

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 27 August 2007

REPORT ON: Dundee Community Learning & Development Youth Work Strategy 2007-2011

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 407-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Committee on the strategic development of Community Learning & Development (CLD) Youth Work in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee approve:

2.1 The strategic development priorities and the key actions described in this Report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The costs arising from this report can be contained within the Council's existing CLD Youth Work budget.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

The CLD Youth Work Strategy builds on existing work in engaging young people in Dundee in community planning and thus supports the underpinning principles of sustainability, social inclusion and active citizenship.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

This report falls outwith the scope of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4.3 Anti-Poverty

The CLD Youth Work Strategy aims to provide a framework for youth work which will lead to better outcomes and promote inclusion for young people.

The Strategy opens youth work opportunities to all young people with resources being prioritised to those experiencing greatest disadvantage and social exclusion.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Dundee Strategy gives priority to the participation of young people in local community and service planning.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 This report updates Committee Report No. 16-99 - Youth Work Development.

6.2 In March 2007 the Scottish Executive announced the new national Youth Work Strategy titled "Moving Forward: A Strategy for Improving Young Peoples' Chances Through Youth Work".

6.3 The national strategy sets out the long-term vision for youth work as:

- All young people in Scotland being able to benefit from youth work opportunities which make a real difference to their lives.
- A youth work sector equipped and empowered to achieve ongoing positive outcomes for young people now and in the future.

- 6.4 Copies of the national Youth Work Strategy are available in the members lounge.
- 6.5 The national strategy builds on the principles and themes described within the key national policy "Getting It Right For Every Child" (GIRFEC) which also underpins the development of Integrated Children's Services in Dundee.
- 6.6 GIRFEC in turn has developed, in part, from "A Curriculum for Excellence" which sets out the Scottish Executives vision for all children in Scotland as:
- successful learners
 - confident individuals
 - responsible citizens
 - effective contributors
- 6.7 GIRFEC states that to achieve the vision described in 6.6 above every child and young person in Scotland needs to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.
- 6.8 The aim of GIRFEC is to improve outcomes for all children/young people and its key message is that all should receive appropriate support in the right measure and at the right time.
- 6.9 Learning for Young People is one of the three key themes of Community Learning and Development (CLD). The key policy document for CLD is "Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities" published in 2004. The other themes relate to Learning for Adults and Building Community Capacity.
- 6.10 CLD activities are based on a commitment to:
- empowerment
 - inclusion
 - self-determination
 - partnership
- 6.11 CLD contributes to lifelong learning, community regeneration and the national priorities for education by:
- targeting activity to work with excluded and disadvantaged participants.
 - helping agencies and partnerships to work with communities as an important part of community planning and service planning.
 - developing active citizenship.
 - building stronger communities; and
 - supporting personal development and building community capacity.
- 6.12 CLD has a key role to play in Community Planning by enabling individuals and communities to gain the confidence and skills to participate and influence decisions that affect their lives.
- 6.13 In the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work produced by Lifelong Learning United Kingdom (LLUK) the key purpose of youth work is defined as:
- "To work with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and to enable them to gain a voice, influence and place in society".
- 6.14 CLD (Youth Work) has three essential and definitive features. These are:
- Young people take part voluntarily. The young people decide whether to engage or not, and in this respect the power in the relationship rests with the young person.

- Youth Work operates within the young people's own personal and recreational territory and within both their geographic and interest communities. The young person's life experience is respected and forms the basis for shaping activities in negotiation with peers and Community Learning & Development Youth Workers.
- Youth Work recognises the young person and the Youth Worker are partners in a learning process. The young person is recognised as an active partner who can, and should, have opportunities and resources to shape their lives. The relationship and dialogue between the young person and the Youth Worker is central to the learning process.

YouthLink Scotland further defines the nature and purpose of Youth Work as being to:

6.15

- Build self-esteem and self confidence.
- Develop the ability to manage personal and social relationships.
- Create learning and develop new skills.
- Encourage positive group atmospheres.
- Build the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control.
- Develop a "world view" which widens horizons and invites social commitment.

6.16 This report is designed to provide a framework for Community Learning & Development (Youth Work) in Dundee which will deliver better outcomes for young people. These outcomes are defined within "Delivering Change : Understanding the Outcomes of Community Learning and Development", Learning Connections (2006) as the changes that come about as a result of the action we have taken. In this context outcomes for young people are as a result of youth work intervention.

6.17 "Delivering Change : Understanding the Outcomes of Community Learning and Development" focuses on outcomes under two headings. These are:

- personal development; and
- building community capacity.

In this respect CLD (Youth Work):

- supports young people to become confident individuals
- supports young people to become effective contributors
- supports young people to become responsible citizens
- supports young people to become successful learners
- supports young people to become confident, skilled and active members of the community
- supports young people to be active and have more influence

7.0 STRATEGIC REVIEW

7.1 The recent strategic review of the Department's contribution to youth work in Dundee has concluded the following;

7.1.1 The most recent inspection of CLD in Dundee by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMi(e)) assessed youth work as being "very good". This translates as having considerable strengths and provides a very strong platform to continue to improve service delivery.

7.1.2 The Department is concerned with addressing the needs of individual young people generally within group settings.

7.1.3 Nationally the priority age range for youth work remains as 12-25 years. The main age group attracted to youth work opportunities is 12-16 years.

- 7.1.4 Community Learning & Development (Youth) Workers engage with a wide range of partners to add value to local youth work programmes. Key partners include Health, Social Work, Education, Police and the Voluntary Sector as well as colleagues from the Leisure and Communities Department notably Sports Development and Arts sections.
- 7.1.5 In 2006/07 the Department's Youth Work achieved approximately 33,500 contacts with young people which is expanding due to access to external funding.
- 7.1.6 In 2006/07 202 young people achieved accredited learning awards. The majority of these have been achieved by young people engaged in project-based work as opposed to locally-based generic youth work.
- 7.1.7 While progress has been made in developing local and city-level opportunities for young people to be heard by decision-makers there is room for further development. This needs to build on the success of the Dialogue Youth initiative and bring the functions of youth information and youth participation closer together.
- 7.1.8 In terms of planning structures youth work is shared within the CLD Theme Group under Integrated Children's Services (I.C.S.) and the Community Learning Partnership both of which report under the overarching Community Planning framework of the Dundee Partnership.
- 7.1.9 Voluntary sector youth work organisations in Dundee come together in the Cracking Youth Work Forum. Local Authority CLD (Youth Work) is represented in this Forum.

8.0 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- 8.1 CLD (Youth Work) programmes will continue to be available to all young people with priority being given to those experiencing the greatest degree of social exclusion and disadvantage.
- 8.2 CLD (Youth Work) will adhere to the values and principles described in section 6 of this report.
- 8.3 CLD (Youth Work) will give priority to addressing the needs of individual young people in group settings.
- 8.4 There is a need to build the capacity in youth work to deliver locally based accreditation opportunities.
- 8.5 Develop clear opportunities at local and city-level for young people to be heard by decision makers and to influence decisions which affect them.
- 8.6 CLD (Youth Work) programme developments will prioritise the needs of young people as identified through the local community planning process. It is anticipated that these will include:
- providing advice and information about a range of topics including sexual health and alcohol/drugs.
 - healthy lifestyles
 - mental well-being
 - needs arising from the key transition phases in the lives of young people.
 - activities which divert young people from anti-social behaviour and youth crime
 - literacies.
 - positive personalised decision-making.
- 8.7 Youth work in Dundee will seek a higher profile through the creation of a Youth Work Partnership which builds on the achievements of the Cracking Youth Work Forum and facilitates a stronger relationship to integrated children's services.

Further development of this Forum is proposed in order to clarify and strengthen the

relationship between youth work and integrated children's services.

- 8.8 CLD (Youth Work) will continue to apply a continuous quality improvement performance action plan concentrating on programme planning, monitoring and evaluation and outcome measurement.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives (Finance and Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), and the Directors of Education and Social Work and the Co-ordinator (Integrated Children's Services).

- 9.2 A separate consultation paper will be used to explore the content of the strategic priorities with young people and voluntary sector organisations.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background papers are referred to in the course of this report.

Moving Forward : A Strategy for Improving Young People's Chances Through Youth Work - Scottish Executive 2007.

Getting It Right For Every Child - Scottish Executive 2007.

A Curriculum For Excellence - Scottish Executive 2004.

Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities - Scottish Executive 2004.

Policy & Resources Committee Report No. 352-2007 Title - Dundee City Council's Scheme of Decentralisation - 25 June 2007.

Statement on the nature and Purpose of Youth Work - YouthLink Scotland 2005.

National Occupational Standards for Youth work - Lifelong Learning United Kingdom, 2002.

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27TH AUGUST 2007**