

Report of the Executive Director for People and Neighbourhoods

Cabinet Response - Services for Young People
Executive Director for People and Neighbourhoods

1. Introduction

1.1 As part of the Scrutiny Work Programme approved by the Council for the municipal year 2023/24, the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee requested a scrutiny review to consider the youth provision, provided without charge and the breadth of opportunities for adolescent young people in Stockport aged 11 to 16 years old

1.2 The specific focus of the review was agreed as:

- To understand the demographics of the adolescent population across the borough.
- To scope and map the provision available delivered via the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector and the Council.
- To understand the infrastructure and connections across the provision.
- To understand how provision is funded.
- To identify any areas that would benefit from being strengthened.

2. Purpose of report

2.1 This report is the response to the 3 recommendations in the original scrutiny review.

3. Original Recommendations and Agreed Response

Original Recommendation	Agreed response	Timescale
<p>Support the Council’s Digital programme in the development of a single directory solution for the borough, bringing in the existing RTime mapping of activity and streamlining the recording of groups and activity across our wider programmes, such as HAF, Family Hubs, Leaving Care Local Offer and SEND Local Offer. This work will mean less duplication of effort across the system for both the service and groups. As part of this work there will be an opportunity to identify where more provision is potentially needed.</p>	<p>Regarding RTime (a network of VCSFE providers of targeted youth work) the information has been and will continue to be fed into the One Stockport Local Directory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTime have been successful in securing a grant to develop a website in order to improve the communication both within and between the RTime network and to give all participants a platform to show what youth work provision is available in Stockport. • This will include further development of the RTime map, which requires ongoing work as the offer and providers develops and changes. This will all be linked into the council’s digital programme. • To support this piece of work, there will be a business support role for the RTime network which will include keeping relevant social media and RTime website updated. The role is 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>funded through the National Lottery RTime fund agreed through feedback from the network members.</p> <p>Family Hubs, SEND offer and Leaving care support have also been incorporated into the One Stockport Local Directory and this will continue to be updated in accordance with the digital work within the Neighbourhoods and Prevention programme.</p>	
<p>Develop a wider communication strategy to improve communication to residents regarding the youth provision in Stockport. This will be a key feature of the Neighbourhoods and Prevention programme bringing services closer to where young people live, learn and play.</p>	<p>The further development, coordination and communication of the youth offer for young people in Stockport has now been incorporated into the refreshed Early Help Strategy 2024 – 2027.</p> <p>All areas nationally are expected to publish the Youth Offer as part of the Family Hubs programme and this will be done once the work is finalised, including the provision through the RTime network.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme big ticket items in the coming year includes the development of the One Stockport Live Well Offer. This aims to pull together in simple and accessible communication, all of what is accessible to residents in a local neighbourhood. This will include access to and details of youth offer as outlined above.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Ensure there is a robust and widespread cross section of young people’s voices fed into the youth provision offer in the borough on a sustained basis. Working with L!sten to guide and inform this engagement</p>	<p>Young people’s voice is fed into the youth provision offer through various forums including LISTEN and other feedback and input such as the Youth Justice Partnership and the young people’s participation officer. The VCSFE agency who coordinate and deliver LISTEN (PIE) are part of the RTime network.</p> <p>LISTEN have a key partnership with the Council and schools and deliver events such as the annual Youth Summit, which is in its second year. This focussed on Mental Health and Wellbeing in February 2025 as decided by young people through the youth voice systems in place.</p>	Ongoing

4. Financial and Risk Assessment considerations

4.1 There are no financial and risk assessment considerations associated with this report.

5. Legal Considerations

5.1 There are no legal considerations associated with this report.

6. Human Resources Impact

6.1 This work relies on the ongoing facilitation and support of Council Officers.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 R-Time network and the recommendations in this report are helping to extend Stockport's youth offer. The variation offered through the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise sector (VCSFE) in particular, helps to reach marginalised and disadvantaged young people and communities, improve cultural awareness, and strengthen relationships. This includes identifying and addressing the unique needs of young people and communities, ensuring that support is inclusive and non-stigmatising.

8. Environmental Impact

8.1 There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 This Cabinet response be noted and endorsed by Childrens & Families Scrutiny Committee.

Background Papers

Scrutiny Review Panel: Services to Young People Report - Children & Families Scrutiny Committee - 28th of February 2024.

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