

## **Briefing for all Members: Changes to Young People's Services**

Following a Lead Cabinet Member decision on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011, please find an update on the Young People's Services Change Programme.

### **The New Targeted Service**

The Youth Support Service will comprise of the following services:

- Youth Offending Service
- Support for Looked After and Care Leavers aged 16 plus
- Early intervention and prevention service for 11 to 19 year olds
- Support for young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities in making decisions about their future education or employment
- Positive activities for young people with disabilities
- Support with housing, homelessness and young runaways
- Help for young people with substance misuse problems and other health issues
- Support for unemployed young people
- Support for teenage mothers and fathers
- Work in communities to support a reduction in anti-social behaviour

In each district we will develop a community offer tailored to the needs of the young people living in that area. We will work with partners to ensure we add value to existing provision and do not duplicate resources.

Our district offer will include the following:

- A team of professionally qualified staff
- A 9am to 9pm service
- A minimum of 4 nights of youth work a week, including at least 2 evening sessions a week at the Youth Support Centre.
- A wide range of programmes (one-to-one or in peer groups)
- We will encourage use of our Youth Support Centres by other partners and community groups to expand the offer for each district

### **Funding for Districts**

The Funding (£50k per district) for district councils to support voluntary and community groups to provide activities for young people will be available from July 2011. Cabinet members will be consulting members of CYP Scrutiny before deciding what guidance will be given to district councils about this funding.

### **Youth Work**

We will continue to provide the following activities for young people:

- Members of the Youth Parliaments
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

- Outdoor Education – a small, mobile team to support work with our most vulnerable young people

## **Community Asset Transfers of Youth Centre Buildings**

We are starting to meet the voluntary organisations where we have GCC paid staff running youth work to help them plan a way forward after June.

## **Outdoor and Environmental Education**

Over the coming months we will decide what should happen with the outdoor and environmental education sites at South Cerney, The Wilderness Centre, Buckstone, Plump Hill and Pwll Du. These are not part of the Community Asset Transfer Scheme, and Cabinet is seeking a detailed options appraisal and independent advice. Before making a final decision Cabinet members intend to consult members further.

We will appoint an independent specialist to look at the viability of the sites. They will look to see whether they could reasonably continue as outdoor education businesses and at other possible alternative uses. Their assessment will need to consider and assess matters such as any legal issues relating to the use of the land, our staff and the improvements required at each site to meet the latest standards.

It is expected that once final decisions are made, opportunities at the sites will then be advertised openly for expressions of interest to come forward. Where it appears feasible, Cabinet members will welcome options that allow outdoor and environmental education activities to be maintained in the county.

Our staff have been kept up to date and have not been formally put 'at risk' of redundancy. The final decisions regarding the sites will need to be made before considering the options for the different staff teams. In the meantime staff have been invited to consider the following:

- Those who have applied for voluntary redundancy have the option of continuing with their application, or delaying their decision until the future of the sites is known
- Staff who would like to be considered for roles in the new service are welcome to apply for posts to ensure that they are not disadvantaged as there is a possibility that posts will have been filled by the time the future of the sites is known
- Staff who do not wish to apply for posts in the new structure, preferring to wait until the future of the sites is known are also able to do so.

## **Further Information**

If you have any queries about the change programme, please contact Francis Gobey at [ypchangeteam@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ypchangeteam@gloucestershire.gov.uk)