

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tuesday 20th October 2015

Securing Economic, Personal and Social success with Young People – The Youth Support Service Annual Report (2014/15)

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Purpose of this report

To provide a summary of work managed by the Central Bedfordshire Youth Support Service (YSS), including:

- The responsibilities the YSS has to Young People
- The range of services the YSS delivers and manages across Central Bedfordshire
- The current performance of the YSS
- The future priorities of the YSS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the findings of the YSS Annual Report for 2014/15 and feedback on current performance
2. Include on the committee forward plan for 2016/17 to receive the YSS Annual Report for 2015/16

Issues

1. The Youth Support Service (YSS) directly delivers and manages a range of services with Young People across Central Bedfordshire. These services meet a number of statutory responsibilities but also the local aspirations of young people. However, there is no one central reporting process for the YSS that would currently capture the range and scope it is involved in on a day to day basis.
2. In response to the above, the YSS agreed to develop its first Annual Report for 2014/15. It was designed to clearly demonstrate:
 - Our Aspiration as a YSS
 - Our Responsibilities to young people

- Our principles and how we are driven by the needs of young people
 - Our delivery, including support for the the most vulnerable young people
 - Our performance
 - Our budget and resources
 - Our future priorities
 - Our monitoring
3. The Annual Report has been shared with colleagues across Children's Services and externally with partner agencies.
4. The full report can be found in **Appendix A**

Council Priorities

The Youth Support Service Annual Report 2014/15 demonstrates how the service contributed to a number of Council Priorities, in particular:

Improved educational attainment:

- Young people are supported by the YSS to improve their **educational attainment**, make progress and achieve their goals throughout their learning journey. They are given appropriate knowledge and skills to enter and succeed in the workplace
- Young people are assisted to have high aspirations that are encouraged and supported by their families. They are offered a range of services through the YSS, including **early help and support to improve their life chances**.

Promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable:

- The YSS will **protect vulnerable young people**. They are assisted to feel safer and happier as a result of the interventions and support they receive, and are diverted away from offending behaviours
- Young people are assisted to feel **emotionally, physically healthy and feel positive**. With support from the YSS, they are able to make informed choices and understand the impact of harmful risky behaviours

Corporate Implications

There are no corporate implications that result from this report.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications that result from this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications that result from this report.

Equalities Implications

Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Youth Support Service supports these statutory duties by:

- Supporting Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities to make informed decisions regarding their future Careers
- Enabling access to learning for young people who are seeking asylum and being looked after by Central Bedfordshire Council
- Promoting the voice of all Young People in active decision making across our services

Conclusion and next Steps

In order to meet our statutory responsibilities and local aspirations, the Youth Support Service will continue to manage a range of services with young people across Central Bedfordshire. The YSS Annual Report sets out these responsibilities and aspirations, our performance and the future direction of the service. This approach will be replicated by the YSS and made available to partners by July 2016

Appendices

Appendix A – Youth Service Annual Report 2014/15