

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



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| Title: | Family resilience – Universal youth offer |
| Divisions Affected: | All |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Reason Key: | Affects two or more Divisions |
| Decision taken under delegation by virtue of: | Scheme of Delegation Part 3 – Specific Delegation to Officers |

Summary

Surrey County Council currently provides open access universal youth work that takes place in youth centres across the county. The youth centres are often underutilised and are not fulfilling their potential for the benefit of young people.

There is no statutory duty for Surrey County Council to provide open access universal youth work and the majority of universal youth work in Surrey is already delivered by the voluntary, community and faith sector.

Whilst there is no statutory duty, the youth centres themselves are a valued community asset and can play a larger role in achieving the Community Vision for 2030 that includes community participation as one of the priorities. Our aim is to increase the availability of the existing youth centres for the use of the community, voluntary and faith sector.

On the 26th November 2019, Cabinet agreed to consult on whether Surrey County Council delivers universal open access youth work and whether to enable the community, voluntary and faith sector to use the youth centres at little or no cost. Cabinet also agreed to delegate the authority to the Executive Director Children, Lifelong Learning and Culture to work with Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Families to agree and implement the local solutions following the conclusion of the consultation.

There are no budget savings attached to this strategy, neither is there any potential for growth therefore any proposals need to be achieved with the existing budgets.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

1. Surrey County Council enables the community, voluntary and faith sector (CVFS) to use the youth centres for the benefit of young people at little or no cost.
2. Surrey County Council (SCC) acts as an enabler and facilitator of open access universal youth work rather than providing the service directly. The SCC expertise that is valued by residents and in particular young people can then be remodelled to continue to support specific vulnerable groups. The learning from Covid-19 should be used to inform the service design to ensure SCC is able to respond to the needs of young people who would otherwise be vulnerable to poor outcomes.

Reasons for Decision:

(see recommendation report)

1. The youth centres are a valued community asset and can play a larger role in achieving the Community Vision for 2030 that includes community participation as one of the priorities. Our aim is to increase the availability of the existing youth centres for the use of the community, voluntary and faith sector.
2. Enabling the CVFS to maximise the potential of youth centres and SCC responding to vulnerable young people will provide a more comprehensive range of services for young people than exist now.
3. The decisions and implementation recommendations contained within the report responds directly to feedback from residents and in particular young people.
4. Whilst there is no statutory duty for SCC to provide universal open access youth work the council does have a responsibility to ensure the services are of good quality and delivered safely. The council therefore needs to ensure the Service Level Agreements are being delivered as agreed.

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| Decision taken by: | Joanna Killian Chief Executive, Surrey County Council |
| Decision taken on: | 19/8/2020 |
| To be implemented on: | 01/09/2020 |

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Alternative options considered

The strategy needs to be delivered within existing budgets. The alternative to the strategy would be to either:

- Continue with the youth centres as they are now but this would mean that youth centres continue do not fulfil their potential for Surrey residents.
- Continue with service delivery as it is now but this would not meet the universal and targeted needs of young people. In particular SCC would not be able to respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable young people.

Summary of any financial implications

The strategy enables services for young people to be increased and improved within existing budgets.

During the implementation phase or the agreed lease or license period there may be a need for SCC to consider alternative delivery sites and relocating services should a building become economically unviable or more suitable premises are identified.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

The consultation took place between the 18th December 2019 and 30th June 2020. The consultation was originally scheduled to conclude at end of April but was extended until the end of June due to Covid-19 restrictions. **552** responses have been received and analysed.

Engagement events took place across the county during January to April 2020. The engagement events were attended by more than 260 people and included children, young people, parents, elected members, members of the community and representatives from CVFS based organisations.

Additional meetings were also held with representatives from the CVFS including a meeting hosted by Surrey Youth Focus.

A public Webinar was held in June and provided participants the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed strategy. This webinar replaced three public

engagement events that were cancelled due to Covid-19.

Young people were also given the opportunity to contribute and share their views during closed group sessions. The findings from the 'Our Voice Matters Survey' which was completed by more than 1200 young people has also been used to inform the consultation.

Formal responses were also received from some District and Borough Councils.

The Cabinet member for Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families was consulted on the strategy throughout the consultation and the final recommendations were considered on 18th August 2020.

Background Documents

Exempt:

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| Family Resilience Universal Youth Work Strategy | No |
| Family Resilience Universal Youth Work Strategy Recommendation report | No |
| Appendix A – Consultation Analysis | No |
| Appendix B – Engagement Analysis | No |