



Family Resilience: Universal Youth Work

Strategy

Introduction

Our ambition is that every child in Surrey should have the opportunity to reach their potential and we also believe that the best place for children to be supported to grow and achieve this is within their own families. Whilst many children will experience these things without our support, some will need extra help, as a result of their own additional needs, their family circumstances or the adversity they face. We particularly want to help these children, and their families, at the earliest opportunity.

We also know that by working in collaboration with the voluntary, community and faith sector we can make better use of the resources that already exist.

We have transformed the way we support vulnerable young people and we now want to look at how youth centres support our vision for Surrey that has community participation as one of the priorities.

The youth centres that are either owned or leased by Surrey County Council are often underused and not fulfilling their potential. We want to enable the youth centres to become vibrant places for the benefit of young people and local communities.

We look forward to hearing your views about our proposals and working with you as we work together to achieve the best we can for children in Surrey.

The consultation is open until Thursday 30 April 2020.

With sincere thanks,

Dave Hill

Executive Director for Children, Life Long Learning and Culture

Mary Lewis

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

Overview: The Surrey Youth Offer

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.

The reduction in open access youth provision has been a national trend in the last decade with many local authorities significantly reducing or stopping completely the delivery of universal youth work.

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 should have 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 voluntary, community and faith sector.

As part of the improvements we are making, we have restructured the Children and Family Service to strengthen the capacity and capability to respond to young people who need additional support.

The restructure of the Children and Family Service has not however remodelled the universal open access youth work that is currently delivered across the county.

The Surrey Safeguarding Partnership has established the 4 levels of need for children, young people and families as Universal (level 1), Early Help (level 2), Targeted Support (level 3) and Specialist (level 4).

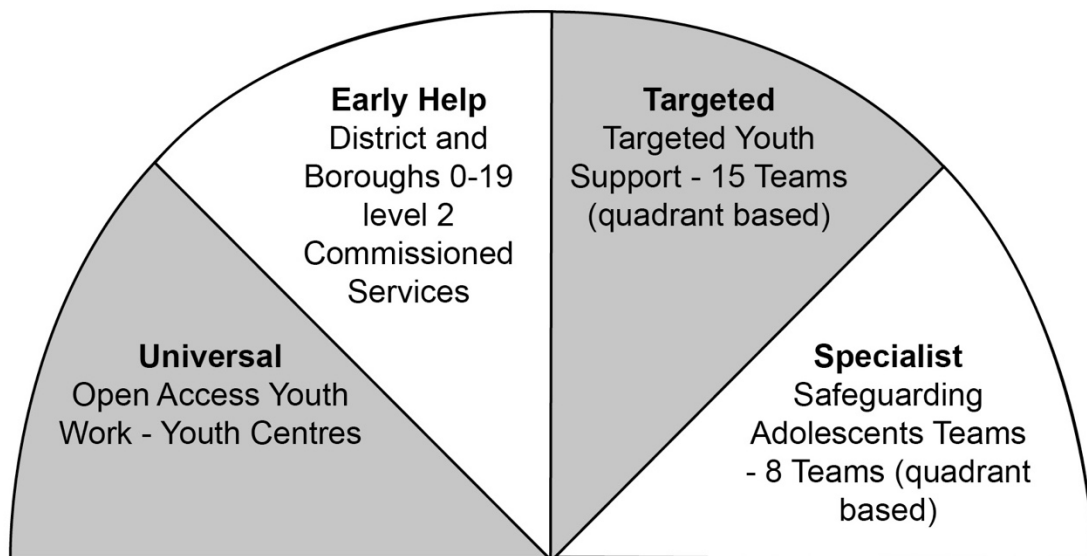
The term 'Youth Offer' is used to describe the range of services for young people that are provided by Surrey County Council for each level of need.

The transformation of Children and Family Services has created new teams to ensure young people who need additional support get it at the right time and in the right way from either Targeted Youth Support Teams or the Safeguarding Adolescents Teams.

The level 2 Early Help 0-19 offer has also been recommissioned to create a lead provider in each district and borough for young people who need help early when issues occur.

The public health approach to reducing serious youth violence and knife crime requires effective arrangements across all the levels of need and has informed the creation of the new model. These new services do not deliver universal, open access youth work. Open access universal youth work is provided in some areas by the existing Surrey County Council Youth Service but in many areas open access youth work is currently delivered by the voluntary, community and faith sector.

The voluntary, community and faith sector also supports young people who need additional support and more details are available on the Surrey County Council Family Information Website. The following diagram describes the Surrey County Council Youth Offer against each of the levels of need.



Universal Open Access Youth Work

Universal youth work is open to all young people and is provided by youth work practitioners in a number of youth centres across Surrey. Universal Youth Work often uses activities as a way to engage young people. Young people do not need to be referred to the youth centre and can access the programme of activities for little or no cost. In Surrey, a number of centres are now run by the voluntary, community and faith sector and the buildings are also used for other non-youth work related activities. However the majority of buildings are however not used to their full potential and could contribute to the needs of the community more than they do now. There is no statutory duty for Surrey County Council to provide open access universal youth work. Whilst universal youth work provides a range of activities such as sport and music to engage young people, its primary focus is social and emotional development.

Early Help

Some young people need to be helped early when issues occur to ensure they reach their potential. This can be as straightforward as a supportive conversation by a teacher, neighbour or police officer or perhaps help to access support on specific issues. A significant number of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations support young people that need help with their identity, emotional health, relationships and life as a young person in general. Surrey County Council commissions a range of these services across Surrey as part of a 0-19 Level 2 Early Help offer in each district and borough. These services can be accessed direct without a need for referral to the Children's Single Point of Access.

Targeted Youth Support

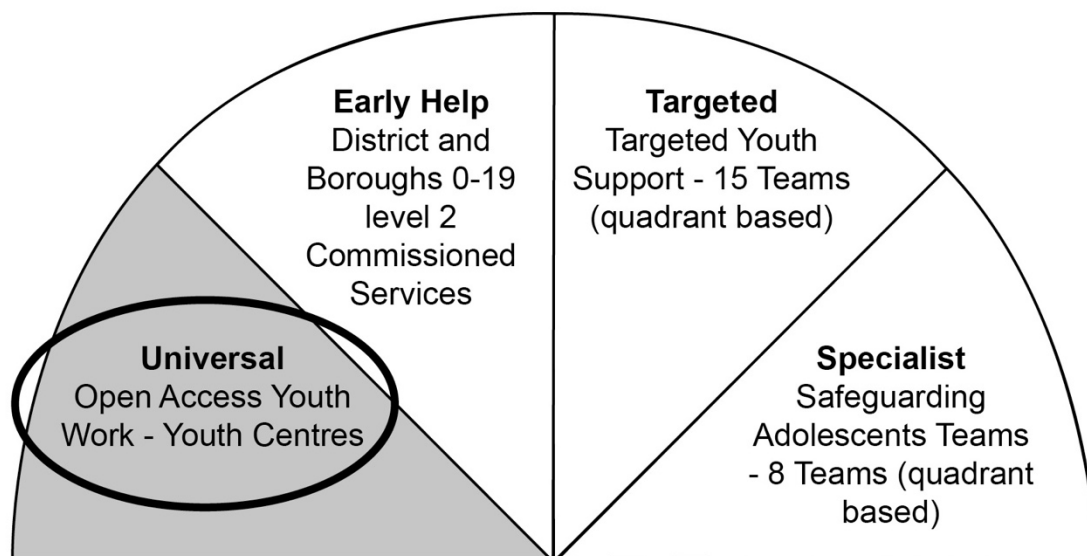
Targeted Youth Support (TYS) is a new service that works with young people after a request for support has been made through the Children's Single Point of Access. Young people need to give their consent with the exception of young people involved with Criminal Justice. Young people will be allocated to a practitioner who will undertake an assessment and produce a plan with the young person. TYS engage young people who are at risk of exclusion from school, risk of homelessness and coming into care, difficult family relationships, risk of exploitation, substance misuse, offending behaviour, emotional and mental health support. TYS see young people in the most appropriate settings to meet their needs, using community venues and some youth centres. The support can be 1:1 or in groups and can include working with the whole family where appropriate.

Safeguarding Adolescents Teams

The Safeguarding Adolescents Teams (SATs) provide the statutory child protection and safeguarding support for adolescents in Surrey. The service is accessed through the Children's Single Point of Access. Young people are likely to be experiencing exploitation, serious offending, homelessness, exclusion from school or at risk of coming into care. The social work led teams work closely with other partner agencies to protect young people and support their recovery. SATs work very closely with TYS to provide a seamless response when risks increase and decrease. When young people do come into the care of the local authority SATs will work with the young person and families to repair fractured relationships and their return home where appropriate.

This Consultation

This consultation refers to universal open access youth work. Universal open access youth work often takes place in youth centres, often using activities such as sport, music and art as a way to engage young people. The primary focus is the social and emotional development of young people and is open to all young people for little or no cost.



Surrey County Council provides youth work in buildings that are owned and leased by the council and in some cases youth workers also use other buildings in the community. The annual running costs associated with the buildings is circa £975k. The majority of buildings are under-utilised.

The universal youth work staffing budget is £657k and is made up of approximately 100 staff but only 19.6 full time equivalents as the majority of staff have contracts for only a few hours a week.

This consultation is not proposing any budget reductions but we want to use existing resources more effectively and enable youth centres to be a vibrant community asset.

We are consulting on whether Surrey County Council continues to provide universal youth work and to enable the voluntary, community and faith sector to use the existing youth centres to provide services for young people. The intention is to maximise the potential of the existing youth centres whilst recognising this needs to be achieved within the available existing resources.

Surrey County Council wants to add value to the voluntary, community and faith sector, working alongside organisations such as Surrey Youth Focus, YMCA East Surrey, Eikon and Surrey Clubs for Young People. These, and other organisations, already provide interventions and support to deliver a comprehensive universal youth offer across Surrey and they have significant experience, skills and resources to do so.

We know one of the main barriers for the voluntary, community and faith sector is access to buildings, running costs and short term funding/lease arrangements. Whilst bigger organisations are willing and able to take on the full running costs of buildings, smaller, emerging community based groups may initially find this difficult. We are therefore proposing the use of youth centres for the benefit of young people by the voluntary, community and faith sector will be for little or no cost.

During the consultation the existing youth centres will be reviewed at a local level with key stakeholders with the intention of each centre being available for use by the voluntary, community and faith sector.

Only if there is no local demand for the centre and following the conclusion of the consultation would any further considerations for the buildings' future use be recommended. There may also be scope for relocating provision to more suitable locations which can also be considered at a local level. Where there are opportunities for the co-location of other services this will also be considered.

There is no one single solution for each existing youth centre in Surrey and each centre will need to be looked at individually at a local level with key stakeholders to agree future delivery options.

These could include:

- Supporting the creation of management committees and providing them with a lease for the building with an agreed set of outcomes.
- Providing leases to already established organisations with an agreed set of outcomes.
- Agreeing what type of use and lease arrangement could be for little or no cost to the provider.
- Relocating provision to an alternative site if the building is not fit for purpose or in the wrong location.
- Providing short term pump prime grant funding for organisations that need help to get established.
- Enabling mixed use of the building with other SCC services and partners.

Our resources and expertise are best utilised by targeting services at young people most in need but we also have a key role to play to enable and support local delivery of universal youth work. This can be achieved by retaining a small team to support sustainable provision.

The role will liaise with all stakeholders to:

- Have oversight of delivery across the county, and to understand local needs
- Maximise the use of buildings, enabling multi-users
- Understanding & unblocking the barriers to delivery including cost
- Supporting quality delivery and working with local providers according to their needs

Who are we consulting?

The County Council does not have a statutory duty to provide universal access to a youth service. The council has a duty under the Education Acts which requires it to “secure, so far as reasonably practicable, provision of educational and recreational leisure time activities for young people”.

In carrying out this duty, the Council must ensure that young people are consulted and have a say in the local offer. This is often referred to as the “youth service duty” which will be met in the proposed consultation programme set out in the report.

The formal consultation will commence 16 December 2019 and will remain open until the end of April 2020, during which time we will undertake local engagement regarding each existing centre to identify how we can support the voluntary, community and faith sector to use the centre.

The local engagement will include seeking the views of young people, communities, district and borough councils, local and joint committees, voluntary, community faith organisations and other key stakeholders.

The consultation will also include the opportunity for residents and voluntary, community and faith organisations to register their interest to use the youth centres for the benefit of young people and the community.

We are consulting with the public on our proposals, specifically the following groups requesting their views:

- Young people
- Parents and carers
- Organisations that currently use the existing youth centres
- Organisations that don't use the centres but would like to
- Councillors and officers from the county, district, borough, parish and town councils
- Residents and council tax payers

How are we consulting?

We are asking a number of questions in a survey about our proposals. The survey will be available online, via the council's website. We will also provide paper copies and an 'easy read' version.

There will also be local engagement events that will take place in most cases at the youth centres. Details of the event times and locations are published on Surrey County Council's website surreycc.gov.uk/consultations and Surrey Says website surreysays.co.uk.

Broadly the local engagement events will be scheduled as follows:

District and Borough	Local engagement
Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead, Tandridge	January 2020
Spelthorne, Epsom and Ewell, Elmbridge	February 2020
Runnymede, Surrey Heath, Woking	March 2020
Waverley, Guildford	April 2020

If you would like to express an interest in providing services for young people in the youth centres please email:

youthcentres.reginterest@surreycc.gov.uk

Please provide your contact details, name of youth centre/s you are interested in and a short summary of your interest.

What is the timescale?

The consultation will be open for responses from 16 December and will remain open until midnight 30 April 2020.

Information about our equalities impact assessment

We will be assessing the impact of the proposals during the consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and in particular young people. This assessment will then be used to inform any future decisions.

How to respond

Please read the consultation document before answering any questions on the survey. We would prefer responses to come in via the online survey where at all possible.

The consultation document and survey is available online at surreycc.gov.uk/consultations

If any respondent requires a hard copy of either the consultation documents and/or survey, then you can request this by calling **0300 200 1004**.

The deadline for all responses including any hard copy responses, is Thursday 30 April 2020.