

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda item:

Page no:

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	20 May 2003
<b>Subject:</b>	Youth Service Plan 2003 - 2004
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	Director of Education
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Education and Lifelong Learning
<b>Status:</b>	Part 1
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2004 (enclosed in the Supporting Documents Pack)

## 1. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an opportunity to comment on and approve the Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2004 which the Authority is required to submit to Government Office for London by 30 April.

## 2. Recommendations (for decision by Cabinet)

**2.1. To comment on the Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2004**

**2.2. Subject to comments made, to approve the Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2004 for submission to Government Office for London**

### **REASON:**

**The Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2004 will be the starting point for a dialogue between Government Offices and Youth Services as they work together to address the Government's vision for the Youth Service and tackle the key policy priorities of inclusion, community cohesion and crime.**

## 3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

3.1. None

#### **4. Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1. The Government has issued a number of documents to demonstrate its commitment to inclusion and opportunity for all young people: the White Paper *Learning to Succeed*; the Social Exclusion Unit Report *Bridging the Gap: New Opportunities for 16-18 Year Olds Not in Education Employment or Training*; the Connexions document *The Best Start in Life for Every Young Person*.
- 4.2. The Government has subsequently issued a number of documents relating specifically to the Youth Service under the title of Transforming Youth Work
- 4.3. Members have received a number of reports on the development of the Connexions Service and the Youth Service. Harrow's Transforming Youth Work Programme Plan for 2002 - 2003 was considered by Members at a meeting of the Education, Arts and Leisure Committee in March 2002.

#### **5. Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1. This Plan relates to the following Corporate Priorities
- To promote Harrow as a centre of lifelong learning
  - To strengthen Harrow's local communities
  - To develop a prosperous and sustainable economy in Harrow
  - To improve the quality of health and social care in Harrow

#### **6. Background Information and options considered**

- 6.1. In March 2001 the Government published a consultation document "*Transforming Youth Work: developing youth work for young people*". The document outlined the Government's vision for the Youth Service, highlighting successes, challenging weaknesses, and clearly setting out the objectives of the Youth Service and recognising that the new Connexions Service is dependant on the provision of vibrant, high quality youth work.
- 6.2. Following the Transforming Youth Work Consultation, central government worked closely with the Local Government Association and other key stakeholders to consider how best to support planning for local authority youth services. The outcome was the publication in September 2002 of "*Planning for the Local Authority Youth Service 2003-04: Guidance*", which set out a common planning framework for all local authority youth services.
- 6.3. In December 2002 the publication of "*Transforming Youth Work: Resourcing Excellent Youth Services*" outlined the Government's specification for an effective youth service , one which is modernised and which delivers a consistently high standard of youth work. Government has injected additional resources to support this development through the creation of a Youth and Community Sub-Block within the Education Formula Spending and has put forward a definition of sufficiency. Government believe that this will allow local authorities to plan for substantial increases in resource and activity levels of their youth services.

#### **7. Consultation**

- 7.1. A series of consultation meetings have been held for young people, voluntary youth organisations and organisations representing Black and Minority Ethnic communities. A

working draft of the Youth Service Plan was circulated for comment internally within the Council, to schools and colleges, to key partners (including the PCT, Connexions, Arts Culture Harrow), and representative organisations (including HCRE, HAVS, HARA, Sports Council).

## **8. Finance Observations**

8.1. The Government has introduced from April 2003 a separate funding formula for youth and community services as part of the LEA budget. This funding was £2.8m for Harrow. There is an expectation by the Government that this will increase the resources made available for youth services. In recognition of this a growth item for the Youth Service for 2004/05 and 2005/06 has been included within the medium term financial strategy. The Youth Service Plan 2003/04 can be delivered from within existing resources. A fully costed action plan for the future will be presented to Members during the Summer Term.

## **9. Legal Observations**

9.1. None

## **10. Conclusion**

10.1. The requirement to produce a Youth Service Plan is a significant milestone in the history of the Youth Service. It is the first time that local authority youth services have been required to produce a plan to a common national planning framework. It is also the first time that Government have provided a specification of a sufficient local authority youth service. The Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2004 will be the starting point for a dialogue between Government Offices and Youth Services as they work together to address the Government's vision for the Youth Service and tackle the key policy priorities of inclusion, community cohesion and crime.

## **11. Background Papers**

- 11.1. Transforming Youth Work: Developing Youth Work for Young People. March 2001
- 11.2. Transforming Youth Work: Planning for the Local Authority Youth Service: 2003 – 04 Guidance. September 2002
- 11.3. Transforming Youth Work: Resourcing Excellent Youth Services. December 2002

## **12. Author**

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