

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for People

to
Cabinet
on

5th November 2013

Report prepared by: Sue Hadley, Head of Children's Services
and Carol Compton, Group Manager, Integrated Youth
Support Services.

Future Direction of the Youth Service

People Scrutiny Committee

Executive Councillor: Councillor James Courtenay

Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the recommendations of the cross-party Cabinet working party established in March 2013 to review the future strategic direction of the Youth Service

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet accept the recommendations of the Youth Services cross-party Cabinet working Party.

3. Background

- 3.1 In September 2012 the then Children and Learning Scrutiny Committee considered current youth service provision, in particular the use of the Shoebury youth centre. From this debate it became clear that there were complex issues to consider as to how the youth service should be delivered by the Council and the voluntary sector going forward.
- 3.2 In March 2013 a cross-party Cabinet working party was established.
- 3.3 The detailed background to this work, membership of the working party and issues considered are outlined in the report attached as appendix A.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 There is an option not to accept the recommendations of the working party. However this will then not deliver a youth service targeted at the greatest need or offer the potential for budget savings.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The working party has developed proposals that identify how the Council's youth service could be reconfigured to best meet the needs of the most vulnerable and excluded young people in Southend whilst better supporting the community sector to develop enhanced provision. This will mean that the Council makes best use of the resources allocated to the youth service.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

These recommendations will contribute to a safer Southend and also to improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1 The proposed redesign of the Youth Service would be able deliver £150k of savings on premises and supplies & services from the current Youth Centres provision.

- 6.2.2 The Cross-Party recommendations also refer to the consideration of capital investment to remodel the Shoebury Youth Centre. Currently no capital budget exists for this proposal and if Members agree to the relevant recommendations then this will need to be considered in the Capital Programme Review as part of the 2014/15 Budget Process.

- 6.2.3 Any surplus assets identified, as part of approving the Cross-Party recommendations, will be transferred to the portfolio of non-operational land for appropriate consideration on their use/disposal.

6.3 Legal Implications

These recommendations are in line with current legislation – see section 4.4 of appendix A.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

These recommendations include a one off capital investment to remodel the Shoebury Youth centre. If agreed in principle this will need to be fully costed. However this could increase the income of the centre and support the potential relocation of other Council services. The recommendations also avoid the need

for capital expenditure on the Focus building which would no longer be required to deliver the service. See also 6.2.2 and 6.2.3 above.

6.6 Consultation

These recommendations are from a cross-party Cabinet working party which unanimously agreed them. A consultation with young people has been undertaken and is reported in appendix A. 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

These recommendations will ensure we target our Council youth services on our most disadvantaged young people.

6.8 Risk Assessment

There are no risks identified.

6.9 Value for Money

This redesign will allow for a saving of 150k, if required, with no loss of staffing capacity.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Targeting Council youth services at, among other groups, young people at risk of offending or of anti-social behaviour will assist in keeping the community safe.

6.11 Environmental Impact

None

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A Report of Youth Service Cross-Party Cabinet Working Party, October 2013