



Author/Lead Officer of Report:
Chelsea Renehan, Head of Youth Services

Report of: *John Macilwraith*
Report to: *Leader, Sheffield City Council*
Date of Decision: *24th March 2022*
Subject: *Sheffield Community Youth Strategy 2022-25*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Community Youth Services		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?		
Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 1168		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>		

Purpose of Report:

This report sets out the work undertaken by Youth Services to develop a citywide Community Youth Strategy for Sheffield covering the period 2022-2025.

It seeks approval of the final version of the Sheffield Community Youth Strategy 2022-2025.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Leader of Sheffield City Council:

- Approves the Community Youth Strategy attached to this report as a statement of the Council's strategic approach to Youth Services.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

Community Youth Strategy 2022-25

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Liz Gough</i>
		Legal: <i>Nadine Wynter</i>
		Equalities: <i>Ed Sexton</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	EMT member who approved submission:	<i>John Macilwraith</i>
3	Cabinet Member consulted:	<i>Terry Fox</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Chelsea Renehan	Job Title: Head of Youth Services
	Date: <i>15th March 2022</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Background

Youth services and provision have declined nationally with over a billion pounds taken out of youth provision nationally over the period of austerity.

This has left a provision in decline and a lack of qualified youth workers graduating from universities that offer youth work degrees. This is evident across the country including Sheffield where we have since lost a JNC recognised Youth Work Degree program that was once delivered by Sheffield Hallam University.

The Youth Services contract with Sheffield Futures ended in October 2020 and the service was subsequently brought back into the Council. A Cabinet report in June 2020 set out the council's intention to invest and improve the youth service and to broaden our partnership with organisations across the city.

Due to the pandemic the effort to invest has been seriously compromised. In 2020/21 a decision was made to use most of the £2m investment to provide Laptops for young people to aid their learning and access to online materials as schools were closed and when opened struggled to maintain class learning whilst trying to mitigate the spread and effect of Covid.

1.2 Challenges

Disinvestment nationally in youth services has seen the decline in the youth work profession to the extent that, currently, no Further Education college or university in Sheffield provides a youth work qualification or training facility. This has led to difficulty recruiting the number of youth workers we need to grow the service across the city.

When the contract was brought back in house affordability limited provision to just 49 sessions for the city which does not provide citywide coverage or adequate staffing numbers and the youth facilities, in most cases, are in a poor condition and not fit for a modern youth offer.

Engagement with young people is patchy and there is a need to develop the pathways to engage with young people and to give them voice and influence over the services they want.

1.3 Current Position

Over the last 4 months, a number of key actions have been achieved:

- A new operating model has been designed, to be implemented early in the new year, that will result in a professionally qualified senior youth worker attached to each LAC for youth service provision and development with young people in their community.
- Development of the Youth Partnership Board with at least 25% of the membership being young people. This group have met twice and has achieved the 25% target of youth involvement representative of Sheffield's young residents with recognition of diverse voices.
- An increase in youth attendance and participation at existing provisions including in some our most deprived neighbourhoods seeing an average of 35-40 young people attending club nights and the most successful Dark Nights Programme in years
- Quarterly activity reports are discussed and circulated to local ward councillors.
- Work with the National Youth Agency profiled thematic specialists and Universities about a training and development programme to ensure that youth workers have the necessary training and qualifications to deliver youth services.
- Attendance at meetings within the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector.
- Preparing a youth survey that will take place bi-annually, delivered in February, alongside youth parliament elections.
- Increased youth cabinet seats from 20 to 45 to ensure all Local Area Committee areas and underrepresented voices are encouraged to participate.

These have culminated in the production of this 'Live' strategy (Appendix A). This is a city-wide youth strategy that all active members of the youth partnership will account to via a managed annual delivery plan. This will include strategic champions to informally audit the work as it takes place.

1.5 **The Strategy**

We are ambitious for young residents of Sheffield and their access to modern contemporary and trusted services that are designed based on their identified 'lived needs' and we want to plan to invest the £2m commitment of SCC responsibly.

Young people deserve access to modern services with a trained and dynamic workforce committed to delivering the best outcomes with and for young people of Sheffield.

Approval of the strategy will result a sustainable, quality provision making Sheffield the place to be for both youth work professionals and for young people living in the city.

As a result of the strategy, by 2025, Sheffield's young people will have a relationship of trust in a city of support, innovation and safety. We will be recognised for contemporary practices with growing benefit to young people in Sheffield. We will be connected leaders and working collaboratively with partners to build Sheffield's support for young people.

In 2025:

- Young people will have access to safe, ambitious, and creative youth provisions where they live.
- Young people will have access to safe, professional, and contemporary specialist intervention services that are 'in touch' with their needs.
- Young people will feel connected and their communities will have the knowledge to notice, and the confidence report, harm early.
- Young people in Sheffield will be employment ready, aspiring to achieve what 'THEY' think is right for their interests and themselves.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

2.1 The strategy will contribute to the following ambitions in the one-year plan:

2.1.1 Communities and neighbourhoods

Community Youth Services will offer a program of ambitious service and support to young people in Sheffield that enables them to achieve to their full potential. The work will support all young people needing any developmental community-based support from universal engagement to specialist provision.

One Year Plan

Communities and neighbourhoods

- Engaging, enabling and empowering our residents

Youth Strategy

Understanding trends, delivering quality, evidencing impact

- Ensuring high quality, relevant and contemporary provisions that can demonstrate significant impact on the quality of life for Young Sheffielders.
- Ensure ambitious, confident, and clear 'inspection readiness' informed by young people's lived experiences and youth proofed by them

- through Local Area Committees
- High quality, safe homes for all our citizens
- Neighbourhoods that are clean, green, safe and thriving
- Supporting communities as Covid restrictions ease
- Supporting young people in Sheffield to develop and flourish
- Investing in our sport and leisure facilities to support better health and wellbeing
- Demonstrate vigilance to the changing trends of young people and spot early signs of concern.
- Demonstrate the value of information, advice and guidance.
- Proactively seeking external funding opportunities and partnerships to test new ideas and develop practice
- Sheffielders in their communities.
- Demonstrate the contribution that a universal youth service makes on wider community cohesion.

2.1.2 Education, Health and Care

Sheffield is committed to providing an outstanding youth offer outside formal education, ensuring there are trusted adults, mentors and/or youth workers to provide consistent professional guidance, advice and support to enable access to a wide range of leisure, educational, cultural experiences and activities

One Year Plan

Education, health & care

- Give everyone the best start in life
- Support Covid recovery for children and young people
- We strive to be an exemplar in children's services and support our Children Looked After to achieve their full potential.
- Deliver effective, person-focused SEND services
- Reduce exclusion in all its forms
- Enabling adults to live the life that they want to live

Youth Strategy

Thriving and resilient young Sheffielders

- A thriving and innovative program of universal community-based activities of informal education.
- Safe mobility for young people between communities encouraging positive relationships.
- Young Sheffielders will have consistent access to highly trained and committed specialist workers.
- Young Sheffielders will determine their own life goals and will be enabled to aspire for safe opportunities with high-quality information, advice and guidance.
- Community Youth Services will continue to strive for

proportionate engagement from underrepresented groups.

- All young Sheffieldsers will be empowered and supported to celebrate their chosen identities and beliefs

2.1.3 Our council

Youth Services in Sheffield are committed to the authentic engagement of all ages in the design and delivery of services. Young Sheffieldsers and their communities leading the way for design and development will be essential to make sure services are effectively responding to the needs of young people in communities.

It is recognised, in the strategy, that there is a significant need for positive collaboration, innovation and trend setting for youth services in Sheffield. To achieve this, we will work proactively and inclusively with all stakeholders, being bold and dynamic together to recognise local strengths in communities to keep young people safe. Enabling young people, through their own advocacy, to aspire to achieve their own chosen potential.

One Year Plan

Our council

- Involve our citizens in the decisions that affect them and their communities
- Support our diverse communities in recovering from the impact of Covid by taking visible action to fight poverty and inequality
- Attract sustainable jobs and more investment to Sheffield by being a confident, outward looking city that punches its weight on a regional, northern and national stage
- A city council that is well-run, connected to communities and committed to excellence
- A city council that is ready for the future

Youth Strategy

Sheffieldsers shape services

- To involve all stakeholders in the design, delivery and evaluation of Community Youth Services.
- To enhance the knowledge and skills of communities to recognise the earliest signs of harmful behaviour and exploitation of young people.
- To consult with Young Sheffieldsers regularly.
- Biennial survey of Young Sheffieldsers informing key design
- Youth Role Models programs supporting citizen and peer led responses to the needs of Young Sheffieldsers
- Development of a Youth partnership, empowering young people to have a say about matters most

important and relevant to them.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 There has been extensive consultation with young people, staff, and wider stakeholders over the last 6 years.
- 3.2 As part of a consultation process in summer 2017, the views of young people were sought on the future of services for young people in Sheffield. This consultation included speaking directly to young people, including more vulnerable young people. This included meeting with the Youth Cabinet and Young Advisers..
- 3.3 We heard a number of views from young people about existing services and their needs. In particular young people repeatedly told us they didn't like having to keep 'bouncing around' support services, having to 'tell their story' repeatedly to new keyworkers in different services, and would value having a more joined up and consistent support service that could meet a range of needs without needing to keep referring them on.
- 3.4 Visits were made to housing schemes for homeless young people aged 16-19 and consultation undertaken with the residents and staff there. The young people reported having to repeat their personal circumstances and support needs several times in each service they accessed which they found frustrating.
- 3.5 The new Youth Partnership, which has a minimum of 25% young people, has been consulted on the development of this strategy. The Board has, to date, met twice and feedback from attendees has shaped the development of this strategy.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (reference 1168) has been developed. It considers how the strategy would potentially benefit groups with protected characteristics, including age, disability and sex, and its wider impacts on health, poverty and other issues. Pending the decision, this will be reviewed and updated further to reflect further progress and development of the strategy.

4.1.2 Outcomes of the Equality Impact Assessment

The additional resources to be invested in supporting young people will reduce inequalities in outcome between younger people and their older peers. Resources will be balanced so that young people with greater disadvantage receive more support tailored to their needs, so this proposal will contribute to efforts to close the gap in areas like school

engagement and attainment which are felt more greatly by young people from more disadvantaged or groups protected by equalities duties.

4.2 **Financial and Commercial Implications**

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications of adopting the strategy. Funding has been allocated to the delivery of the Strategy for the 22/23 financial year

The implementation of any of the actions set out in the Strategy will be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the financial and commercial implications will be considered fully at that time.

4.3 **Legal Implications**

- 4.3.1 The Council has several statutory duties relevant to youth and young people services. These include the duty under Section 507B to, so far as reasonably practicable, secure access to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Adoption of the proposed Strategy will help to ensure that these duties continue to be met.

- 4.3.2 The implementation of any of the actions set out in the proposed Strategy will be subject to the appropriate decision making process, and the legal implications will be considered fully at that time.

4.4 **Other Implications**

- 4.4.1 None

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The 'do nothing' option would be to not have a Community Youth Strategy in place. The strategy gives the opportunity to capture, in one place, the plan and direction for the city in relation to Community Youth Services.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Implementing a city-wide Community Youth strategy is timely for the reasons described above. It captures the high-level strategic aims with relation to Youth Services and provides clarity and direction for the service.

This is a live and evolving strategy until 2025 that will be monitored by the youth partnership board and will be actioned through an annual service (partnership) delivery plan, this will be established and monitored with quarterly action plans and reports that feed into the partnership ensuring that the views of all partners and stakeholders, including young people, continue to shape the delivery of Community Youth Services into the future.