



## SCRUTINY TASK GROUP REPORT

# Scrutiny task group - Provision of services for young people 18 February 2013

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out a brief update on the work of the “Provision of services for young people scrutiny task group.”

## 2. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 2.1 Membership of the task group:

- Cllr. Chris Coleman
- Cllr. Barbara Driver
- Cllr. Anne Regan
- Cllr. Rob Reid
- Cllr. Jo Teakle
- Cllr. Suzanne Williams
- Cllr. Rowena Hay – Cabinet lead by invitation

- 2.2 The task group was asked to address two issues:

- A review of the “Building Resilience” contract that the Borough Council has with County Community Projects;
- Oversight to the allocation of the county council’s positive activities funds that are allocated via the Borough Council.

- 2.3 Beyond this, members agreed two key issues for future scrutiny:

- How do we best allocate scarce resources across the whole of Cheltenham to deliver better outcomes for all young people; and
- How do we ensure the effective engagement of young people in public life.

- 2.4 The Terms of reference were agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 October 2012.

## 3. PROGRESS MADE

- 3.1 Following the review work carried out by the Scrutiny Task Group, the council subsequently agreed to fund County Community Projects to undertake year 2 of the building resilience project against a set of outcomes with themes including:

- Mapping activities and facilities for young people;
- Connecting and linking youth clubs together and to sources to support;
- Engaging with young people;
- Encouraging more volunteers; and
- Delivering effective training for youth workers

- 3.2 The 2012 Positive Activities funding for voluntary and community youth groups has been agreed and 12 projects supported.

- 3.3 A meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December to discuss a strategy for activities and facilities for young people between partners and providers of activities for young people to which the Scrutiny Task Group members were invited. The group agreed the following:

- CCP to focus on completing the mapping work of existing activities and facilities for young people and to make this available via the web. This will then enable us to identify gaps and vulnerabilities in current provision and identify where new provision would make the most difference.
  - However, the project should not be just about filling gaps - to make a real difference, the project has to focus on communities where there is a willingness to do something to support their young people.
  - The group also felt that youth work does not have to be delivered from a building and that detached street-based youth work can play an important role, particularly in engaging with more vulnerable young people.
  - The project should adopt a strengths-based approach as we can join-up the skills and expertise of residents, CCP, other support agencies and get everyone involved to make a real difference.
  - The group also suggested that setting up a network of peer-to-peer support would also be a valuable legacy from the project.
  - The group received offers of support from the University that provide a range of youth work courses, the Boys Brigade and from many councillors.
- 3.4** A follow-up meeting has been planned for Monday 25 February 2013, again to which Scrutiny Task Group members will be invited; suggested agenda items are:
- Update on the year 2 project actions - especially the mapping work
  - Agreeing how we map other assets that we can use to help deliver better outcomes for young people
  - Preparing for year 3 of positive activities funding
  - Hearing about what other support is available - eg through the targeted youth support service
- 3.5** The invite list to these two meetings has been quite wide taking in partners from the public sector, VCS sector, youth workers, trustees of youth clubs as well as all elected members.
- 3.6** Members of the committee might want to reflect if they would want the group to continue meeting or whether they are happy that the wider meetings – such as that on the 25<sup>th</sup> February are providing adequate opportunity to engage them in the discussions about the issues identified in paras 2.2 and 2.3 of this report.

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<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Background information</b>	None