

Introduction

As you know, the Lancashire Young People's Service (YPS) has been engaged in a reorganisation in response to changing national policy and in order to respond to the County Council budget settlement which will mean a reduced budget for the Service in coming years.

Members agreed the first phase of the reorganisation in May and a summary of what they agreed was sent out to over 700 stakeholders at the time.

Not all the necessary budget reductions were made at the time. This was because when proposals had to be brought forward it was unclear what final Government plans were going to be around the creation of a National Careers Service and what resources and staff might transfer to another Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) supplier.

It is now clear that no such transfer will take place and the Service therefore has to come back with detailed proposals to reduce the YPS budget by the final required £3.015 million over the period 2012/14.

This briefing sets out how this will be achieved.

Agreed Restructure Proposals

In the last set of proposals it was decided that YPS would restructure on a basis of eight Locality Teams. In order to save money it has been decided to now reduce this to five Locality Teams each with an Operations Manager and one with one Team Leader per District. These teams will be:

- LANCASTER AND WYRE
- PRESTON AND FYLDE
- WEST LANCASHIRE, CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE
- HYNDBURN, RIBBLE VALLEY AND ROSSENDALE
- BURNLEY AND PENDLE

YPS also proposes to make financial savings by:

Rationalisation and reduction of Central Units - strategic/policy/developmental support services – reducing from the proposed 3 Units to 2 through disestablishing the Safety and Educational Visits Team by transferring the responsibility for Educational Visits elsewhere in the council and then by distributing remaining responsibilities to the other two teams

Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)

The Government has decided to withdraw the requirement on local authorities to offer a universal IAG service to young people. This duty will now be placed on schools who will be expected to commission any services they need from outside suppliers.

As a result of the local authority being no longer responsible for delivering IAG services to young people in schools, all the posts currently delivering this service will be disestablished – approximately 70 full time equivalent posts in total.

Targeted Youth Support

Under new legislation the Council will still have a statutory duty to offer services to vulnerable young people.

YPS intends to merge its current work around Information, Advice and Guidance with current targeted work to create a new Targeted Youth Support delivery function. This will include establishing:

- 10 Level 3 posts to work in schools settings with young people with Special Educational Needs fulfilling retained statutory duties
- 6 posts (3 funded by YPS three by Adult Services) working around transitions issues for disabled young people
- 10 new Level 3 posts and 5 new Level 2 posts working with vulnerable young people

The target groups for this work will include those:

- not in education (13+), employment or training, or at risk of becoming so
- looked after by the local authority, at risk of becoming so, or those leaving care
- engaging in risk-taking behaviour which may be harmful to their health and well-being
- involved in the criminal justice system or at risk of involvement;
- have Learning Difficulties or Disabilities, including a physical impairment
- already a young parent or at risk of unplanned early parenthood
- young people who are homeless/at risk of being so
- young carers

Traded Services

To replace the universal Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) service, YPS intends to offer a traded service to schools. This will offer the option for schools (mainstream or independent) to purchased services, including face-to-face staff time, from YPS. We intend to offer this service in cooperation with Via Ltd. (previously CXL).

We will consult with schools during September and then decide the nature of the service to offer and what quantity/type of posts that this will allow us to create within YPS. Quantity will be dependent on the level of service that schools wish to purchase.

Planned Withdrawals and/or Reductions in Provision

As a result of these proposals, particularly in terms of future staffing levels, YPS will not have enough staff to keep open all its current buildings and delivery points. This will mainly affect the Service's network of Infocentres.

Where a current Infocentre is part of a youth work key centre it will remain open but will deliver a very different service. This will be based less on 'fixed opening times of a shop front premise' and more based on relationships with an individual Young People's Worker, providing a space to meet and discuss issues.

Where we currently have freestanding Infocentres we will not be able to keep these open. The following premises will therefore no longer be maintained in 2012/13:

- Scotland Road Infocentre in Nelson [Service transferred to 'The Zone']
- Market Street Infocentre in Chorley [Service transferred to Chorley Young People's Centre]
- Skelmersdale Infocentre [Service transferred to Library]
- Fleetwood Infocentre [Service transferred to Milton Street Young People's Service]
- Withdraw from Chilli's in St. Anne's and transfer work to St Anne's Infocentre
- Withdraw from Urban Exchange in Preston at the end of the current lease period (2013) and transfer work to the new Preston Youth Zone Plus

Effects on Partner Organisations

In the first phase of the reorganisation no reductions were made to commissioned work from the voluntary sector and indeed the level of commissioned work was increased due to new allocations from Targeted Youth Support allocations. It has not been possible to extend this to the second phase of the reorganisation and it is proposed to reduce the level of the YPS Commissioned Outcomes Funding (COF) by £100,000. This will mean:

- £100,000 reduction in the level of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Commissioned Outcomes Funding in 2012/14
- No reduction in the YPS contribution to the Central Gateway programme in 2012/14
- No reduction in the Small Grants to Voluntary Youth Organisations Fund in 2012/14

14-19 Work

It has been agreed that the current 14-19 and 16-19 Education Teams responsible for the planning of 14-19 education provision across the county will be integrated within YPS. This will mean that YPS will take on some responsibilities for the strategic planning of 14-19 education.

This may allow some additional savings to be made – decisions on this will be made in the autumn.

Implementation

The planned reductions will mainly be implemented to take effect by 31st March 2012.

A traded service to schools will be offered to academies and independent schools from September 2011 and will be offered to all schools from April 2012.

Feedback

A copy of the Briefing can be found on the YPS web site at <http://yps.lancashire.gov.uk/>

If you wish to give any feedback on the proposals contained in the stakeholder briefing please send these by 12th October 2011 to:

ypsinformation@lancashire.gov.uk or

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