services commissioned from the council's delivery unit and external providers.
 - Too many young people need specialist services without having received support from youth work or youth provision.
- 3.2. The strategy report then describes the outcomes for young people identified during the review and assessment process. They are:
- to create 'a city where teenage years are safe and rewarding, and where young people are supported to achieve their full potential; where
 - Family and community stability is improved through early intervention services that enable parents, carers and young people to develop their relationships and behave in a responsible way.
 - The resilience of young people, especially those who are vulnerable or at risk, is improved through advice and targeted early intervention services that increase their confidence, self-esteem, motivation and also their ability to communicate and deal with conflict, adversity and the challenges of adult life.
 - Young people have the opportunity to be active citizens, participate in community activities and shape the services that

affect their lives so that values, expectations and responsibilities are shared and understood.

- Young people are able to enjoy their leisure time, using the opportunities on offer through open access youth provision and cultural, sports and other positive activities across the city, so that they are inspired and challenged

3.3. The report then sets out an innovative strategy to achieve those outcomes by:

- Jointly commissioning services, taking full advantage of the council's transformation programme, intelligent commissioning and partnerships.
- Commissioning integrated youth work and youth provision, enabling providers to collaborate even more closely to deliver services that are accessible to all young people and also address the needs of those who are vulnerable or at risk.
- Empowering young people to engage with their communities and to shape the services that affect their lives.
- Procuring services in a fair and consistent way, monitoring all providers to ensure services are effective, evidence based and value for money.

3.4. The commissioning strategy is designed to transform youth work and youth provision, and will significantly change universal services for young people. To achieve this safely there will need to be a managed transitional period to ensure services are not disrupted i.e.

- A new Joint Commissioning Board of officers from the council and a range of partners has been established to coordinate the commissioning of services for young people
- The council has been awarded Breakthrough Project status by the Local Government Association's 'Local Government Leadership Centre'. This will fund an independent broker to work with community and voluntary sector providers and the council's youth service to 'co-produce' proposals for the delivery of neighbourhood services as described in the strategy. A parallel process with city wide providers of specialist equalities services will be facilitated by council officers. Both processes will comply with and develop the tools and frameworks set out in the appendices to the strategy i.e.
 - Joint commissioning framework; Integrated care pathway; Baseline summary of commissioning activity and investment;
 - Neighbourhood and city profiles and performance frameworks
 - Preliminary governance framework
 - Preliminary funding agreement timeline

- A short life project group is responsible for the design and implementation of procurement and performance management arrangements. This includes exploration of flexible arrangements for funding agreements which will be compliant with procurement regulations and consistent with the principles of intelligent commissioning. The proposed timescale shown in the strategy could be amended if an earlier agreement can be made within an acceptable timeframe.
- 3.5. Details of baseline funding are held within the strategy.
- Two tables summarise estimated resources available to joint commissioners and to existing community and voluntary sector providers
 - Funding for 2012-14 is subject to the council's budget setting process.

4. Community Engagement and Consultation

- 4.1 The Services for Young People: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-15 went to public consultation during the summer and resulted in 348 responses, of which 20% were from young people. During the open consultation the Commissioner for Youth Services held four workshops with 46 staff and partners to ensure they were clear about the process. Brighton University completed a report summarising the issues and themes emerging from the consultation. The council's Children and Young People's Participation Team led various consultation exercises with young people and the Commissioner for Youth Services involved groups of young people in the Equality Impact Assessment of the strategy.
- 4.2. The draft strategy and consultation feedback report were presented to a Panel of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) on October 17th and November 28th 2011, and to the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum Children's Network on September 21st and December 14th 2011. Their feedback and recommendations have informed the final Youth Commissioning Strategy.
- 4.3 As a result significant changes have been made to the final strategy to give greater priority to:
- Balancing mainstream neighborhood based services with dedicated provision for young people who are from black and minority ethnic communities, who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender or who have a disability or special educational needs.

- Providing early help to young people who use or are referred to specialist services without having received support from youth work or youth provision.
- Taking a co-production approach to enable local youth work providers to collaborate and develop innovative delivery arrangements
- Strengthening governance arrangements fully to engage young people in the design, delivery and review of services and enable them to engage with their communities

4.4 At the Children and Young People Cabinet Member Meeting on 20th January 2012 the strategy was agreed.

The strategy is available [here](#) for viewing.