

Committee: Community and Children's Services	Date: 02/11/2018
Subject: Youth Service and Youth Participation	Public
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Summary

This paper provides Members' with an update of Universal Youth Services; its statutory duties and responsibilities. It contains information on provision in the three community centres of Artizan, Portsoken and Golden Lane; Youth Participation across the borough in the form of the City Youth Forum. It also provides an overview of the Summer Youth and Play programme where five new providers were engaged to deliver a wide range of activities.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation, in its role as a local authority, has a statutory duty to provide young people with access to positive activities. The statutory regime underpinning the provision of youth services is set out in section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006). Revised statutory guidance for local authorities on services and activities to improve young people's wellbeing was published by the Department for Education in June 2012. The duty applies to the 13 to 19 years age range, and up to 25 years old for young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND).
2. The provision places a duty on local authorities, "so far as is reasonably practicable," to secure access for young people in their area to sufficient positive leisure-time activities. The 2006 Act also placed responsibilities on local authorities to:
 - Secure access to sufficient youth work activities.

- Ascertain young people's views on positive activities.
 - Publicise positive activities.
 - Consider alternative providers.
3. Local authorities must take steps to ascertain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them, in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). They should establish and maintain structured arrangements for doing so.

Current Position

4. In February 2018 a Service Level Agreement was put in place for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to deliver universal provision for 13- to 19-year-olds (up to 25 years old for young people with SEND) in the Aldgate locations of Artizan Street Library and Community Centre on Friday evenings, and Portsoken Health and Community Centre (Greenbox) on Thursday evenings. The agreement also includes access for all City young people to access the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' holiday provision for free.
5. In quarter one, which was also the first quarter of delivery for the new services, 22% of the city's population of 13-19-year olds accessed the city's youth services. This compares to 13% participation from the previous quarter 3 2017/18 under the previous provision. Commissioning will be monitoring and supporting providers to deliver an increase on the participation percentage each quarter.
6. Prospects continue to deliver the City's information, advice and guidance service and co-ordinate the Youth Participation strand through the City Youth Forum. Prospect's staff are based with DCCS officers in Guildhall to support better partnership working between the service and departmental teams.
7. The Commissioning team has been engaging with potential providers to deliver weekly Wednesday evening youth sessions at the Golden Lane Community Centre. A pilot with the City YMCA has been secured for outreach on the Golden Lane Estate and Youth and Play sessions for young people aged 8- to 12 years old and 13- to 19 years old (up to 25 years old for young people with SEND). Following a referral from Early Help and a request from the City Youth Forum for physical activities for young women, a six-week dance course has also been commissioned.

Summer Provision

8. Working with the support of Youth Commissioners in the London Borough of Islington, the City sent out an invitation to youth and play providers to submit proposals for the delivery of youth and play activities. Out of a total of 12 providers who responded, five providers were engaged with to deliver a range of activities.

9. Commissioned providers were chosen for their range of activities, SEND provision and their ability to deliver activities close to the City boundaries. The age range for the programme was expanded with some providers, and play was introduced for those aged 6 years and upwards. Provision was particularly targeted in the West of the City around Golden Lane, where there has been no provision since September 2017 following the closure of the Community Centre for refurbishment. All commissioned provision was delivered free of charge to City residents.
10. A walking bus was operated by Islington Play, travelling from the Golden Lane Community Centre to the adventure playground at Toffee Park for children aged 6 years old and upwards. Awesome Community Interest Company delivered full day care at Three Corners Adventure Play Park, for children aged 6 years old and upwards. Access to Sports delivered a five-week programme for 8- to 16-year-olds at Finsbury Leisure Centre
11. Eat Club delivered a four-week healthy cooking course at Golden Lane Community Centre for 10- to 19-year olds. There was an emphasis on fruit and vegetable consumption, reduced intake of unhealthy foods, and on creating alternatives to fast foods.
12. A Level 3 First Aid course was delivered by Newark Youth London in the Portsoken Community Centre. Other summer activities offered, included swimming, a visit to the Olympic Park, a picnic, and a cinema trip

Youth Participation

13. The City Youth Forum is the mechanism the Corporation uses to ascertain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities. Its role is to ensure all voices are heard from across the borough. Over the summer, the City Youth Forum co-ordinator and youth representatives conducted community calling on the estates to encourage participation. The City Youth Forum is co-ordinated by commissioned provider, Prospects.
14. The City Youth Forum meets bi-monthly. Future dates are publicised on the Family and Young People's Information Service (FYI) directory. The Forum currently has 10 young people engaged. This is an increase of 70%. Prospects use their 'Resilience Application' to communicate with young people. Over the autumn half-term, the forum will be taking part in Money Management training at Guildhall run by MyBnk.
15. Officers have also attended forum meetings to ascertain young people's views. One issue has been the lack of access to sporting or gyms for those aged under 16 years old. This feedback informs our commissioning approach.

Information, Advice and Guidance

16. This strand of youth services supports the Corporation to fulfil its local authority duty to provide information, advice and guidance that will encourage, enable and assist young people, aged 13-19 (up to 25 years for SEND) to secure sufficient suitable education and training in employment provision. The service is delivered by Prospects and provides:
- personal advisor support for 121 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
 - support to young people transitioning into adulthood – in particular, those with SEND
 - provision of information, advice and guidance
 - employment initiatives that support young people into work and training
 - support for college and training applications.
17. Historically, the City's NEET numbers have been low – that is, less than five young people. For the past two years 100% of young people have completed the plans and pathways set by the personal advisor. The service's interventions have included accompanying young people to colleges to support their applications, and sourcing summer work experience for a young person with SEND.

Marketing and publicity

18. In addition to the Family and Young People's Information Service Summer brochure. The Commissioning team produced a brochure promoting the new Summer Youth and Play offer, that was commissioned following the reopening of the Golden Lane Community Centre on the 14th July. The Youth and Play brochure promoted the City's local offer of directly commissioned services, as well as activities from providers such as City YMCA, The Scout Association and City Police Cadets.
19. Copies of Summer Youth and Play brochure and City Youth Forum Flyer were distributed to DCCS Committee Members. Updates on the services were also published in the July edition of Members' Briefings. A total of 1000 brochures were distributed on estates and at local libraries and shops. Corporation social media and newsletters on the estates were used to promote.

Risks and Challenges

20. There are three Community Centres for the delivery of universal services youth services within the Square Mile. The Commissioning team has been working with centre managers to resolve issues and develop contingency plans. The Commissioning team has also contributed to the cost of a new roof at the Portsoken Health and Community Centre.

21. We are aware of some challenges for parents and young people in using the Family and Young People's Information Service (FYI) directory to search for activities. For instance, the system does not allow for searches by location and/or City-only provision.

Young Barbican

22. The Commissioning team has met with the Young Barbican team to develop a more co-ordinated approach and wider youth offer. We are actively promoting the Young Barbican Taster day in October half-term and facilitating the participation of the City's young people from the youth clubs, especially those who have not previously visited the Barbican and experienced activities there before.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

23. The Commissioned Youth and Play Services Programme reflects the priorities in the Corporate Plan (2018–2023), namely contributing to a flourishing society and good health and wellbeing; and ensuring that the Corporation is able to fulfil its statutory duties and meet the outcomes and priorities stated in the Corporate Plan, DCCS Business Plan (2017–2022) and Children and Young People's Plan.

Conclusion

24. Improved communications plan: Feedback from some residents has been that publicity and communication was not made available early enough or received by all. More resources and planning will be needed to ensure that communication is improved in the future.
25. Commissioning strategy for youth services post 2020: The Commissioning team will analyse data submitted by providers to develop a Commissioning and Procurement Strategy for future provision.
26. Development of a Youth Parliament: Future plans for the City Youth Forum include rebranding and alignment under the British Youth Council. This will be co-produced with young people, where they will examine what structure they wish to replicate – whether that is a Youth Council or Member of Youth Parliament.

Background Papers

- DCCS Committee Youth Services update 8th June 2018

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Access to Sports Wider Social Impact Survey Results.

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Appendix 1: Access to Sports Wider Social Impact Survey Results.

An example of the summer programme outcomes from the provider Access to Sports. Twenty-four young people from the City of London completed the Access to Sports Wider Social Impact Survey.

The changes the young people identified as taking place as a result of attending the programme are:

- 92% feel more motivated to engage in activities now
- 92% feel healthier now
- 92% are more active now
- 92% have made new friends
- 86% feel more confident now
- 92% feel that you are better at working in a team
- 83% feel they are better able to communicate now
- 92% feel they get on better with other young people now
- 92% feel they get on better with adults now
- 92% feel that they are more tolerant now
- 92% can be relied on more now
- 83% feel that they have better leadership skills now
- 71% have learnt things that make them more employable
- 88% feel that they are a better leader now.