

# Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Services for Young People  
Scrutiny Review  
23rd November 2023



# Key Points from 1st Meeting

- **R-time youth service provision map – build into wider strategy for communicating digitally of what is on offer in neighbourhoods.**
- **Support and strengthen the overarching R-time model.**
- **What is in place if HSF/HAF funding is not continued next year?**
- **Young people's views**
  - Feeding into the Youth Alliance questions
  - Youth Alliance event 6th February 202
  - YOS Shout Service
  - Sample of young people in secondary schools
  - #Beewell Survey findings
- **Next meeting focus on Statutory Duty Refresh**

# How to fulfil our statutory duty under Section 507B of the Education Act.



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# Statutory Duty:

Under section 507B of the Education Act 1996: Local authorities in England have a legal duty, so far as reasonably practicable, to secure for qualifying young persons (13 - 19 years old or up to 24 for those with special educational needs) in the authority's area access to:

- a) sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
- b) sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.

This relates to out-of-school hours and settings.

507B is primarily focused on open access community-based youth provision. Local authorities may charge for services, but doing nothing due to cost is not seen as a reasonable response to this legal duty.

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# Statutory Duty

- Covers 13 - 19 year olds (or up to 24 for those with special educational needs)
- Authorities must secure sufficient services for qualifying young people in their area.
- Authorities may directly provide services, assist others in the provision of services, make arrangements for facilitating access to services or anything else that may be appropriate.
- Authorities may also consider if actions should be taken by the Authority or another party, and they may charge for anything provided under this duty.
- Authorities must take steps to learn about young people's views in the area.
- Authorities must publicise information about available services and keep this up to date
- Authorities must have regard to any guidance

**The council is not duty bound to directly deliver these services themselves but** have a duty to ensure access to youth services that meet high standards.

Guidance suggests that a rich and vibrant local youth offer is likely to involve collaboration with the voluntary, community and faith based sector (VCFS). The local offer should probably be delivered via a blend of in-house youth workers and those in the VCFS alongside workers in allied sectors (health, police, schools etc).

# Guidance Overview: Needs Assessment

Rationale, scope and aims  
Assessing young people's needs and current provision  
Determining a sufficient local offer  
Providing the offer  
Publicising the offer  
Reviewing the offer  
Step-by-step guide and checklist & useful links



## What this means ...

Each local authority must co-produce and publish a local youth offer plan. This will be informed by the local needs analysis. Councils are advised to adopt a typical analyse, plan, do, review model. This is a large piece of work to undertake.



# Analyse, Plan, Do, Review commissioning model



Each council must work with young people and their local youth sector partners to complete the local youth needs assessment. This should be both quantitatively and qualitatively information using local knowledge.

The goal is to publish a public report that shows the needs of young people and how the council and its partners will focus the efforts and resources.

The council will also need to map the current local youth provision.

*(This will link into One Stockport Plan)*

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# Impact on Workforce Development

- LA's will want to consider implementing a workforce development plan, devised with consideration given to the local needs analysis, the capacity and strength of existing local providers and the strategics and operational priorities of other allied sectors in the area. A co-produced plan will support LA's and its partners to invest in and secure the right mix of workers (paid or voluntary).
- All staff and volunteers should have the opportunity to access and engage in training and development activities that support their own needs and those of young people.
- As a minimum, all staff (including volunteers) should have completed training in:
  1. Safeguarding
  2. Managing risk
  3. Emergency First Aid,
  4. Leading activities with young people,
  5. Building relationships with young people,
  6. Recording and storing information (including confidentiality)

## Wider implications....

There should be an expectation that all people working with young people (paid or unpaid in any capacity) have undergone basic safeguarding training that is updated bi-annually. This training does not have to be provided by the LA but it should be identified, coordinated and promoted by them.

*There is a wide range of free training available nationally, including from the NSPCC and through the National Youth Agency Safeguarding and Risk Management Hub.*

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# What do we know already:



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# RTime Detached Team – Peer Review

- Peer review took place on 4th October and was led by Youth Focus North West. The following two slides give a flavour of the report.
- Youth Focus North West (YFNW), as the regional youth work unit, has taken a lead in co-ordinating and managing a peer-to-peer programme across the region which is developmental and promotes critical dialogue
- The focus for the review was on strategic positioning of youth work and its contribution to LA outcomes. Engaging with and reporting to senior officers/elected members
- The reviewing team interviewed various strategic leads, Councillor Meikle, 3rd sector organisations, the R Time detached team and also spoke to a group of young people.

# RTime Detached Team – Peer Review Themes



- The review team was impressed by the enthusiasm which senior managers, and elected members demonstrated for children and young people in Stockport. Senior managers report that Stockport Children's Services is 'on a journey' of rapid and fundamental rethinking about service delivery.
- The review team is of the view that youth work, as a unique discipline and shared methodology, is not sufficiently evident among the above developments.
- The small detached team has a clear purpose, is respected, and appears to plan and conduct its work coherently. Vitally, young people regularly engage with detached workers.
- Though VCS organisations are wholly independent and may not be in receipt of council grant aid, a de-facto relationship exists, for instance through being a member of the Youth Alliance/Network. However, the review team was not persuaded that council managers had a suitably comprehensive policy in place regarding safeguarding within these organisations.
- Overall, the review team is of the view that the Council's ambition for local young people would be strengthened if a comprehensive workforce development plan, reflective of local need, was in place. Pleasingly, a Level 3 youth work training course is about to commence in partnership with Stockport College which was negotiated by RTime managers.

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# RTime Detached Team – Peer Review Recommendations

- The review team suggests that strategic consideration is given to greater promotion and inclusion of youth work as a particular discipline and methodology.
- It is now timely for managers to consider a time limited review into whether youth work might be better secured with greater visibility and ‘shape and form’ than is currently the case.
- Senior managers may wish to formally assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and practices which operate in partner organisations, funded or not, are fit for purpose and meet the Council’s expectations.
- .Consider the potential benefits to the youth sector and young people of working with the VCS and wider partners to strengthen the role and function. The Youth Network has the potential to become a more formal partnership with the purpose of developing a comprehensive youth offer for young people across Stockport.



# FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

**WE ALREADY HAVE SOME FEEDBACK FROM  
YOUNG PEOPLE WHICH INDICATES WHAT THEY  
WANT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES:**

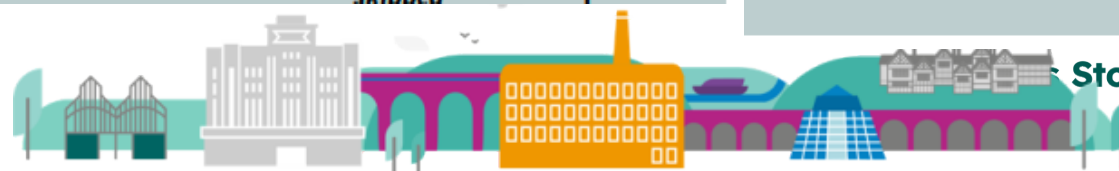
# R TIME DETACHED TEAM – YOUNG PEOPLE'S FEEDBACK MY COMMUNITY AND ME MAY 2023



51 young people responded to a survey from RTime about activities and general views of what is available in their area:

Is there anything you would change about your local area?			
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total	
1	More activities for young people	40.0%	20
2	Improve road safety	28.0%	14
3	I wouldn't change anything	24.0%	12
4	Improve the local environment	20.0%	10
5	Reduce crime	20.0%	10
6	Public transport	18.0%	9
7	Another choice:	2.0%	1
<i>answered</i>		<b>50</b>	
<i>skipped</i>		<b>1</b>	

Are there activities that you wish were available?			
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Sports group	51.0%	25
2	Going on trips	38.8%	19
3	Biking sessions	30.6%	15
4	Youth club	24.5%	12
5	Cooking groups	16.3%	8
6	RTime Youth Sessions	14.3%	7
7	Arts group	10.2%	5
8	Music group	8.2%	4
9	Dance classes	6.1%	3
10	Another choice:	6.1%	3
11	Drama club	4.1%	2
12	Religious worship	0.0%	0
<i>answered</i>		<b>49</b>	
<i>skipped</i>		<b>2</b>	



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# Next steps ..... resources to undertake this piece of work



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