

Executive

30 July 2015

Report of the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills

Castlegate Update

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Executive on progress of the transformation of services for young people currently located at Castlegate. The report provides a summary of the work that has taken place since February 2015 to develop a new, innovative and sustainable model for youth advice and support services. The report includes further recommendations about the options and timeline for developing and implementing the new youth advice and support service.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to consider:
 - to continue to deliver the current range of services from Castlegate as outlined in Option 2 with continued engagement with partners to develop new, innovative and sustainable models of delivery which provides targeted advice and support for vulnerable young people, 16-24
 - it is recommended that we proceed with Option 2 for the remainder of 2015/16 with a view to agreeing a sustainable model described in paragraph 17 to be implemented in 2016/17. A detailed proposal and business case for this remodelled service will be developed through the YorOK Board sub-group and be presented to the Executive in October 2015

Reason: To allow evidence based practice to emerge from other transformed areas of children's services and delivery and other partnership funding streams to be identified.

Background

3. The Castlegate Centre has a history of working with partners including colleges and training providers, York MIND, the Princes Trust and Foundation Housing to provide young people age 16-24, with advice, support and access to non-clinical counselling. Community Links work in partnership with Castlegate to provide the early intervention and psychosis service and offer appointments to young people in need of clinical support.
4. Following the decision by Cabinet in November 2014 to review the agreed proposal to close Castlegate and provide advice and support services including counselling from West Offices, the YorOK Board was asked to assume governance and oversight for the review of the business case. A YorOK subgroup was established and has explored alternative options for delivering advice and support services to young people, 16-25.
5. To date the sub group has met three times. Additional activity has taken place outside these meetings with the Leeds and York Partnership Trust (LYPT) and York MIND to explore different models of working. Visits to successful voluntary and community provision including the Market Place in Leeds have also taken place.
6. Between November 2014 and February 2015 extensive consultation with partners and young people has taken place. The consultation document was sent to approximately 200 individuals and organisations.
7. Twenty two responses were received from partners, including three from local authority (LA) partners, five from mental health charities, clinicians and children's health clinicians, four from schools, colleges and providers, three from Connexions staff, three from the housing sector and one from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office (PCC) and Job Centre Plus.
8. A consultation event for young people was held at West Offices which was attended by Castlegate users and Year 11 pupils. For groups who felt uncomfortable at large events, smaller and more targeted work was used including 1-2-1 sessions. Additionally, an online survey was made available. In total, the consultation engaged 81 young people from the 13-25 age range.

9. The results of the consultation were reported to YorOK sub group and the YorOK Board in February 2015. Feedback broadly favoured city centre premises as the preferred venue for the delivery of advice and support services to young people.
10. The decision taken at the council budget meeting in February to fund Castlegate for the financial year 2015/16 has allowed more time for a full exploration and development of alternative models and to attract more sustainable funding. But at the time of writing, there is no firm commitment to funding from health service delivery partners or the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Options

11. As a result of the work undertaken by the sub group, the following options have been explored.

Option 1

12. This option was put to Cabinet in October 2014. The YorOK sub group felt that the preferred option in the original business case should continue to be discussed as there were merits in the proposal related to the opportunities to co-locate a range of services and partners in an existing city centre venue currently used by some groups of young people which required further consideration.
13. In response to the need to find £245k of savings and after analysis of the services provided at Castlegate, close Castlegate and relocate post-16 IAG, provided by connexions advisers and existing the counselling services to West Offices. Savings would be achieved through reducing the number of Personal Support and Inclusion worker (PSI) posts.
14. Relocating to West Offices would offer a new reconfigured and coordinated post-16 young people's service as an alternative to the current service offered from Castlegate. The service would work in partnership with existing council services such as housing, benefits, York Learning and Future Prospects and partners including (potentially) Jobcentre Plus, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the National Careers Service and the Voluntary Council to deliver the support currently given by the Castlegate Personal Support and Inclusion workers (PSIs).

15. Taking into account concerns from partners and young people about the accessibility of West Offices, this model would retain a PSI post to offer a triage service to diagnose need and link young people to services in the building.
16. Counselling services would be provided in suitable accommodation ensuring a confidential and therapeutic service in line with best practice.

Option 2

17. To continue to fund and deliver existing services from Castlegate until April 2016 to allow for the development of a sustainable integrated youth advice and support service.
18. This model is likely to feature an integrated and co-located youth service offer operating from a city centre venue which would bring together a range of professionals to provide specialist advice and support for young people at risk of NEET, care leavers, those in the youth justice system and from other vulnerable groups. The service would provide targeted support to promote young people's emotional health and wellbeing and support welfare to work pathways to secure effective transition to adult life for vulnerable young people. The newly configured service will develop innovative models of service delivery including face to face and digital solutions co-constructed with service users and partners to maximise the impact, reach and accessibility of the service.
19. Further work needs to take place between August and October 2015 to develop the new model. An important aspect of this work will be to run focus groups with service users and partners to co-construct solutions. Work will also continue to identify funding and staffing resources from health, the LA and other potential sources of funding eg from grants not available to the public sector. An important element in the development of a sustainable new model for a new integrated youth advice and support service will involve a restructuring of existing LA resources and the development of a stronger partnership model to include both health and the voluntary sector.

Analysis

Option 1

Advantages

20. It allows a young people's offer from a wide range of services to be delivered from one city centre venue.
21. Young people can be supported to access a full range of services in one building, allowing for a smoother transition from children's to adult resident services.
22. Co-location will offer opportunities for services to be more integrated and focused upon the needs of young people.

Disadvantages

23. The prevailing delivery model across many LAs indicates that young people value their own space to access services specific to them as they grow into adulthood.
24. During the consultation with partners and young people in November and December 2014, the feedback received indicated that West Offices was not currently perceived as being a suitable building to deliver IAG and support services to young people, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Option 2

Advantages

25. The current delivery model has support from stakeholders and young people as evidenced by the consultation in December 2014.
26. Sustaining the service until April 2016 would allow more time to work with service users and partners to develop a sustainable delivery models.
27. A different model of targeted delivery focused upon the improving the outcomes of vulnerable young people in transition to adulthood.
28. The opportunity for health, the LA and other partners to align resources to provide targeted and integrated services for vulnerable young people.

29. The newly configured service will make best use of existing resources to support young people to develop their emotional resilience and move on into positive outcomes such as independent housing and employment, education and training.

Disadvantages

30. The current building is in need of investment which will be costly.
31. At present the lack of partner (particularly financial) contributions to this model is the major obstacle to taking this option forward.

Council Plan

32. This report relates to the council's corporate priorities, as set out in the draft Council Plan 2015-19 and other key change programmes:
- a prosperous city for all
 - a focus on frontline services
 - a council that listens to residents

Implications

Financial

33. The original business case for the relocation of the Castlegate IAG service for young people delivered a total financial saving of £176k, of which £161k was from the reduction in four Personal Support & Inclusion workers and a 0.5fte Advice Lead, and £15k from the costs of running Castlegate.
34. At budget council in February the decision to relocate IAG to West Offices was amended, and non-recurring growth of £200k was allocated for the 2015/16 financial year to allow staff sufficient time to explore the development of partnerships that might raise additional funding to enable the continuation of the existing service outside of West Offices.
35. Continuation of the existing service at Castlegate would require the one year non-recurring growth to be made recurring and alternative savings of £200k to be found. If continuing in the Castlegate premises is not an option, eg due to its sale to the Civic Trust, there will be additional amounts to factor in relating to running costs depending on the site.

Human Resources (HR)

36. Whilst different options are still being explored there are no direct HR implications arising from this report. Staff are being engaged in the consultation process and their views being considered. There is support available to staff. Any future staffing changes would be managed in line with agreed HR policy.

Equalities

37. A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) was carried out for the October Cabinet Meeting when the initial business case was submitted. When new sustainable arrangements are agreed, then a new CIA will be carried out.

Legal

38. No Implications at this stage.

Crime and Disorder

39. No implications.

Information Technology (IT)

40. No implications at this stage.

Property

41. If future options are brought back to Executive for location of services in West Offices, amendments will need to be made to respond to the consultation and create appropriate spaces for young people. If other options are identified then more in depth property work will be needed to identify and secure alternative space. There may be one off and ongoing costs associated with all options. This work will be carried out by Asset and Property Management working with the service managers, reporting initially to the Capital and Asset Board.

Other

42. None

Risk Management

43. There are no known risks.

Contact Details

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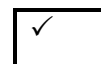
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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Appendix 1 - Cabinet report, 10 February 2015 (available online)