

# **Draft Integrated Youth Support Strategy**

## **For Consultation**

May 2008



## **Our vision and values**

The Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership wants Worcestershire to be the best place for children and young people to grow up – we will support them to make a positive contribution to their communities by ensuring they are happy, healthy and safe and will support their families to achieve this. This will allow them to be responsible, valued, respected and trusted.

Children and young people and their families will be given access to information and a range of opportunities to enhance their leisure and learning. We recognise that some young people will have difficulties and we will do what we can to prevent this happening. Where this does we will provide support at the earliest opportunity.

## **Our goals**

When the Partnership is successful children and young people will say:

- “We are happy, healthy and safe.
- We have lots of things to do and places to go.
- We are helped to make good choices about our future.
- We feel we are listened to and can contribute to our community.”

Parents and carers will say:

- “There are opportunities for families to do things together close to where we live.
- There are safe places in my local community for children and young people to go and meet”.

## **Our Principles**

There are five underpinning principles:

- To support children and young people to grow up so that they develop appropriate skills and abilities to become successful adults
- To include the views of children, young people and families in the formulation of services
- To make best use of community leaders including elected Members of Councils
- To coordinate and where appropriate to integrate people, services, assets and funding at the local level (statutory, private, voluntary and community sectors)
- To delegate responsibility for the commissioning of positive activities and some targeted support for children and young people with additional needs (tier 2) to district Local Strategic Partnerships. Community and School Clusters and other local organisations that commission locally will advise them. It is intended that the delivery of services would be as close to the need as is practical. This could be district, electoral division, ward or neighbourhood.

## **Our planned ambition for young people ages 11-19 years**

Worcestershire Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership believes that young people are important members of communities in our county. We believe that they should be properly looked after, treated with respect, listened to, provided with support and fully involved in planning and shaping the opportunities that they need to fulfil their potential as the adults of the future.

The standards by which our planned ambition will be realised are as follows:

### **1. A safe, warm, well-equipped place to meet friends**

- Which has a programme of things to do which young people have been involved in deciding.
- Which is accessible by a reasonable journey from home that they can make independently of their parents or carers (except where additional needs preclude this).
- Where they can be confident that they are safe from harm and that the adults present are appropriately checked and qualified to provide activities and support where it is offered.
- That is open as often as possible and at times that the young people in the area have agreed is most useful for them.
- Which has refreshment facilities that offer healthy eating options.
- Where information about other positive activity opportunities in the area is available and, wherever possible, where staff can provide the necessary support to those who need it, in order to access them.

### **2. A diverse and accessible range of opportunities to participate in sport**

- Indoor and outdoor sports and games organised by clubs.
- Team games or individual sports.
- Outdoor activities such as sailing, walking, climbing etc.
- Fitness training, aerobics and dance exercise

Some of these activities will be provided by community based clubs, some on school and college sites, including extended services after school, at weekends and in school holidays, some as part of the programmes of youth centres and clubs, and at local leisure centres and swimming pools.

Our aim is that every young person is able to choose to access such opportunities for at least 3 hours per week outside of school curriculum time (which includes a further 2 hours), that are accessible by a reasonable journey from home that they can make independently of their parents or carers (except where additional needs preclude this).

### **3. A diverse and accessible range of opportunities to participate in creative, cultural and Arts activities**

We believe that every young person in Worcestershire should be able to benefit from taking part in high quality creative and cultural activities and experiences.

- ‘Creativity, culture and the Arts’ is defined as the broad range of dance, drama, visual arts, music, craft, digital media, film, photography, heritage and creative writing activities.
- Young people will be involved primarily as participants, but also in audiences.
- Strategic leaders, District and County Arts Officers, Worcestershire Arts Education, Museums and Libraries will continue to offer leadership, inspiration and coordination. They will be responsive to what young people say they want and will involve them in developing opportunities as equal partners.
- Young people will choose to participate in activities and also to be part of an audience. They might choose single art forms or creative combinations such as music and digital media.

The offer of Arts activities for young people will provide access to activities that:

- Are fun and enjoyable to do and experience
- Are inspirational
- Are challenging, with opportunities for progression and, where appropriate, accreditation of achievement
- Provide a range of experiences and activities across art forms
- Are responsive to young people’s expressed needs and wants
- Are valued and celebrated by young people, their peers and the wider community
- Provide the opportunities to see high quality work across art forms
- Provide opportunities for young people to become more aware, appreciate and celebrate the culture and heritage of their communities and families.

Our aim is that every young person is able to choose to access such opportunities for at least 3 hours per week outside of school curriculum time (which includes a further 2 hours), that are accessible by a reasonable journey from home that they can make independently of their parents or carers (except where additional needs preclude this). This element of our Youth Offer will be fully coordinated with the developing Worcestershire Cultural Offer for Children and Young People.

#### **4. A wide range of clubs and groups that offer opportunities to pursue hobbies and other interests**

- We will strive to know who and where these groups are and what they do.
- We will provide the necessary local information using both the successful [www.plugandplay.org.uk](http://www.plugandplay.org.uk) website and locally produced information media to help young people access them.
- We will also identify, over time, those groups that may require support, information or training to enable them to be open, welcoming, appropriate and inclusive of young people.
- We will work together to meet these needs in our local communities using the resources of our local authorities and the voluntary sector as appropriate and in a joined up and efficient manner.

#### **5. The opportunity to socialise and enjoy positive activities in open spaces in their communities**

- We recognise that young people, like all of us, value being able to meet socially and enjoy community spaces outdoors.

- For example, for skateboarding, informal sports and games (e.g. kicking a ball about), taking part in environmental projects, or just meeting, relaxing and chatting.
- Where appropriate, we will provide support to groups of young people where they choose to meet through appropriate activity provision and sensitive detached and outreach interventions by Youth Workers, Sports Development Workers, Park Rangers and others.
- We will do this in order to help them enjoy activities, challenges and acceptable risk taking in a safe environment, to know what other activities are available to them in their area and to work with them when they identify a lack of suitable such spaces or facilities.

## **6. Opportunities for volunteering and involvement in decision-making**

We recognise that young people already contribute a vast amount of effort and skill to the benefit of their peers and others in their local communities, across the county and also regionally and nationally. We will continue to encourage and enable young people to use some of their time to get involved in planning, managing and evaluating services and doing things which will benefit others.

We will do this by:

- Supporting them to take up one of the many available volunteering and active involvement opportunities and to continue to develop new opportunities in their locality.
- Encouraging young people to be active partners in running their own youth clubs and organisations and modelling good practice by embedding this in our own services using the National Youth Agency's *Hear by Right* principles.
- Providing projects, information and support to enable them to offer their time and skills to organisations that will welcome their help and, where they can gain recognition or accreditation for their contribution.
- Encouraging organisations and groups to provide such volunteering projects and opportunities for young people and providing support and training as required through our local authorities or voluntary sector as appropriate.
- Continuing to support effective youth democracy structures including local youth forums, effective school councils, Worcestershire Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament representation and ensuring a real positive relationship between young people elected to these bodies and adult elected members making decisions in county, district, town and parish councils.
- Continuing to provide support to organisations to ensure that young people are consulted effectively about issues that affect them and that such consultation is real, not token, and leads to action and change that is reported back to, and involves, the young people consulted.

## **7. Tackling barriers to access activities**

We recognise that not everybody's circumstances are the same. Some young people live in towns where there are more facilities available, others live in small rural communities with little to do. Some young people can afford more than others. Most attend school or college, but some do not.

Our ambition is that no one should be prevented from participating in the opportunities provided because of an aspect of their personal circumstances.

Commitment to working effectively together to improve access by:

- Working creatively to provide *transport* that is accessible and available at appropriate times and at an affordable cost to enable young people in both urban and rural communities to use of the widest range of activities possible. Controlling the *cost* of activities in order that they do not prevent young people from participating in them and implementing discount and subsidy schemes wherever possible.
- Ensuring that *young people with disabilities* have equal access
- Ensuring that activities will be designed to ensure that *young people's race, faith or culture* does not prevent them from enjoying positive activities.
- Ensuring that there are sufficient opportunities for both *young women and young men* and that personal circumstance such as being a parent or living away from family support does not prevent people from being able to participate.
- Making information widely available online through [www.plugandplay.org.uk](http://www.plugandplay.org.uk) and through a range of other media and outlets (see section 4 above) regarding positive things to do and places to go for young people.
- Working to encourage services to have trained staff who can offer support and encouragement to assist those who are less confident to get involved with activities of their choice.
- Gathering data on levels of usage and impact of the wide range of positive activities on offer by our diverse range of partner organisations.

## **8. Celebrating the achievement and positive contribution of young people**

- We will strive to ensure that, for those who want them, there will be opportunities to gain accreditation and awards and to have their achievements through the positive activities included in Worcestershire's Youth Offer celebrated and publicised.
- We will work with and for young people to increase and improve the positive image of young people in the press and media and the consequent perceptions of them held by the wider community.

## **9. Quality and safety**

In planning this offer to young people, we are committed to ensuring that the quality of what is available is good and that activities are safe. It is therefore our ambition to ensure that, wherever possible, we can ensure that:

- The activity is taking place is safe and appropriate.
- The people running it are appropriately checked and qualified to do what they do.
- The activities themselves are good and are what young people want.
- There are opportunities for young people to be involved in monitoring quality and feeding back their opinions about activities and services.

## **10. Consultation and involvement**

We plan to do this by:

- By using the feedback from the outcomes of recent relevant consultations with young people.

- Maximise the impact of existing forums and representative groups to consult with young people, in local communities and countywide on the amount, appropriateness and quality of positive activities on offer.
- By supporting activity provider to enable young people to be to be fully involved in their organisations.

This will be done on a regular basis and through a variety of methods (see section 6 above).

## Our strategic framework for delivering Integrated Youth Support

Achievement of this ambition and integration of support for young people will be shaped within a strategic framework of improvement.

|  | Positive Activities  | Information, Advice and Guidance  | Targeted Support   |
|--|--|---|--|
| Targeting resources so delivery is proportionate to need                                     | All available resources for positive activities are shared across Local Strategic Partnerships proportionate to needs of areas. LSP required to commission activities to meet specific needs in local area.  | IAG advice provided in specialist services (LAC, YOS, SEN) tailored to individual circumstances.  | For young people with complex needs [tiers 3 and 4]: commissioned at county level and integrated with existing specialist provision [e.g. LAC, YOS, CAMHS, integrated family support, integrated disability teams etc] |
| Coordination and integration so delivery is experienced by young people as seamless          | WCC provides a single point of access to information for all children and young people and their families – ‘Plug and Play’ and related promotions.  | One stop shops for all young people, integrating IAG around health, safety, education, employment and training, positive activities etc.  | Single pathway, built around the CAF as a shared single assessment tool and process for co-ordinating support to individuals.  |
| Localisation so delivery as close to the customer as possible but safely and of high quality | All WCC and district resources, including capital assets, for positive activities are used for commissioning at LSP level, alongside other resources and co-ordinated with private, VCS provision. Planning will be based on the Worcestershire Youth Offer. WCC will give professional support to the LSP Children and Young Peoples Theme Group. | Information, advice and guidance (IAG) commissioned by WCC as a county-wide service to ensure consistency and quality, but delivered locally e.g. through schools, youth centres etc. | For young people with additional needs [tier 2]: commissioned and provided locally, including co-ordination of support by partners to support groups and individual young people.                                      |

## **Our approach**

To achieve improved outcomes for young people we will transform service provision by:

### **1. Targeting resources so that delivery is proportionate to need**

All children and young people require access to universal providers however some will have additional needs and therefore need additional support without which they are at risk of not reaching their full potential. The common assessment framework will be used to identify these needs and a lead professional will bring together the agencies necessary to provide integrated support for the young person. This is referred to as tier 2 level of need. In some local communities there are a significant number of children, young people and families experiencing multiple levels of need. These communities need integrated support available to them in their community.

For children and young people in tiers 1 and 2 of need, resources will be shared across Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) proportionate to the needs of the area. LSPs will be required to commission activities to meet specific needs in the local area, for example to reduce anti-social behaviour, increase skills and readiness for work for instance. This will require the provision of coordinated support by partners to support groups of and individual young people in local communities.

To ensure that children and young people with additional needs do not experience difficulty accessing information, advice and guidance, highly skilled advice will be made available to for example, looked after children and those in the youth justice system tailored it to individual circumstances.

For young people defined as having tier 3 and 4 levels of complex need, services will be commissioned at a county level and integrated into existing specialist provision, e.g. LAC, YOS, CAMHS, integrated family support and integrated teams supporting children and young people with disabilities.

### **2. Promoting, facilitating and enabling coordination and integration**

The Partnership recognises that parents and carers will be the main providers of leisure and learning for their children and together with schools, early years providers, youth facilities and GP's meeting the needs of most children and young people. At tier 1, children and young people will be making good progress and will need little extra support. Young people and their families will need timely information about things to do and places to go that will be provided in their local community. Plug and Play has been designed to do this and is integrated with other information services through the 'hub' and the family information service.

The County Council will provide a single point of access to information for children and young people. This would include 'one stop shops' for all children and young people to access information, advice and guidance around their health, safety, education, training, work, through to 'places to go and things to do' close to where they live

Children and young people with additional needs can encounter difficulty accessing services that are intended for everyone. These children and young people are defined as having a tier 2 level of need. A single pathway built around the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as a shared single assessment tool and process for

co-ordinating support will reduce the risk of these children and young people not reaching their full potential.

In some local communities there are a significant number of children, young people and families experiencing multiple levels of need. These communities need integrated support available to them in their community. The approved local commissioning bodies will be required to draft action plans, which will integrate local support for young people in communities. The local action plan should address local needs, 'narrowing the gap' and as appropriate, the challenge of rural locations. This will require the pooling of resources to help young people to remain in mainstream or universal provision (school, college work based settings) and provide early support for those young people at risk or in difficulty. The objective being to return them to a mainstream provision as quickly as possible, this is referred to as progressive universalism.

### **3. Introducing localised commissioning**

The County Council has approved the development of localised commissioning of children's services to support children and young peoples needs. The District Local Strategic Partnerships' Children and Young Peoples Theme Groups would when fit for purpose, take on delegated responsibility for commissioning some services to support the needs of children and young people. The Joint Commissioning Board of the CYPSP will determine whether the District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has reached the necessary standards to undertake the commissioning function. The roll out of localised commissioning will occur at as when each LSP is judged fit for purpose.

The provision of and access to educational and recreational leisure time activities will be the first localised commissioning activity although some targeted support for children and young people could be added at a future date. The positive activities resources of the County Council and district council will be delegated and coordinated with the resources of the private, voluntary and community sectors. The LSP's would also have delegated responsibility to coordinate, support and make best use of available assets owned by WCC, district and the private and voluntary and community sectors to the benefit of young people. In addition decisions about how grants, including DABID and FLOSS and other funds will be allocated will be made by the district Local Strategic Partnership Children and Young Peoples Theme Groups. The LSP's will coordinate and pool wherever possible, all available resources for positive activities to maximise value for money and benefit to young people.

Young people, local councillors and other community leaders will have a major influence on decisions about the allocation of resources. The local commissioning body will map provision against children and young peoples needs, and prepare a detailed annual action plan to be approved by the Joint Commissioning Board of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership. The district LSP will be required to take advice from the community and school clusters and any other agency which commissions locally.

The local plan will be required to reflect the priorities of the Worcestershire Children and Young Peoples Plan and be based on a 'Worcestershire Local Offer of Positive Activities'. Specific additional action will need to be undertaken to ensure that vulnerable and hard to reach groups are able to access positive activities as part of the action plan. The Policy Advisory Body of the CYPSP will be consulted on all local plans before approval is sought from the Joint Commissioning Board.

In the first stage of development of localised commissioning the objective will be to increase the number of, and access to, educational and recreational activities for children and young people in their communities. Such plans must be developed with an understanding of extended schools, local transport plans, voluntary and community sector plans and district council provision of positive activities. The plans will also need to reflect local plans for play, cultural and sports activities. The County Council will provide from within existing resources professional support on the commissioning of positive activities and coordination for the Theme Group to ensure that commissioning is implemented effectively. It will allocate a youth support manager to work with each Local Strategic Partnership to develop the local action plan and act as a local contact on youth support matters. The staff resources allocated to targeted work would not be delegated to the LSP.

The Children and Young Peoples Theme Group will be required to create opportunities to ensure they effectively engage children and young people on local needs and the development of the local action plan for places to go and things to do.

#### **4. Measuring and monitoring performance**

The Children and Young Peoples Plan identifies 10 priorities and the action plan contains performance indicators by which the success of the integrated youth support strategy will be measured. The Joint Commissioning Board of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership will be the accountable body for the performance management of the strategy. The Partnership Advisory Body of the CYPSP will be consulted on Local Strategic Partnership action plans and performance, will assist the Joint Commissioning Board. The main performance indicator included in Public Service Agreement, 14, is to increase the number of children and young people on the path to success. Five indicators will measure progress against this PSA. Three of the indicators are included in the Worcestershire LAA (indicators 1, 2 and 4)

There are five indicators in the PSA:

**Indicator 1:** Reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) (LAA)

**Indicator 2:** More Participation in Positive Activities (LAA)

**Indicator 3:** Reduce the proportion of young people frequently using illicit drugs, alcohol or volatile substances

**Indicator 4:** Reduce the under-18 conception rate (LAA)

**Indicator 5:** Reduce the number of first-time entrants to the Criminal Justice System aged 10-17

There are national standards for positive activities for young people. The CYPSP must ensure access to the following:

- Five hours per week of sporting activity including formal and informal team sports and other activities such as outdoor adventure, aerobics and dance (two hours delivered within school curriculum time and a further three hours in leisure time).
- Five hours of quality, enriching activities in culture and the arts (two hours delivered within school curriculum time and a further three hours in leisure time).
- Two hours per week of constructive activities in clubs, youth groups and classes. This might include: young people's own hobbies and interests; personal, social and spiritual development activities; study support; activities encouraging creativity, innovation and enterprise; and residential opportunities.
- Opportunities to make a positive contribution through volunteering including taking a lead on campaigning and fundraising.

- A wide range of other recreational, cultural and sporting and enriching experiences.
- Safe and enjoyable places to spend time, including socializing with friends.

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