

## **Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Youth report to Full Council, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

### **1. York Youth Service**

- Following its restructure in 2005 the Youth Service is beginning to deliver much improved and more focused area based provision for young people. The service is now successful in maintaining year round provision at both the 68 Centre and Chapelfields following difficulties in these areas in previous years.
- The area based provision is shortly to be supplemented by the Youth Offer- for which information has been collated and launch is due later in April- ahead of legislation.
- This year has seen the bringing together of the information, advice and guidance services provided by the Youth Enquiry Service and the Connexions shop at Castlegate. The Castlegate one-stop-shop provides an opportunity to test the water for the merger of the Connexions service with the area based youth service provision. The merger will provide opportunities to deliver services to young people in their own communities and not just from a city centre location.
- The Targeted Youth Support Pathfinder in the York West area was led by the Youth Service. It has seen close multi-agency collaboration and was made a success largely due to the officers involved in the project.
- The Youth Service continues to do well in attracting significant outside funding to supplement its core budget. The two Urbie buses are an example of how this works well, with funding received from both Connexions and the Safer York Partnership helping the team to reach more people on the street and in rural areas. When supplemented by other provision for young people, such as the Street Sport Bus and Mobile Skate Park, the Urbie buses help provide a truly mobile youth offer.
- The Positive Activities for Young People programme has been extended to 4 areas and now involves 120 young people. The young people referred to the programme tend to be those most at risk of being caught up in anti-social behaviour. The programme works intensively with the young people during the school holidays, but also often provides alternative learning programmes for those who would otherwise fall into the 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) category. The PAYP programme has won significant praise both locally and nationally. Nationally it has been upheld as an example of best practice in social integration. Locally, it has been praised in two consecutive years by senior officers of the North Yorkshire

Police force as a major contributing factor in a reduction of crime in some areas of the city.

- The Youth Service are involved in significant cross-departmental working. A recent example of how successful this can be is in the relaunch of the YOzone card which was distributed to over 2,500 young people the first two weeks.

## 2. Social Inclusion Working Group

- The SIWG is in its first year of existence, whilst it has got off to a good start, it will take time for these new structures to bed in. The agreed structure gives representatives of community organisations reflecting all the equalities strands an opportunity to input into the work of the Council.
- It is the first time that groups such as the LGB forum have had an opportunity to bid for small amounts of funding from the equalities budget to further their work. Grants have been made to the LGB forum, the Older People's Assembly and the York Racial Equality Network. Funding has been allocated to support the greater involvement of young people in the work of the SIWG and the equalities team have been working closely with the representative community groups and the Youth Service to this end.
- Reports have been received on various issues, including a major report about proposals to establish a Centre for Independent Living in York, adult changing places, and the diversity of the Council's workforce.