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**Report to**

Scrutiny Board 2, 27 October 2005  
Cabinet, 1 November 2005  
Council, 1 November 2005

**Report of**

Acting Director of Education & Libraries

**Title**

Consultation on the Youth Matters Green Paper

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to inform your committee of the outcome of the consultation process on the Government's Green Paper, Youth Matters.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the consultation response is approved by Cabinet as the City Council response to the Green Paper.

**3 Information/Background**

The Youth Matters Green Paper aims to create a coherent, modern system of support to ensure that all young people meet the five Every Child Matters outcomes of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being. Four challenges are identified:

- Engaging more young people in positive activities and empowering them to shape the services they receive;
- Encouraging more young people to volunteer and become involved in their communities;
- Providing better information, advice and guidance to young people to help them make informed choices about their lives; and
- Providing better and more personalised intensive support for each young person who has serious problems or gets into trouble.

- 3.1 The consultation canvassed views from within the City Council, the Children's' and Young People's Strategic Partnership, young people, secondary schools and the voluntary sector.

**4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered**

- 4.1 The proposed response to the Green Paper is attached as an appendix to this paper.

**5 Other specific implications**

- 5.1

	<b>Implications (See below)</b>	<b>No Implications</b>
Area Co-ordination		
Best Value		
Children and Young People		
Comparable Benchmark Data		
Corporate Parenting		
Coventry Community Plan		
Crime and Disorder		
Equal Opportunities		
Finance		
Health and Safety		
Human Resources		
Human Rights Act		
Impact on Partner Organisations		
Information and Communications Technology		
Legal Implications		
Property Implications		
Race Equality Scheme		
Risk Management		
Sustainable Development		
Trade Union Consultation		
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		

#### 5.2 Children and Young People

The Youth Matters Green Paper is a consultation document which sets out proposals for provision for young people, focusing on the teenage years and makes detailed proposals covering the engagement of young people in positive activities, issues of volunteering and citizenship, advice, formation and guidance and personalised intensive support for those who need it. It is expected that the consultation process will lead to a significant refocusing of work with young people within a new integrated service.

#### 5.3 Crime & Disorder

The Green Paper discusses a number of proposals aimed at a strengthening a preventative approach to the reduction in criminal and anti-social behaviour amongst young people.

#### 5.4 Finance

The Green Paper is not clear about the resource implications of these proposals in terms of what will need to be met from within existing budgets and the level of any new resources available. It is likely that any new initiatives will need to be funded from a combination of

both. These new initiatives and the resourcing implications will become clearer following the Government's response to the consultation.

#### 5.5 Human Resources

The Green paper supplements the provisions of the Children Act (2004) and the Every Child Matters agenda. Together these proposals will necessitate workforce reform in the building of a new integrated service. There will also need to be a workforce development strategy to enable staff to acquire the new skills necessary to effectively perform their refocused responsibilities. It may also be necessary to employ additional staff, such as the proposed Youth Sport Development Workers.

#### 5.6 Impact on Partner Organisations

The proposals of the Green Paper will influence the priorities, operations and strategy of a range of organisations making specialist and integrated provision for young people.

#### 5.7 Information and Communications Technology

Youth Matters makes several references to making greater use of Information and Communications Technology in working with young people and responding to their needs, e.g. communications via texting services and e-mail, electronic databases, on-line advisers.

#### 5.8 Legal Implications

The Green Paper proposes a revised statutory duty through legislation to clarify Local Authorities' duty to secure positive activities for young people, as both commissioners and providers.

#### 5.9 Property Implications

The Government proposes to make available £40 million nationally over two years for capital investment which will help to pay for upgrading existing places to go for young people and to provide new facilities where none exist.

#### 5.10 Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact

The Green Paper discusses the provision of both statutory and voluntary agencies. It is to be expected that Government funding will be strongly linked to the vision expressed in Youth Matters.

#### 5.11 Coventry Community Plan

The Coventry Community Plan may wish to take account of the Government's proposals in supporting a vision for provision for young people in the City.

### **6 Timescale and expected outcomes**

- 6.1 It is expected that the Government's response to the Green Paper will be published in the New Year.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

**Description of paper**

**Location**