

Wider discussion on Norfolk County Council's commissioning intentions to support local communities to meet young people's needs.

Launched: 18th April 2011

Completion date: Friday 8th July 2011

Scope of our discussion

£900,000 of the Early Intervention Grant in 2011/2012 has been allocated to support 'vulnerable youth'. Approximately £675,000 of this is available to enable a fresh approach to supporting local communities to meet young people's needs.

As this is a totally new approach based on community development rather than direct provision, we are seeking views of key stakeholders.

These proposals have been developed with our multi-agency 11-19 commissioning group which has representatives from the voluntary and community sector, NHS Norfolk, CAMHS, DAAT, Norfolk Constabulary, High Schools, Colleges, Supporting People, District Councils and Norfolk County Council.

Appendix 1 sets out these proposals in more detail.

Proposal 1

- **To develop a 'Youth Advisory Board' in each District Council area to support communities to develop their own capacity to respond to young people's needs, and in particular more vulnerable young people.**

Proposal 2

- **To provide information on positive activities that are available locally for young people through a new arrangement with an external partner rather than Norfolk County Council directly providing this.**

We want to talk to those who have an interest in how young people aged 11-25, and in particular those in the 13-19 age range, are supported through their adolescence to make successful transitions into adulthood. This includes partner agencies and organisations, district, town and parish councils, youth and community groups, parents/carers and critically, young people themselves, who will be invited to attend stakeholder meetings to be briefed on our proposals and to discuss the following topics:

In relation to: our intention to develop a ‘Youth Advisory Board’ in each District Council area to support communities to develop their own capacity to respond to young people’s needs, and in particular more vulnerable young people.

- Topic 1** What issues do we need to take into account as we develop the local governance and commissioning arrangements proposed via Youth Advisory Boards?
- Topic 2** Who should be the key participants, alongside young people themselves, to enable Youth Advisory Boards to be effective?
- Topic 3** How do we make best use of new technologies, including social networking, to support Youth Advisory Boards and in particular how might these enable young people’s involvement?

In discussing these topics we are particularly interested in stakeholder views on:

- the level of young people’s needs that should be a priority for Youth Advisory Boards;
- the opportunities created through Youth Advisory Boards to ‘join up’ different funding for young people and support wider activity;
- the potential for Youth Advisory Boards to ‘lever in’ additional resources for young people;
- the use of ‘social funding’ approaches in building community capacity;
- how Youth Advisory Boards might work with and support other local initiatives and partnerships;
- perspectives from groups/individuals representing specific ‘communities of interest’;
- voluntary and community sector capacity to provide the type of delivery set out and to a level/quality required across the county.

For young people focus groups

- Topic 1** How would young people like to be involved in the commissioning and decision-making process?
- Topic 2** How do we make best use of new technologies, including social networking, to support Youth Advisory Boards and in particular how might these enable young people’s involvement?

Undertaking the wider discussion

From May onwards we will be working with partner agencies to host a series of discussion events for key groups to attend. These will take place across the county and some of the events will be for young people. Feedback from all of these events will inform the development of the Youth Advisory Boards.

In relation to: our intention to provide information on positive activities that are available locally for young people through a new arrangement with an external partner rather than Norfolk County Council directly providing this.

We want to work with those who are interested, including young people to explore:

- Where/how do young people want to be able to access this type of information?
- How do we make best use of new technologies including social networking?

Feedback on these issues will inform what we commission to meet our duty to provide information to young people about positive activities available in their area and beyond.

For further information about this wider discussion on our commissioning intentions to support local communities to meet young people's needs, please contact:

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Appendix 1

Norfolk County Council's commissioning intentions to support local communities to meet young people's needs.

Introduction

Norfolk County Council's Core Role

On 14 February 2011 Norfolk County Council confirmed its budget for 2011-12 based upon a reduction in overall spending of £60 million for the coming 12 months. The budget was set taking into account Norfolk County Council's new core role:

- **Speaking up for Norfolk** providing strategic leadership and influence sufficient to ensure that Norfolk's voice is heard wherever people are taking decisions that are critical to its future economic prosperity, investment, health and well being.
- **Assessing people's needs and commissioning** efficient, responsive and cost effective services to meet them.
- Supporting, developing and maintaining the **infrastructure that helps our economy**.
- **Being a safety net for the most vulnerable** people in our county and protecting the public.
- **Signposting people** to the services they need and providing good quality information to help people choose services relevant to them.
- **Helping and enabling others** to build and maintain strong, sustainable and caring communities, giving back community ownership of locally important priorities best tackled through local community action.

Norfolk's Early Intervention Grant

From 2011/12 local authority funding has changed. Funding previously came through 90 grants (including the Area Based Grant and other specific grants). The County Council's Children's Services is now funded by formula grant and a new *Early Intervention Grant*. This new Early Intervention Grant is to support *early intervention and preventative services*.

Norfolk's Early Intervention Grant allocation for 2011-12 is £29.351 million. For 2012-13 it is anticipated this allocation will rise by just over £1 million.

Based upon our continuing legal duties, Norfolk County Council has established five broad commissioning priorities for early intervention and prevention work to be funded from this grant:

- early years (particularly the disadvantaged);
- disabled children;
- ensuring effective parents and families;
- school intervention;
- vulnerable youth.

Early Intervention Grant and ‘Vulnerable Youth’

Early Intervention Grant funding has been allocated to provide young people’s information, advice and careers guidance, in line with the requirements set out by the Department for Education. Whilst the responsibilities of local authorities to provide careers services for young people will change over the coming year, it is clear that local authorities will need to continue to support vulnerable young people to engage in education and training, intervening early with those who are at risk of disengagement.

Young people’s drug and substance misuse services and preventative crime reduction activity via Youth Inclusion Support Panels are also partly funded from the Early Intervention Grant.

A further £900,000 from the Early Intervention Grant has been allocated to support ‘vulnerable youth.’ 25% of this has already been committed to support a number of activities. These include:

- In recognising the valuable contribution being made by voluntary and community sector youth organisations to meeting young people’s needs we have made a grant to ‘Momentum’ to operate as an ‘umbrella and support’ organisation for youth groups.
- As a local authority we are required to provide comprehensive, accurate and accessible information on positive activities that are available locally and beyond for young people.¹ We will meet this requirement through a new arrangement with an external partner rather than delivering it ourselves.
- Whilst not a legal requirement, we will fund and support a partnership approach to enable young people to continue to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme and associated adventurous activities.

Commissioning intentions for the remainder of the Early Intervention Grant allocated to support ‘vulnerable youth’

Following discussion and agreement by members of a multi-agency 11-19 commissioning group, we are proposing that the remaining 75% of the £900,000 available from the Early Intervention Grant (approximately £675,000) is used to enable local decision making and commissioning of activity that supports communities to develop their own capacity to respond to young people’s needs and in particular those who are more vulnerable.

This marks a change from our direct delivery of activity with young people and will see the County Council working with adults within communities, to provide support to young people via a ‘Youth Advisory Board’ in each District Council area. We will establish and support these Youth Advisory Boards to provide

¹ Education and Inspections Act 2006, section 507B

local governance and decision making arrangements that involve key stakeholders including young people.

We are using the Early Intervention Grant to build community capacity to support young people as part of meeting our legal requirement to ensure that young people have sufficient and adequate access to positive activities including youth work².

The primary purpose of the Youth Advisory Boards will be to develop partnership approaches so that young people's needs are met in a sustainable way within the local area. They will help inform what activities are commissioned to build community capacity to meet young people's needs, especially for those young people who are more vulnerable.

In order to balance our ambition to support localism and decision making by local communities against providing efficient and affordable services we are proposing that 'local area' for Youth Advisory Boards should mean the seven District Council areas within Norfolk. This will also allow us to build on the comprehensive range of activity and effective partnerships operating at this level.

Youth Advisory Boards will be able to 'pool' local resources and funding aimed at young people, creating practical opportunities to 'get more from less' as well as 'lever in' additional resources and funding for young people within their community.

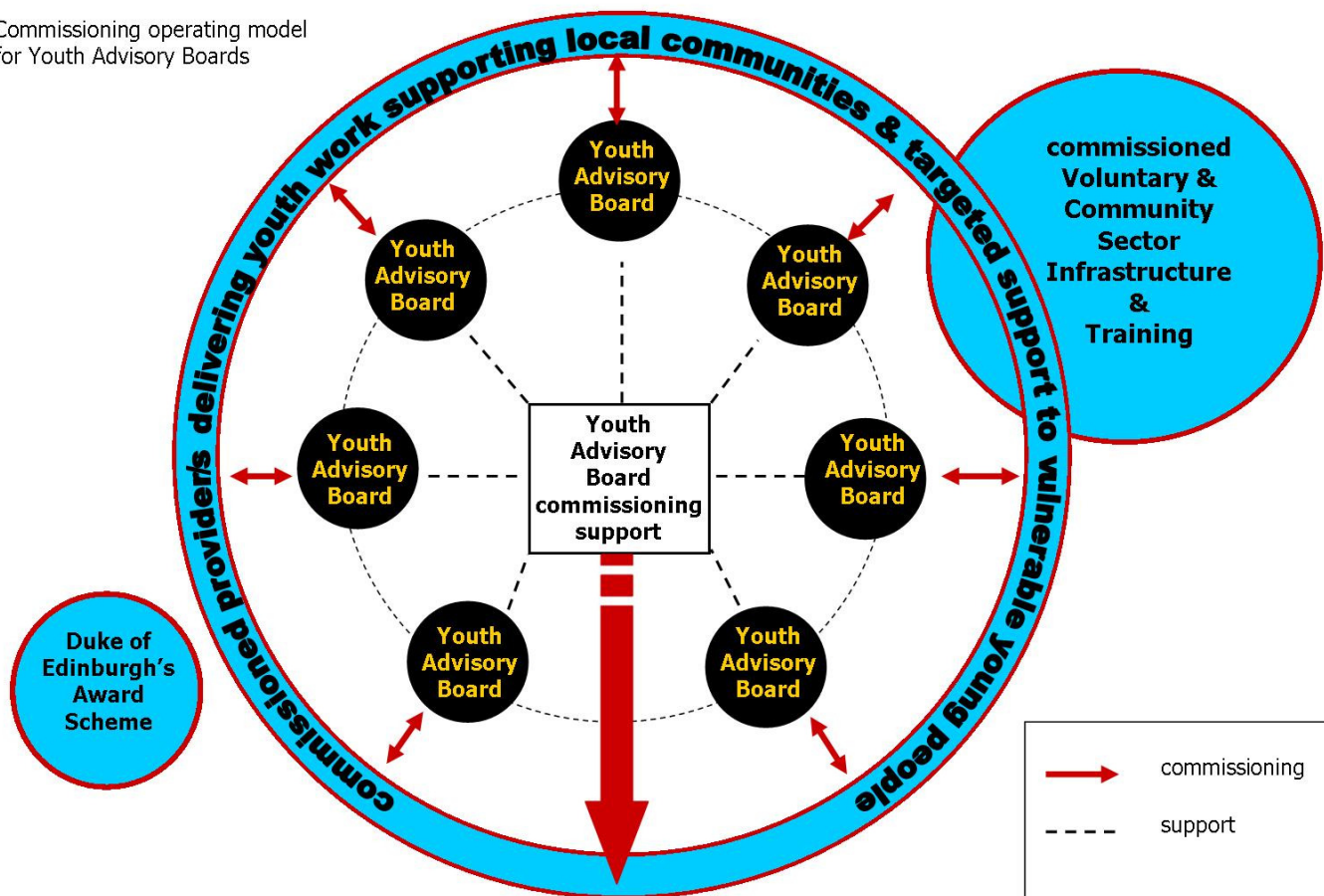
Membership of Youth Advisory Boards will need to include key partner agencies and organisations with an interest in how young people needs are met locally, as well as critically, young people themselves. Voluntary and community sector organisations, along with district, town and parish councils will be key partners in the Youth Advisory Boards to ensure local community interests are represented.

Youth Advisory Boards will need support to deliver in a way that makes a real difference for young people and therefore we will contract a provider/s able to deliver effective youth and community development work that is accountable to each Youth Advisory Board and supports them locally. Any organisation contracted to work directly with young people will be expected to employ suitably qualified staff and wherever possible recruit locally, as required, to ensure Norfolk's local economy is supported.

We want to use the funding that is available to make the most difference for young people, not to operate the Youth Advisory Boards themselves. The intention is that any 'in kind' support needed to run the Youth Advisory Board, such as providing a venue for meetings, is provided by members of the Youth Advisory Board.

² Education and Inspections Act 2006 and statutory guidance issued in 2008

Commissioning operating model
for Youth Advisory Boards



With an emphasis on early intervention and prevention, Youth Advisory Boards will focus on young people with emerging unmet needs rather than those with the most complex needs, many of whom will already have the support they need in place. The actual priorities for this targeted support will be best determined locally, by Youth Advisory Boards taking a commissioning approach that involves them in assessing needs, agreeing the priorities for any youth work delivery and then reviewing this to check that young people's needs are being met.

Each Youth Advisory Board will be supported with a local commissioning budget to be able to respond to young people's needs and/or use as 'seed corn' funding to grow local capacity. Boards will be expected to 'grow' this commissioning budget through local partnership and pooling arrangements.

The way in which this commissioning budget is operated could include taking a 'social funding' approach (i.e. offering organisations and social enterprises an interest free loan in line with the principles of the Big Society Bank), and/or providing funding or grants to organisations, as well as young people overseeing a grant programme similar to the previously successful Youth Opportunity Fund.

We will provide support and challenge to each Youth Advisory Board to help it operate effectively and ensure that commissioning is based upon young people's needs. We would also want to maximise any opportunities to realise economies of scale where similar activities are being commissioned by more than one Youth Advisory Board.

Young people's involvement in governance, commissioning and decision making will be a central requirement for each Youth Advisory Board. It may be that use of new technologies including social networking can support how young people are involved in decisions as well as enhance the way in which Youth Advisory Boards are accountable to local communities.

The arrangements we make for the provision of web-based information on positive activities that are available locally for young people (Proposal 2) will also support Youth Advisory Boards in their commissioning by informing them about what is available locally for young people. This information will include all relevant public, private and voluntary and community sector activities and facilities for young people.