

## **Terms of Reference for the Strategy for Youth Services**

### **Key questions the review will address:**

- **What is the current distribution of youth services and youth engagement activities available across the country? How is that likely to evolve following the Youth Green Paper?**

In the East Riding there is a particular issue around the size of the authority and some real issues around accessibility and rural isolation. Whilst there are many efforts to address this through collaboration and joint partnership working, the range of facilities is extremely limited in some areas and access is very limited both in terms of range of provision and frequency. We anticipate that the implementation of the YOF/YCF should see an improvement in this but not necessarily in the immediate short term due to communication and rural issues.

- **Building on the Youth Green Paper, is there more that could be done to improve and sustain the effectiveness in the delivery of existing services and activities?**

Encourage more partnership working to maximise resources and somehow offer incentives for this to happen. An issue for Youth Service is being able to access other provision and encourage other users to access youth centres without being financially penalised.

- **What are the particular barriers faced by different groups of young people, including disabled young people, in accessing services, and what are the policy issues which arise?**

Rural isolation, accessibility and transport – frequency of transport, costs, costs of access to leisure/sports facilities, access to appropriate facilities e.g. if looking at developing of disabled sports, logistics of bringing us together to appropriate provision. We are also looking at the development of mobile provision to bring groups together. Through work with the regional UK Youth Parliament we are looking at how changes to transport policies could give greater flexibility to young people such as through subsidised transport such as bus discount schemes.

- **What is the national and international evidence on the effectiveness of different types of services and activities in terms of better life outcomes?**

Need to engage and involve us at all levels of participation. Share practice from other both nationally and internationally. Improve links and liaison with national organisations such as UK Youth Parliament, British Youth Council and English Secondary Schools Association. There is a lot of value in sharing practice from other groups and the Youth Assembly is building links with peers in London, Reading and Wales in particular as well as with the regional Youth Assembly. Better life outcomes for all of us not just those deemed in priority targeted groups. All of us have needs to achieve what we want to and are able to. Sometimes this seems forgotten and ignored by providers who have limited resources, which target certain groups

- **How can we best combine demand led provision for young people with provision that is planned and structured to have the best impact on outcomes for children and young people?**

Needs to be a balance and give us some ideas and choices, not just a wish list that will never materialise and raise our expectations

- **What more can we do to support and enable young people to exert a strong demand side influence on provision? What would we expect in return from young people - their rights and responsibilities?**

We don't want consultation to be tokenistic. We have to see it as meaningful and that adults will listen and be genuine in wanting to hear what we have to say and our views. Talk to us in our language and be more flexible in meeting with us at times and places, which are more convenient to us. (NB Some of the questions in this review are very jargonistic and not young people friendly!!) Hopefully YOF and YCF are a blue print for this to happen, but be mindful that we need time and support and some recognition and reward for all the work that we do. Some of us need to have part-time jobs so more opportunity for part-time employment would give us some resources and time to make more of a contribution. We are currently looking at recruiting young people as Youth Participation Workers as a pilot scheme, which will hopefully be expanded in the future. We expect to be offered appropriate and high quality training and support to help us in our work, which includes learning a range of skills including undertaking research and needs analysis.

- **What principles and priorities should guide the allocation of current and future resources? And whom do we need to target?**

We strongly feel that there must be a balance to respond to local issues and that resources should be allocated to help address issues of rural isolation as well as resources being identified based on population and need. We feel it is important that these principles should be clear and understood by everyone so that it is a transparent process.

- **What measures and milestones need to be in place to ensure that performance can be assessed and delivery monitored at a local level?**

Numbers of us involved at all levels – also included in planning, monitoring if we think it is good quality and how the provision should be developed – or in some cases not - and where to go after that. Providing a range of opportunities for chilling out and also learning quite specific things and opportunities to learn in different situations. Need to recognise that it is important that we like being involved at different levels – some very involved in planning etc whilst at other times we may just want to come and be involved as participants. Need to recognise that involvement at all levels is valuable. Services can only be improved if young people are involved in identifying the measures and milestones and are involved in monitoring and assessing performance.

- **What are the barriers and enablers of effective Third Sector provision, including statutory commissioning capability?**

Communication and knowing what is available. Some smaller more isolated provision may not be known about. Some barriers in some communities around the perception of young people. This has got to be addressed. All young people are not on ASBOs. More positive perception to be addressed in the press and media. It's always the negative issues, which get the press! More support for voluntary providers such as funding for staff to help run activities in local communities or reduce transport to enable access outside the community or in neighbouring localities. We feel it is vitally important to share practice and learn from experience at a local as well as a regional and national level.

- **What can be done to improve the ability of universal provision to identify and provide a service to those with greater needs?**
- **Which projects and programmes in the last five years have had a proven and sustained impact and brought innovation to delivery of services for young people?**

Millennium Volunteers have encouraged many young people to become more involved and gain very valuable experience. This has seen more of us involved as peer educators and involved in facilitating workshops and conferences, as well as working as volunteers in provision for other young children. Other programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Youth Achievement Awards and specific projects such as the Unite Dance project, Lifestyle and Lifestyle Rock Challenge have grown in popularity and been innovative in terms of how they are involving young people in a vast range of activities. In the East Riding this is being further developed this year through the launch of Night Pilot, an innovative project presenting young people with a range of outdoor challenges and tasks. All these projects and programmes involve young people working alongside many organisations and partners and their local communities.

- **What encourages young people to try new and different kinds of activities from those they already do?**

Adults who are encouraging and don't patronise and are prepared to learn along side us. Learning from our peers who can share their experiences with us.

- **What evidence is there of the benefits that arise from young people's involvement in design and provision of their activities? What evidence is there of how outcomes have improved as a result?**

In the East Riding there are several examples of where we have been involved in the design of provision, which is what we want rather than what adults say we want. We have been very active in planning conferences for young people making sure that they are young people friendly and delivered at a time when we want, not when we are in the middle of exams or busy working. We know you can never please all the people all of the time, but we appreciate if you at least listen explain why

- **What attracts people to the youth work workforce? What is less attractive about membership of this workforce?**

Working with us in a wide range of delivery, from centre-based youth work, detached/outreach projects, specific work such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Millennium Volunteers. There are also a wide range of other related opportunities such as Personal Advisors, teachers, Arts and Sports Development Workers and in the Youth Offending Team. There is also flexibility, being able to work in a full time capacity as well as part time or on a sessional/seasonal basis. The down side is that youth workers are not seen as equivalent professionals by other professional colleagues such as teachers and this is partly due to the fact that not everyone understands the role of youth work. There is also a lot of competition for other posts, so that youth workers are taking up other posts such as Personal Advisors where they are better paid and may not have to work at evenings and weekends. Pay and financial incentives are sometimes not as good as some other jobs. A lot of work is time limited and based on availability of short term funding.

In the East Riding we are currently looking at how young people are involved in the children's workforce development strategy.