Haringey Council

Agenda item: **[No.]**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee **On 30th July 2007**

Report Title: Position statement and update on improvement plans for youth provision in the Borough.
Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):
Report of: **The Director of the Children and Young People's Service**
Wards(s) affected: **All** | Report for: **Non Key Decision**

1. Purpose

1.1 This report is for information and has been prepared following a request by Overview and Scrutiny for an update.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1 The Youth Service has made significant progress in the last year and we are well placed to move the youth agenda forward. The extension of good youth provision to more young people in the borough is a key priority for me this year. We need to work more closely with the voluntary sector, statutory partners and schools to publicise the full range of youth provision available in the borough and to identify gaps and how they might be filled. Youth provision is the main item for discussion at the next CYPSP meeting.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to note the progress and achievements, as well as and the plans for further actions.

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4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 The Acting Head of Finance has been consultant on the content of this report and has no specific comment to make.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report and has no specific comment to make.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Documents used in the preparation of this report include:

- Youth Matters: Next Steps 2006
- Targeted Youth Support Toolkit 2006
- Draft National Quality Standards for Information, Advice and Guidance 2006
- Targeted Youth Support – a guide 2007

7. Strategic Implications

7.1 A Post Inspection Action Plan was put in place following an Enhanced Youth Inspection in 2006 which found the service to be unsatisfactory. The actions in the plan have been achieved and the findings of the inspection in the main have already been met in advance of the conclusion of the plan in the summer 2007. This has been due to the leadership of the new Head of Youth Service who since her appointment in July 2006 has led the recovery programme.

7.2 Members have supported the improvement programme and progress with the Post Inspection Action Plan has been monitored through reports to the monthly Project Streamboard. There have also been monthly updates to the Executive Member for Children and Young People on progress.

7.3 The Youth Service is part of the Integrated Youth Support Service across the borough including provision through secondary/special schools, 14-19 developments, Connexions services, extended schools, youth justice, the voluntary sector, PCT. These are all part of Integrated Youth Support Services which provide an easily accessible range of universal and targeted services that are responsive to the needs of local young people and enable them to achieve their full potential.

7.4 In July 2007 the Department for Education and Skills are expected to publish a ten year youth strategy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The Youth Service has been awarded an additional £100,000 by the Council over two years to support the further development of the service. The additional funding is being used for additional staff training, a young people's survey, further accreditation processes for programmes and administrative support for data collection.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 All activities offered through the Youth Service are offered with due regard to equalities implications.

11. Consultation

11.1 We have a successful Youth Council operating and young people are included in any decision making that takes place at the Youth Centres including the recruitment of new staff.

12. Background

12.1 Performance indicators

Robust action has been taken to improve the Youth Service. This is best illustrated by the rapid improvements made in the performance indicators for the service. In 2006-7 the service had contact with 2,767 young people aged 13-19 compared with 1,384 in 2005-06 a 100% increase. In 2006-7 the service had 2,185 young people participating regularly in activities compared with 1,146 in 2005-06, again almost a 100% increase. In 2006-7 1,053 young people 13-19 had recorded outcomes compared with 241 in 2005-06 a 30% increase. 732 young people achieved an accredited outcome compared with 241 in 2005-06 a 200% increase. These figures represent the implementation of systems and procedures to plan, record, collect and analyse data in a systematic way and to use the information to inform future planning. Appendix 1 gives a comparison with the Best Value Performance Indicators for 2006-07 and 2005-6. Whilst it is accepted that the performance indicators have not been fully achieved the progress towards meeting them has been fast and there is every expectation that they will be achieved by 2008.

12.2 Improvement Programme April 2006 – September 2007

The programme for improvement has been sharply focused and sequenced. In 2006 April to July the service was preparing for the inspection and being inspected. Since then a seven stage plan has been implemented.

12.3 **Stage 1 Prepare and deliver the Post Inspection Action Plan July 2006 – July 2007** including developing the systems and procedures for

improved data collection and management (July – September 2006). This can be evidenced by the improvement in our reporting on performance.

12.4 **Stage 2 Reshape and develop the staffing** through training and development, recruitment of new staff and release of existing staff to meet service requirements and make staff more accountable for service delivery (September 2006 – July 2007). This can be evidenced by the successful recruitment of new staff, and by the training programme including the induction programme for new staff.

12.5 **Stage 3 Better meet the Performance Indicators** and measure impact (July 2006- March 2007). This can be evidenced by the improvement in the performance indicators, particularly the increase of young people gaining an accreditation due to their work with the Service.

12.6 **Stage 4 Deliver better quality youth provision for young people** to raise horizons and develop a wide range of programmes as modelled through the Summer Uni programme and through the special projects (September 2006-07). The Summer Uni programme demonstrates the breadth and diversity of activity. Uptake, enjoyment and attainment on the programme will be evaluated by October 2007.

12.7 **Stage 5 Work in partnership** including with school staff and work with voluntary sector ensuring that clear systems and procedures are in place for engagement (September 2006-07). Our work with partners has increased over the past year we work closely with HAVCO and a voluntary sector training day (November 06) attracted more than 70 participants who represent over 30 organisations.

12.8 **Stage 6 Improve mechanisms to communicate** with young people through the Youth Website, and by ensuring full participation in youth programme and activities like the Youth Council (September 2006-07). The Youth website is being developed with a core group of young people, it will go on live on 9th August 2007 and we are predicting 25,000 page views 6 months after launch (February 2008).

12.9 **Stage 7 Develop detached youth provision** and help to co-ordinate the mobile facilities across the borough going to 'hotspots' to work with young people (January – September 2007). The detached team has an established programme which has been developed in conjunction with the Police.

12.10 **External Validation**

We are well on target to achieve all these stages by the end of September 2007 when we have arranged a self-evaluation of the service with external validation. This will provide us with a clear focus for actions from September 2007.

Every Child Matters Outcomes

12.11 The Youth Service makes an important contribution to all of the Every Child Matters Outcomes (Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Economic Well-being). These are some examples of how the Youth Service contributes.

12.12 We offer sporting activities, particularly through our diversionary programmes of Positive Futures and the Youth Inclusion programmes. All of the activities include a health component including healthy eating and looking after your body. We routinely offer drug, alcohol and sexual awareness sessions for young people in our main centres.

12.13 Involvement of young people is at the core of all youth work. We had over 800 young people participating in the Youth MP elections in January. We trained 12 young people last summer so that they could take responsibility for the grant giving of the Youth opportunity Fund (£340k) - our work in this area was cited as an example of good practice by Government Office for London.

12.14 We work with our colleagues in Connexions and other departments to encourage young people into education, employment and training. We offer life skills programmes to young people who are on the Entry into Employment programme. A structured programme is offered to young people leaving school who are not sure what they want to do with their future. This takes place during the summer. 80% of the participants on this programme go on to gain a place in college or enter employment.

12.15 Although the Youth Service does not solely target work with vulnerable young people, we make sure that all our work is aligned with agencies that do. For example, our Youth Inclusion programme is aimed at the 50 most at risk young people in three wards of Haringey and offers diversionary activities and key worker support to detract them from engagement in crime. We have one of the highest retention rates nationally in this area of work which is significant as these young people are notoriously difficult to engage in positive activities.

13. Youth Service Priorities 2007/2008

13.1 Building on the strengths of the improvement programme introduced in 2006/2007, the Youth Service has developed and is implementing an ambitious programme of activity.

13.2 The Youth Service is the lead agency in the Summer Uni scheme, the first time that Haringey has run such a programme. In the 3rd week of June we are averaging 50 registrations a day as we are targeting young people during their lunch breaks at school. One comment from a young person spells it out: "this looks great – it is really good having something like this to do during the summer". The involvement of young people in the summer programme will be used as a basis of continuing their engagement in September.

13.3 We are undergoing an external health check in September 2007 so that we can make sure that the systems and structures that were introduced in 2006 have had an impact on the quality of service provision. We will be revising our service development plan in the light of the outcomes of this health check.

13.4 In developing our plans for 2007/2008, we are mindful that we want to maintain and enhance the standard of our contribution to the Every Child Matters outcomes. Therefore the outcomes form the basis of our curriculum and all project planning has to demonstrate how the work is linked to at least one of the outcomes.

13.5 In particular over the next year the Youth Service will:

- Meet the Best Value Performance Targets for 2008.
- Ensure that the DfES ten year youth strategy expected in July 2008 is included in our future plans.
- Further develop and extend the programme of high quality generic youth provision at the 3 centres (Bruce Grove, Wood Green, Muswell Hill).
- Ensure that young people participating in the youth projects have access to timely and relevant drug, alcohol and sexual health advice.
- Extend the work of the detached and outreach team so that more young people are reached in areas that currently have little or no provision.
- Develop an international exchange programme for 30 young people.
- Recruit and train young people so that they can contribute to the quality assessment of the Service.
- Provide opportunities for young people who wish to start their own business.
- Increase the number of volunteering opportunities for young people.

13.6 Underpinning the youth work will be a robust training and development programme so that we can be confident that the staff have the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude to deliver a first class service for young people in Haringey.

14. Conclusion

14.1 The breadth of activity and the engagement of young people clearly demonstrates a Youth Service that is improving. The gains made in 2006-07 with the best value performance indicators are a clear indication of the improvements made in our Youth Service. In 2007/2008 we aim to meet our indicators.

14.2 The Youth Service has had a Post Inspection Action Plan in place since July 2006 which will conclude in July 2007 and is due to report in August

2007. An externally validated self assessment is scheduled for September 2007 and in October there will be an Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment for the Children and Young People's Service. Therefore the Youth Service will by October have completed a thorough review of progress and actions that has been subject to external scrutiny. This will put us in a strong position to focus attention on any areas that need further action.

14.3 Appendix 1 shows the Best Value Performance Indicators for the Youth Service April 2006 - March 2007.

Haringey Council

Appendix 1

Best Value Performance Indicators for the Youth Service April 2006 – March 2007

Benchmark (based on 13 – 19 population = 19,100)	Target number of young people 06/07	Projected % for year 06/07 against target	Projected numbers of young people (06/07)	Actual numbers of young people (March 07)	% of benchmark	% against target 06/07	05/06 % achievement against target	05/06 actual numbers of young people
Contact (25% of 13 – 19 age range)	4775	60%	2,865	2,767	14%	58%	29%	1,384
Participation (15% of 13 – 19 age range)	2865	75%	2,148	2,185	11%	76%	40%	1,146

Performance Indicator (based on 13 – 19 population = 19,100)	Target number of young people 06/07 (against target participant level)	Projected % for year 06/07 against target	Projected numbers of young people (06/07)	Actual numbers of young people (March 07)	% against participant level	05/06 % achievement against target	05/06 actual numbers of young people	Performance Indicator (based on 13 – 19 population = 19,100)
Recorded Outcome (60% of participant level)	1719	49%	1,047	1,053	48%	21%	241	Recorded Outcome (60% of participant level)
Accredited Outcome (30% of participant level)	860	27%	597	732	33%	21%	241	Accredited Outcome (30% of participant level)