



Future of the Youth Services

Edwina Grant

Deputy Chief Executive &
Director of Children's Services

14th September 2010

Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny



Purpose of the presentation

- To provide Members with some thoughts to inform their debate
- To set out some of the challenges
- To talk about the performance framework
- To discuss the timing of next steps



Information

- Youth Service history and development
- Policy position in the last Government
- New emergent thinking – The Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude said about the new national citizenship service (NCS)

“we know that across the country many young people are ready to stand up and make a difference to their local community. We see NCS as key to building a Big Society, to increasing engagement, cohesion and responsibility for young people across the country. This programme will allow a whole generation of young people to make a difference in their local area and play an active role in making society a better place”



Challenges

- Budget
- The role of Councils in the Big Society – the emergent thinking on the engagement of voluntary sector and third sector
- Policy direction not yet clear
- Link with the three children's services work programmes
 - ❖ Child Poverty, Early Intervention & Prevention
 - ❖ Learning Transformation and transforming our relations with schools
 - ❖ Protecting truly vulnerable children
- Note: The Government has stopped using Every Child Matters themes of making a positive contribution and economic wellbeing, which was the locus of this work. We are asked to talk about local delivery and local solutions instead



Challenges

- Measuring performance will need to be re-configured as the Government has made changes to the way that performance measures will be available including dis-applying the requirement to consult young people through the “Tell Us” survey. Local Authorities have not been required to report on contacts, participation and recorded and accredited outcomes since 2008/09. At that time, the previous Bedfordshire CC was performing well above benchmark
- New delivery mechanisms for young people in the criminal justice system and the measurement of that performance is not clear
- 14 – 19 funding has been changed and early indications suggest that skills funding will be provided in line with regeneration initiatives built on local economic partnerships

Current Performance in Central Bedfordshire



Central
Bedfordshire

	Benchmarks 2009/10	Actuals 1 April 09 to March 31 st '10
Contacts with young people aged 13 - 19	5650	7106
Contacts with young people as participants	3390	3540
Participants gaining a recorded outcome	2034	2223
Participants gaining an accredited outcome	1017	1103



Quality Assurance

- Managers auditing practice through the year will also look at the following when in supervision sessions with youth workers:
 - Evidence of listening to young people
 - Good records of outcomes
 - Watching sessions
 - Taking account of any external evaluation



Good Practice examples

- Work with the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Improvement Plan
- The launch and work of the Youth Parliament
- Personalised curriculum work with Upper Schools
- Community transformation programmes
- Anti-bullying work
- Young inspectors
- Work with other services, e.g. Council leisure and countryside access service and work with the PCT



Next Steps

- Today – discussion about the outcome of the Task Force report along with information from this presentation
- Nationally – October spending review, future policy direction announcements and work locally to remove Area Based Grant funding activity
- October to December – managers work on options which will be informed by budget decisions
- December? – Scrutiny consideration
- January? – Executive report – exact timings yet to be agreed in the light of other Children’s Services work