
Report to
Cabinet Member (Children Learning and Young People)

22 April 2009

Report of
Director of Children Learning and Young People Service

Title
Relocating Youth Work from Wyken Youth Centre to Caludon Castle School

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Cabinet Member of the recommendation to relocate the youth work programme at Wyken Youth Centre, Westmoreland Road on the site of the Wyken Community Club to Caludon Castle School.

2 Recommendations

Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the progress already made in taking forward the proposal to establish an integrated youth support service at Caludon Castle School.
- 2.2 Approve the recommendation to relocate Youth Service resources at Wyken Youth Club to the provision at Caludon Castle School.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The proposal to relocate resources for youth work in the Wyken area to Caludon Castle School is made based on a number of factors, as follows:
- i) Relocation provides the opportunity to join up the extended schools work with Integrated Youth Support and Positive Activities that are at the heart of Youth Matters and Youth Offer that are requirements for the local authority.
 - ii) Relocation enables the Youth Service to extend school based provision by integrating the pastoral element of targeted youth support of the Integrated Youth Support Service.
 - iii) The local authority is committed to improving environments in which youth workers work with young people who will benefit through this relocation from access to the new extensive facilities available at the school.

- iv) The proposal will show to young people that they are valued members of the community deserving of access to the best facilities that are available to them.
- v) The proposal will move provision away from a youth club that is run down, expensive and underused.

3.2 A petition, bearing 115 signatures, requesting that the youth club remains at the Wyken Community Centre was submitted to the meeting of Council on 24 March 2009 by Councillor Hazel Sweet, a Wyken Ward Councillor.

3.3 The Youth Club in the Wyken Community Centre building is the Youth Service's most expensive rent paid on any building where we are a tenant. It is the responsibility of the Service to provide good quality, value for money facilities for young people. The rental for the area used by Wyken Youth Club costs £15,000 for year ending 31 March 2008. As the costs are calculated retrospectively based on the real cost of utilities each year it is not possible to accurately forecast the actual cost of providing youth activities at the youth club, i.e. it is not known what the cost for the year end 31 March 2009 will be.

3.4 The following can be deduced from the Wyken Youth Club data returns:

- i) In the most recent quarter 3, October to December 2008 of this programme year there were 45 open sessions with a total attendance of 436, that is: 9.6 young people per session. However, within the Youth Service priority age range of 13-19 years, there were only 254 attendances giving an average of 5.6 per session.
- ii) The overall number of different young people 'reached' over the year, so far (3 quarters) has been 273 (10-25 years) or 156 (13-19 years). This in itself is very low: the Government target for youth work programmes is to 'reach' 25% of the local population. As can be seen from the table below the total number of young people in the ward in the 13-19 age range is well in excess of 1000 young people, making the 'reach' achieved less than 10%

Total number of young people living in the Wyken Ward (Census 2001)	Age Group			
	10 - 14	15	16 - 17	18 - 19
Wyken	1,282	295	492	510

- iii) The data return for quarter 3 shows that 9.6 is the average attendance across the age range of young people attending the club when 273 young people have visited and sampled, hence showing that a large number of young people visited once but did not return.
- iv) For the previous 2 quarters Wyken reaches about 12/13 young people per session. However, in quarter 2 only 7.3 attendances per session were within our priority age range and 9.5 in Quarter 1.

3.5 It is the experience of the Youth Service that where there are strong partnerships and clear agreements with schools young people are very willing to stay or return to the campus to take part in youth work activities. The table below shows the last quarter's data returns from youth workers in three youth work programmes based in Coventry schools showing the numbers of young people involved in positive activities at President Kennedy, Westwood and Coundon Court Schools. There are significantly greater numbers attending and significantly more sessions being offered to young people. The level of sessions at Westwood is lower due to a new youth worker being in post for only a part of the last quarter.

13-19 years olds attendances at youth work programmes based on school sites.

	President Kennedy			Westwood			Coundon Court		
	Attendance	Sessions	Average	Attendance	Sessions	Average	Attendance	Sessions	Average
Q3	1007	92	11	380	21	18	1354	71	19

3.6 Working in closer partnership with the school will give greater access for young people to 200 hours of use of facilities for school extra-curricular activities allowed under the PFI contract and access to some of the 200 hours of facilities for community activities also allowed under the PFI contract. The facilities include the Sports centre (indoor, outdoor, pool and gym), music studio, theatre and arts and design areas.

3.7 The feasibility of establishing youth work on the school site has been considered by senior staff at the school who are very supportive of the proposal.

3.8 The current youth activities programme at Wyken Youth Club is as follows:

- Monday 7pm – 9pm Girls Night with dance and drama
- Tuesday afternoon Radio workshop
- Tuesday 7pm – 9pm Graffiti art, indoor football, computers, Drum and Bass project (band rehearsals)
- Wednesday 7pm – 9pm DJ workshop and music production training
- Thursday 7pm – 9pm 5-a-side football, computers, music recording and outreach in Caludon Park
- Friday 7pm – 9pm Outreach and activities in Caludon Park

All activities can be accommodated at Caludon Castle School.

3.9 In implementing these proposals, there will be a consultation period that will involve young people who use the Wyken Youth Club and pupils at the school: this will help to shape the youth work programme that will be offered to them on the school site. Whilst we will not be contributing to the long term delivery of youth work in the Wyken building, we will involve young people in a transition period to decide the content of activities that they prioritise.

- 3.10 There has already been a consultation about activities and the most popular nights for activities carried out with young people across the city that has identified that Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights are the most popular nights. Below are the results for the most popular activities.

Activity	Number of requests
Football	62
Other Sports	46
Dance / Street Dance	43
Computers / Video Games / Internet	42
Pool / Table Tennis / Snooker	42
Music / Discos / Learning Instruments	35
Arts / Crafts / Design	32
Swimming	24
Trips / Excursions / Camping	21
DJ'ing / MC'ing	21
Drama	18
Board Games / Group Games	15
Photography	15
Hair / Beauty / Nail Art	14
Athletics	14
Film & Media Producing	12
Cookery	10
Graffiti	8
Homework Club	4
Volunteering	2

In summary, the Wyken Community Centre is unable to provide facilities that are fit for purpose: the financial input into the centre of £16,549 per annum to cover rent, cleaning, caretaking and utilities is expensive providing poor value for money and it has been difficult to offer programmes attractive to the broader local youth population.

4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be considered

- 4.1 To continue with the proposals as planned to close down the youth work programme based at Wyken Youth Club, Westmorland Road.
- 4.2 To establish 'steering groups' of partners and young people to oversee the development and management of the change.

5. Other specific implications

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Best Value	*	
Children and Young People	*	

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Climate Change & Sustainable Development		*
Comparable Benchmark Data		*
Corporate Parenting		*
Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy		*
Crime and Disorder	*	
Equal Opportunities	*	
Finance	*	
Health and Safety	*	
Human Resources	*	
Human Rights Act		*
Impact on Partner Organisations	*	
Information and Communications Technology		*
Legal Implications		*
Neighbourhood Management		*
Property Implications		*
Race Equality Scheme		*
Risk Management		*
Trade Union Consultation	*	
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		*

5.1 Best Value

The project will be relocated with due consideration to the principles set out in the City Council's Value For Money Strategy in order to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.

5.2 Children and Young People

This project will have a considerable impact on services to young people guided by national and local policy as reflected in the information above.

5.3 Crime and Disorder

Youth Service programmes across the city are given information from the Police Active Information Mapping System and other intelligence that influences the deployment of resources and the provision in Wyken will continue to respond to data supplied by partners in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour.

5.4 Equal Opportunities

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as the new development progresses and closure plans are developed.

5.5 Finance

Two procurement routes are currently being explored for the Extended Learning Centre (ELC) at Caludon Castle. This is either PFI credits, which was the original way in which the ELC was to be procured, or more recently the City Council are pursuing a bid for the project through the DCSF's Co-location fund. The Co-location fund would mean that the council were awarded capital grant for the project.

Once the procurement route is secured we will be able to identify the level of revenue contribution that will be required from each partner. It is expected that this will be significantly lower if the Co-location bid is successful as there will not be an annual unitary charge payment. The current running cost budget for the Wyken Youth Centre is £16,549 per annum. If additional revenue funding is required this will need to be identified within the budget available for CLYP.

5.6 Health and Safety

All Health and Safety issues will be dealt in the transition phase.

5.7 Human Resources

The Youth Worker post at Wyken Youth Club will be disestablished and a Senior Youth Worker post at Caludon Castle School will be established; existing part time staff will be relocated to the youth work programme based at Caludon Castle School. We will observe the security of employment agreement for all staff affected by the review.

5.8 Impact on Partner Organisations

The development already actively involves partners such as the school and the police authority. It is envisaged that further partners will be brought on board to deliver services such as health and advice, information and guidance.

5.9 Trade Union Consultation

Consultation with Trade Unions has taken place ending on 27 March 2009.

6 Monitoring

Monitoring will take place under the CLYPS arrangements for quality assurance.

7 Timescale and expected outcomes

7.1 The timescale and milestones for the project will be developed following the outcome of the Youth Service's Value For Money consultation which ends on 27 March 2009.

7.2 Expected Outcomes

The service has set challenging targets for the numbers of young people involved in youth work programmes:

	Reach	Participation	Recorded Outcomes	Accredited Outcomes
	Target	Target	Target	Target
Nationally set target	25% of population	15% of population	60% of participants	30% of participants
Local target for Wyken area	300	150	75	45

The youth work programme will also contribute to meeting the National Performance Indicators in PSA 14 which are to reduce the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET); to increase young people's participation in Positive Activities; to reduce the proportion of young people frequently using illicit drugs, alcohol or volatile substances; to reduce the under-18 conception rate; and to reduce the number of first-time entrants aged between 10-17 into the criminal justice system

	Yes	No
Key Decision		√
Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)		√
Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)		√

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Nil	