

Tripartite Youth Services Meeting

5 July 2011

Notes

Present:

Charlie Adie	Alliance Vice Chair/Chief Executive Motiv8	Local Children's Partnership (LCP) Co-Chair - Gosport
Julie Amies	Partnership Director, Sport Hampshire and IoW	Chair - Winchester
Jonathan Andrew	Fairbridge Solent	
Dave Ashton	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	East Hampshire – Alton; Bordon; Liphook, Liss & Petersfield
Jenny Bonsor	Headteacher Bayhouse School	Co-Chair - Gosport
Claire Branson	Hampshire County Council Senior Procurement Officer	
Fern Calver	Perins School	Alresford
Maria Calway-Kennedy	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	Fareham & Gosport
Andy Chartres	Wessex Youth Offending Team	
Alison Cliffe	Bushy Leaze Children's Centre	East Hants - Alton
Brian Corral	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	New Forest
Sharon Davies	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services	
Debbie Dean	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	Eastleigh & Winchester
Simon Dodd	Winchester YMCA	Winchester
Ria Emery	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	Havant
Steve Handforth	Hampshire County Council Area Director Western	
Tony Lee		Test Valley
Lynn Martin	Headteacher Hook Junior School	Hart
Ian Milsom	The Alliance Development Manager	
Andy Upson	The Alliance/Chief Executive Youth Clubs Hampshire & Isle of Wight	East Hants - Liphook, Liss & Petersfield
Richard Watson	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	Test Valley
Sally Woods	Hampshire County Council Youth Support Services Manager	Hart and Rushmoor

Apologies:

Carol Allington	Churches Together	Acting Chair - Fareham
Heather Aspinall	The Alliance/Chief Executive The Rose Road Association	
Mark Dixon	Alliance Chair/Chief Executive Youth Options	
Jacqui Dixon	The Alliance/Girl Guiding Hampshire East	
Michelle Frost	Headteacher Bordon Junior School	Chair - Bordon
Sally Harvey	Headteacher Oakley Infants School	Basingstoke - Costello
Dawn Murphy	The Alliance/Children's Links	East Hants - Bordon
Paul Williams	The Alliance/Winchester Area Community Action	Winchester

1. Welcome and introductions

Charlie Adie, Alliance Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided some contextual information.

Today's meeting follows on from two previous Voluntary Sector/Children's Services Department meetings and has been organised by The Alliance to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to consider how they can continue to work collaboratively to deliver quality youth support services across Hampshire. The Alliance, an independent charity which exists to supporting and represent children and young people's voluntary organisations in the county, particularly wishes to explore how it, and its member organisations, can support LCPs in this process.

2. Youth support services commissioning – Hampshire County Council (HCC)

Steve Handforth introduced this item, intended as an update on HCCs proposals for Integrated Youth Support Services.

The consultation process closes on 6 July and this has raised many questions about the proposed model of service delivery. These, together with the statements of commissioning intent being prepared by LCPs, will help shape the service commissioning process. Some questions can be addressed today, the answers to others will emerge in the course of further dialogue with stakeholders following the decision reached by the Executive Lead Member at the end of July.

Proposals

- Subject to Executive Members' Decision Day on 29 July

Commissioning

- HCC remains commissioning body
- LCPs. HCC looking for statements of intent from LCPs by end July to inform procurement process commencing in September. LCPs have asked about procurement template to assist this process and, in response, a draft template is being issued.
- Statements of intent. Some received to date were referred to in order to

highlight the decision-making approach, looking at:

- key priorities and evidence (e.g. dashboard data)
- Existing provision and how this fits
- Identify projects that need to be sustained until commissioned; and those that need to be decommissioned
- Potential delivery models, e.g. hub model

Noted that statements received were in broad themes and not prioritised, which would, notwithstanding the need to maintain a local focus, be helpful in commissioning key services

- Transitional funding. Youth Services Managers have access to transitional funding for the purpose of maintaining key services until commissioned.
- Commissioning approach. This will reflect priorities both at a county and local level, and the provider market place. Factors, such as the possible need to provide key services across LCPs, balanced against local priorities, still being analysed and options considered. Could be a mixture of grants and tenders.
- Commissioning structure. Possible model is an overarching county commissioning board with facility for local influence. (Similar to existing CSI grant scrutiny panel structure).

There was a broad ranging discussion around the approach to commissioning and the following points were made:

- Need for consistent specification
- Keep an open mind re housing of new services
- Grants viz a viz tenders
- Framework agreements may be an option

The following voluntary sector issues were raised:

- Need to ensure a quality service is delivered, which means a consistent approach to training/skills provision. New/emerging voluntary sector providers need time to assimilate quality assurance requirements prior to tender stage.
- Performance monitoring. How will this be achieved?
- TUPE. A significant barrier to the involvement of the voluntary sector.
- HCC buildings/facilities. Which ones will remain and can/how will these be accessed by voluntary sector providers?

HCC responded to some of the issues raised as follows:

- Quality Assurance. Need to work on this with partners and have in place by September.
- HCC wish to retain some of their buildings to add value to LCP commissioning

Participatory funding. The idea of setting aside a sum of money, say £10,000 per LCP, to encourage the engagement of young people in service delivery was floated by the voluntary sector. This led to a discussion about possible approaches for holding and administering participatory funding, such as local

trusts, Councils for Voluntary Service and use of the Children's Services Integrated grant structure. It was noted that due to tight timescales, participatory funding was unlikely to be feasible in the current year.

3. The Alliance – an overview

Ian Milsom, Alliance Development Manager, provided an overview of The Alliance and its role in helping to build the capacity of the local children and young people's voluntary sector; and how sector can support LCP commissioning.

4. An LCP perspective

- Struggling with speed of change and workload
- Don't have enough experience of youth services
- Heavily reliant on Youth Support Services Managers
- Concern over loss of HCC youth service expertise
- Challenge of how to obtain the views of young people, and analyse these within very tight timescale
- In initial 12 months, commissioning process will be imperfect and there has to be openness and transparency around this

5. How do we move forward

Due to time constraints it was decided that this is an item for a future meeting. There was a general consensus that today's meeting has been useful in strengthening the trust needed for effective partnership working.

Action: HCC to work with the Alliance for a follow up event in September once commissioning priorities are published.