




Report to:	Children, Families and Education Committee	Date:	1 October 2015
Report title:	Youth and Adolescent Services Review		
Report from:	Colin Stewart, Executive Head of Education and Early Intervention		
Ward/Areas affected:	Borough Wide		
Chair of Committee/Lead Member:	Councillor Wendy Mathys		
Author(s)/Contact Number(s):	Colin Stewart, Executive Head Education and Early Intervention 020 8770 5605		
Corporate Plan Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Open Council • A Fair Council • A Smart Council 		
Open/Exempt:	Open, 1 Exempt Appendix		
Signed:		Date:	18 September 2015

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out options for the future of Youth and Adolescent Services in Sutton.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Committee agree to a public consultation on the recommended option, option 5.

3. Background

3.1 The principles of both radically redesigning existing services and exploring alternative models of delivery form the basis of the Directorate's approach to securing further savings in Phase Two of the Children's Services Redesign Programme. As part of the Children's Services Redesign Programme, services within the Education and Early Intervention Division are being reviewed to consider the most suitable delivery models to take these services forward in the context of council wide budget pressures. As part of this work, a review has been carried out to consider the options for the future delivery of Youth and Adolescent Services within Sutton.

3.2 This review includes the following services:

- **The Youth Offer** – currently delivered from three sites across the borough, comprising one to one, group work and open access events including Youth FM and drop in sessions.
- **Youth Engagement** – including Youth Parliament.
- **Targeted Youth Support** – comprising NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and Raising Participation Age work.



- **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** – management and administration of the Sutton Open Award Scheme (SOAS) and license holder for the borough.

3.3 A set of six options has been developed, details of which are set out in Appendix A.

4. Issues

4.1 Should members agree to a consultation on the future delivery of Youth and Adolescent Services, the options set out in Appendix A will form the basis for a consultation on future options for the Youth and Adolescent Services. This consultation would form part of the council's Sutton Future programme and take place in October and November 2015. The Consultation would engage with both current, potential and past service users as well as the wider community, other council services and partners, using a variety of means including face to face meetings, surveys and workshops. Feedback from this consultation would return to the February 2016 CFE Committee.

5. Options Considered

5.1 This paper seeks authority to consult on the Youth and Adolescent Service options set out in Appendix A. The proposal to members is that the council should carry out a consultation on option 5, but also making the public aware of options 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4 and 6 to fulfil the criteria of appropriate consultation. Specifically, the option recommended for further consideration is as follows: –

Option 5: Cease to provide all but statutory duties

6. Impacts and Implications

Financial

6.1 Appendix A sets out the running costs associated with each of the proposed Youth and Adolescent Service options, in the context of the council's requirement to deliver £40m savings by 2018/19.

6.2 The approved budget for Youth Services in 2015/16 is £1.104m, excluding central support costs. Options 1-6 indicate the savings that are expected to be achieved by each proposal.

6.3 Any consultation costs will be met from the council's Sutton's Future budget and existing service budgets.

Legal

6.4 The Youth and Adolescent Service is provided to fulfil the Council's functions to provide positive activities for young people under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 and its functions in relation to ensuring young people's participation in education, employment or training under the Education and Skills Act 2008.

- 6.5 Under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide positive leisure-time activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being. The Council's duty is to secure so far as reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being and personal and social development. 'Positive leisure-time activities' are defined as sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of young people's well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of young people's well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. The educational leisure-time activities and facilities must include activities and facilities for the improvement of young people's personal and social development.
- 6.6 The LA has power to provide facilities itself or to make arrangements with or assist other persons to provide activities or facilities. Before providing facilities itself, the LA has to consider whether it is expedient for provision to be made by someone other than the LA. The LA is required to publicise information about its offer. Charges may be made for facilities and activities provided under the section.
- 6.7 Under section 507B the council has a specific duty to take steps to ascertain the views of relevant young people about positive leisure time activities and secure that their views are taken into account.
- 6.8 It is for the Council to determine what level of service should be offered to meet the duty to provide a sufficient service. In deciding this, the Council must have regard to statutory guidance. The relevant Guidance is set out in Appendix C.
- 6.9 The Education and Skills Act 2008 (ESA) raised the participation age so that pupils who left year 11 in summer 2013 had to continue in education or training for at least a further year until June 2014. Pupils who left in summer 2014 or beyond need to continue until at least their 18th birthday. Local Authorities were given responsibilities to support young people to access education or training and to reduce the proportion of young people who are NEET (not in employment education or training). Specifically, the Council's duties under the Act are:
- To ensure that its functions are exercised so as to promote the effective participation of young people in its area in education or training (section 10)
 - To make arrangements to enable it to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of young people who should be participating in education or training but who are NEET (section 12). Local authorities are required to collect information about young people in their area to identify those who are not or who are at risk of not participating and target resources on those who need them most.
 - To make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible such services as it considers appropriate to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training. This duty applies to young persons aged 13-20 and young adults aged 20-25 who have special educational needs (section 68).



- 6.10 The council must have regard to statutory guidance on its functions under the Act. The latest Guidance was published in September 2014 and relevant extracts are set out in Appendix C.
- 6.11 Before considering any changes to Youth and Adolescent Services, the Council will need to meet its duty to consult relevant young people. Consultation will need to be designed to meet the needs of young people so as to ascertain their views. The Supreme Court has recently considered the requirements for consultation and have confirmed the following principles:
- The consultation must be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage;
 - Sufficient reasons and information must be given to enable consideration and response;
 - Adequate time must be given for consideration and response and;
 - The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account.
- 6.12 In addition the Court considered that the local authorities should refer in their consultations to all options, including ones that the council was not minded to pursue.
- 6.13 Following consultation the Committee will need to consider the responses to consultation and ensure that the Council's statutory duties under the ESA 2008 continue to be met and that a sufficient service is provided under section 508C of the Education Act 1996.

7. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix Letter	Title
A	Youth and Adolescent Services Options Paper
B	Youth and Adolescent Services Current Service Information
C	Statutory Guidance on the Council's Duties relating to Youth and Adolescent Services
D	Cost and staffing assumptions for options [<i>Exempt</i>]

Background Documents
None

Audit Trail		
Version	Final	Date: 18 September 2015
Consultation with other officers		
Officer	Comments Sought	Comments checked by
Finance	Yes	Sue Holmes
Legal	Yes	Sarah Willis