

# **SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Meeting date: 14 September 2018**

**From: Executive Director People**

## **Youth Service Provision**

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide the Board with an update on Youth Services in Cumbria. The report provides a brief history of the Youth Service in Cumbria, summarises the current provision.

### **2.0 Issues for Scrutiny**

- 2.1 To note the current position and planned future of Youth Services in Cumbria.
- 2.2 To consider how the Council can support better engagement in Eden and South Lakeland between local youth service providers and Cumbria Youth Alliance.
- 2.3 To make recommendations to the executive on plans for future provision.

### **3.0 Background**

3.1 The Youth Service in Cumbria is an informal partnership approach to delivering the broad spectrum of youth services for 11-19's, from universal through to increased needs and risks. There are three key elements to the service.

- 1) 0-19 grants through Local Committees
- 2) Voluntary youth sector infrastructure support through Cumbria Youth Alliance
- 3) Targeted Youth Support through People Directorate – Children and Young People Services

Operational oversight of the 'service' sits with the Service Manager – Targeted Youth Support which sits within the Children and Young People Service of People.

Young people move up and down the 'youth service spectrum' depending on what is happening in their lives. The aim is for all young people to thrive. In order to thrive, some young people at times may need advice and support, they may need early help with an identified need, they may need more targeted interventions as their needs increase, or they may need to be supported into or stepped down from statutory social care or mental health services.

The approach to delivering Youth Services in Cumbria has changed significantly over the years and the table below summarises those changes.

### 3.2 Brief History and Timeline of Youth Services in Cumbria

2000-2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the decision to merge the Youth Service and Careers Service to form Connexions (now Inspira).</li> <li>• % of the Youth Service budget was transferred to Local Committees to fund youth provision in their district.</li> </ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumbria Youth Support Services (CYSS) was developed as an integrated youth service with responsibility for commissioning youth services, improving quality, and youth sector training. Governance - Elected Members, CYSS, Connexions (Inspira), and Cumbria Youth Alliance.</li> <li>• % of the Youth Service budget was transferred to Local Committees to fund youth provision in their district.</li> </ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Services restructure. Commissioning function centralised.</li> <li>• Strategic and operational responsibility and oversight for Youth Services remained in Children's Services.</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet approved the recommendation to decommission the 11-19 Early Help contract and bring the service in-house with a £550K financial saving in Year 1 and £150K saving in subsequent years.</li> <li>• Cabinet approved the recommendation to commission the 0-12 Early Help contract to Action for Children, Barnardos and Howgill.</li> <li>• Cabinet approved the recommendation to re-commission the Youth Sector Infrastructure Support contract to Cumbria Youth Alliance.</li> <li>• Cabinet approved the recommendation to transfer the funding for smaller sub-contracted youth service providers, previously funded by the 11-19 contract, to Local Committees to ensure continuation of local services. Only providers receiving £20K per annum or less were transferred to Local Committees.</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11-19 staff were TUPE'd into the Council from Inspira, Youth Cumbria and Nacro.</li> <li>• Drop Zone, a large sub-contracted provider in Barrow, chose not to TUPE and decided to 'go it alone'.</li> <li>• Funding for smaller previously sub-contracted youth services providers were transferred to Local Committees.</li> </ul>
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal restructure, assimilation and voluntary redundancy for in-house 11-19 Early Help youth services.</li> </ul>
2016-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete reshaping and development of Targeted Youth Support (in-house Early Help 11-19)</li> </ul>
2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned integration of commissioned and in-house 0-19 Early Help Services and Public Health children's well-being services.</li> <li>• Contract extensions proposed for current Children's Centres and Public Health commissioned providers.</li> </ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned launch of new 0-19 Service Model</li> </ul>

### 3.3. Summary of Current Provision

#### **Local Committees**

Local Committees are responsible for universal youth provision through local community developments, local partnerships and grants. Their 0-19 grant funding is not ring fenced so it can be used for other local developments, however this is now a rare occurrence as Members are keen to see universal youth provision in

identified wards and specialist youth provision across their districts. Local Committees are supported by Area Managers to develop projects and administer the grants. Community Services hold the lists of all 0-19 Grants in the 6 Local Committee areas.

Area Managers will contact Targeted Youth Support and/or Cumbria Youth Alliance if supporting information, advice or recommendations are required prior to Member decision-making. In some districts, Targeted Youth Support and Cumbria Youth Alliance are engaged by Community Services in local project development. This engagement provides the project group with youth service specific support, advice, knowledge, training and expertise. It does not provide service delivery.

### **Cumbria Youth Alliance**

Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA) are commissioned by CCC at £71K per annum to act as the infrastructure body for the voluntary youth sector. Their annual Service Delivery Plan (SDP) has evolved to keep pace with changing policy and decision-making. Their current SDP includes supporting their membership with:

- Governance
- Quality Systems
- Workforce Training
- Volunteer Capacity Building
- Fundraising and Sustainability
- Informed Decision-Making and Representation

*(Appendix 1 lists the CYA membership by District and County)*

In 2017-18 Cumbria Youth Alliance supported their membership to draw down an additional £1.3 Million grant funding into Cumbria through fundraising and sustainability support. The largest grant was £492,500 from the Big Lottery to help young people in Allerdale, Copeland and Barrow deal with emotional difficulties before they develop into more serious mental health issues. The three year project brings together a partnership of statutory and third sector agencies to work jointly to address key issues affecting young people in Cumbria's coastal communities. CYA have identified that there is additional and accessible funding available in these coastal areas e.g. Coalfields, ESF and Sellafield. In other areas there is less readily available sources of charitable funding most notably in Eden and South Lakeland.

In the previous year CYA supported smaller groups to draw down an additional £1 Million of grant funding into Cumbria. This has been used to keep these youth organisations afloat.

Throughout August and September 2018 Cumbria Youth Alliance are undertaking a mapping exercise of their membership across the county, gathering all known information about youth groups in the localities, identifying any issues, as well as other positive and negative influencing factors.

In 2015, CYA and Young Cumbria were tasked by Eden and South Lakeland Local Committees to map youth provision in their areas and this is being refreshed in 2018 to keep pace with changes in provision. (This information could be made available to the Board when it is ready). Providers in Eden and South Lakeland chose not to fully engage in the subsequent offer of support from CYA despite the mapping identifying service issues and that offer being significant.

CYA have also identified that there are lots of small universal sports clubs and boxing clubs across the county. They are not members of CYA but they are thriving in local communities. Their membership is likely through Active Cumbria and/or Barrow Sports Council (Barrow AFC).

Cumbria Youth Alliance has consistently overachieved on all of their annual targets for a number of years, adding value to the 'youth service'. The Council's Service Lead for the CYA contract is the Service Manager – Targeted Youth Support.

### **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)**

TYS are an in-house early help service providing holistic support for young people aged 11-19 and their families. TYS contribute to the Council Plan, the Improvement Plan, and Early Help Strategy. TYS aims are to:

- act early to achieve better outcomes
- help young people and their families to cope
- support young people and their families to stay out of statutory services if possible
- reduce the number of re-referrals back into the safeguarding and early help system
- encourage resilience and independence by building on strengths
- help young people and their families to identify their own solutions and to take responsibility for their own future

TYS are currently integrated into the People Directorate – Children and Young People Services.

The majority of service delivery is to act as the Lead Professional for early help case work; co-ordinating a multi-agency Team around the Family (TAF); and working directly with young people and their families in family homes and community settings across levels of early help intervention.

Since 2017, TYS have reduced their age range to age 8+ for exceptional circumstances. For example, if there is no provider willing or able to take on a stuck or drifting early help case from the Early Help and Family Support Panels.

TYS are also responsible for Youth Participation, Youth Engagement in Fire and Rescue programmes, and 'all age' return to home interviews for those going missing who are not on a statutory plan.

TYS are subject to internal quality audit as part of the Quality Assurance Framework and would be included in external inspection from our external regulator, Ofsted.

### TYS Service Summary

Level	Service Summary	Outcome
Emerging Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to home interviews (non -statutory)</li> <li>• Youth Participation - Step down support and signposting for young people moving from Early Help to Universal</li> </ul>	Resilient families able to help themselves

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Participation - youth councils, youth voice, Make Your Mark, UK Youth Parliament, LSCB youth perspectives and advisory boards</li> <li>• TYS Fire and Rescue – Fire Cadets, Young Firefighters, F.I.R.E.S, SRP support, case worker support</li> <li>• Contribute to a targeted universal Schools Offer (group work)</li> </ul>	
Identified Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordinate/Lead Professional - Early Help cases</li> <li>• Initiate and co-ordinate Early Help cases as a result of a return to home interview</li> </ul>	Supported families able to achieve outcomes
Increased Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordinate/Lead Professional – Initiate and co-ordinate complex cases for families with multiple issues</li> <li>• Co-ordinate/Lead Professional - Step down to Early Help from Child in Need (CiN)</li> <li>• Co-ordinate/ Lead Professional - Transfer co-ordination of complex Early Help cases to TYS through the Early Help and Family Support Panels</li> <li>• Key Worker - Edge of Care Outreach Support for open CiN cases</li> <li>• Joint C&amp;F Assessment/screening with Social Workers for those on the threshold of CiN and Early Help</li> <li>• Contribute to Channel Panels for radicalised young people</li> <li>• Any other interim, short or longer term support required by Children and Families Social Care in districts to relieve local pressures</li> </ul>	Keeping families together and able to maintain change

### 3.4 Impact

TYS and the voluntary youth sector (through CYA) use an evaluation tool called Outcomes Star to demonstrate and measure strengths and positive change for young people and their families. Outcomes Star can be used across the spectrum of youth services from universal to targeted interventions. CYA are also supporting a CCC Community Services led tenancy project for adults in Barrow and have offered to train them to use Outcomes Star as an impact tool.

Outcomes Star is a strengths based tool focusing on the things service users do well. Young people are engaged in the process throughout and recognise their positive change and strengths. They also love doing it as it is simple and effective. Many local authorities use Outcomes Star and many funders recognise it.

TYS also use Signs of Safety, Graded Care Profile and CSE Assessment tools when a safeguarding risk, worry or danger is identified.

In terms of strategic impact, defining relevant performance indicators and measurable data that impacts not just on the 'youth service' but on wider services for children, young people and families is a good way forward. For example, TYS contribute to performance indicators to reduce the number of re-referrals into statutory services and early help. TYS are clearly able to evidence this through re-referral data.

### 3.5 Conclusion

Cumbria's Youth Service has evolved from a traditional youth service that it inherited in the 1990's.

Youth services in Cumbria have used creativity and innovation to create a varied service, with an ever-changing resource, which continues to support young people at all levels of need. This is in contrast to some local authorities where a youth service is no longer evident in any form. It demonstrates the 'Cumbrian spirit' to keep children, young people and their families at the heart of our plans and service delivery.

All three elements of the Youth Service in Cumbria are vital and interlinked.

There are still gaps in universal provision due to limited charitable funding and a lack of engagement in the Cumbria Youth Alliance offer, particularly in Eden and South Lakeland. This continues to pose a challenge as we cannot validate youth service provider's governance arrangements, safety, finances, quality and capability unless they engage through CYA.

**Lynn Berryman, Assistant Director Children and Families**

*14 September 2018*

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*Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk\* is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Member Services, following which please delete this sentence.*

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – CYA Membership by District and County

**Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions**  
*[including Local Committees]*

### **Background Papers**

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