

Report to: **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Relevant Officer: Ms Moya Foster, Head of Service

Date of Meeting: 13 September 2018

YOUTH RELATED ACTIVITIES AND YOUTH JUSTICE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the Committee with a picture of the future developments and opportunities in youth related activity and Youth Justice, both locally and nationally.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To consider the potential opportunities in youth related activity and youth justice in Blackpool, as the current position in respect of youth related matters and criminal justice is mixed.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To give Members the opportunity to review the current position in relation to youth related activity and youth justice in order to effectively scrutinise service provision and identify potential opportunities.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Diversionary services across Blackpool need to be reviewed at all levels of the CON to develop services further that prevent escalation and develop resilience.

N/A

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- Priority Two – Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool Young People's Service went live on 3 July 2017 bringing together Youth Justice, Care Leavers, Substance Misuse, Sexual Health and Connexions. The service was created to strengthen the offer to young people aged 10-25.

5.2 Over the last 12 months work has taken place to realign services through the Journey of the Child to develop a more efficient and quality led children's service and to refocus early intervention and prevention with partners. The police are also realigning their services to provide a more place based policing model. This complements the Family Hub model which is currently evolving as part of the aforementioned Journey of the Child work.

5.3 In Blackpool the Children's Centres are being extended to create a new local infrastructure of Family Hubs by working with partners to use resources more efficiently. The Council is building on the Local Authority Children's Centre offer to support Children and Young People as they grow up, as well as their parents. The opportunity has been taken to extend the Family Hub to the whole community, families, young people, vulnerable adults and elders, by enhancing the current offer to include further evening and weekend access. The aim is to build community resilience, improve social mobility, and increase family stability by creating and maintaining partnerships which improve the physical and emotional health of the community. The Council has piloted this approach with one of the Local Authority Children's Centres which services two highly deprived wards with a community sports barn and a hostel on its doorstep, in Talbot and Brunswick and the central Neighbourhood.

5.4 In addition, to increase the offer of a Public Service Integrated Team at the Family Hub a Police Place Based Model is being utilised at the heart of the Hub. The Family Hub will provide the right environment for services to work together and not in isolation using a time team approach, under shared supervision, working within the most troubled and disadvantaged communities. The Place Based Model will afford the Police the opportunity for them to have a presence in the local area, allowing them to build up trust and community confidence and delivering to the community requirements at the point of need. By commencing this approach in one of the Local Authority Children's Centres the Council is able to build on the on lessons learned over time. By building this partnership around neighbourhood policing collectively the Council will be in a position to reduce vulnerability, reduce future demand and

reduce spending on high cost services.

- 5.5 By working in this way the current position can be enhanced in relation to first time entrants in to the criminal justice system, which has recently seen an increase. This is currently being explored with Police colleagues to understand the shift in culture of more young people in Blackpool going through the custody system for charge or summons. The next nearest neighbour in respect of numbers is Preston but the Blackpool number of young people is double this, so there is obviously some work to do.
- 5.6 The out of court disposal panel to divert young people from the system has been refreshed and refocused to enable effective decisions to be made, appropriate and relevant to the young person's circumstances and vulnerabilities.
- 5.7 The Youth Justice Services is also being refocused to better communicate with the magistracy and judiciary. However, a robust and extensive improvement plan is in place to address this. The Council will be using its influence to encourage more community sentences as an alternative to custody and work has begun within children's services to look at credible alternatives to incarcerating young people with vulnerabilities themselves.
- 5.8 There are approximately 80 young people open to the Youth Offending Team element of Blackpool Young People's Service this is a particularly high number in comparison to the nearest unitary which has 20 % more children in their population but only half (40) the number of youth justice cases open to their team. The Council is working collectively with police colleagues to understand this from the same constabulary area and how we can address this to redress the balance. The Council has commissioned support from Blackburn and Darwen Youth offending service Manager two days per week to drive the change required.
- 5.9 The Journey of the Child realignment of services will also impact positively on demand reduction through the new Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MATH) this is where the Police Vulnerable Person notifications will be actioned and shared with partners once the continuum of need has been applied and consent is evident unless there is an obvious safeguarding need or risk of significant harm and then it will progress to children's social care.
- 5.10 There will be a positive impact on demand reduction into Children's Social Care and Health and Police colleagues will provide support at the right time proportionate to the need identified from their own organisations.
- 5.11 Developments and opportunities over the next 12 months will include:
- A Junior attendance centre,
 - Youth activities through the Family Hub as diversionary service,

- Development of Lads and Dads work,
- Increased group work programmes as pre court disposals,
- Remodelling of Anti-Social Behaviour management corporately and with the police.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 N/A

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 The Journey of the Child realignment is underway and will see staff from Blackpool Young Peoples Service and wider Children's Services move into placed based working within Family Hubs. There will be no reduction in staffing.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 It is envisaged that the neighbourhood model will increase community resilience and cohesion in line with our Council priority, Equality Objective and statutory duties under section 149 of the Equality Act.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The youth offending service is supported by partners either financially or by personnel placed in the team. As budgets for all services reduce there continues to be challenges relating to sustainability.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Robust approaches to a whole family risk management approach supported by an operating model and operational services plan seeks to mitigate risk.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 There are no significant ethical considerations that cause concern currently.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Internal and external consultation regarding a systematic re-configuration of children's services has taken place via multi-agency partnerships and practitioner engagement events.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.