

**City of York Council
Children's Services, Education and Skills
Transformation Programme**

**PARTNER CONSULTATION:
INFORMATION, ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND
SUPPORT SERVICES TO YOUNG
PEOPLE**

Date: December 2014

Introduction

This document provides the outline proposal for transformed Services to Young People as part of the Children's Services, Education and Skills Transformation Programme.

Within the document, our proposals for delivering Services to Young People are described and partners are asked to comment on the proposed model.

Context

The Rewiring Public Services Programme is the City of York Council's transformation programme and was introduced in October 2013 to help the Council effectively manage the major challenges ahead. The transformation programme recognises that we need to be a more responsive and more flexible council – a council that puts residents first.

As part of the Re-wiring programme, Children's Services Education and Skills is transforming the way it delivers Services to Young People.

Phase one of the Services to Young People Transformation saw the Integrated Youth Services split into three new areas – Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG); Youth Offending Team and Personal Support Inclusion Service and Youth and Community Development. Phase 1 has been completed and achieved the savings of £340k.

Phase 2 involves a further stretch target of £500k of which IAG services need to achieve savings of £240k in 2015/16.

Whilst the proposals have been developed together in order to ensure synergy between the services, the focus of this consultation document is IAG services, also known as Connexions.

Underpinning principles

Across the work of transformation programme, we will adhere to the following principles:

- We will always protect the most vulnerable
- The transformation programme will ensure that defining the role of the local authority as the champion of better outcomes for all children and young people in York is maintained

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- The transformation programme will ensure that the local authority maintains its statutory duties whilst working with partners to develop innovative models of service delivery through maintaining local relationships and enabling local partnerships and local solutions
- To ensure a cohesive Youth offer remains in place across the new service delivery arrangements.

Information, Advice and Guidance

Current model

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) is made up of the statutory targeted school and college based IAG service, the post-16 IAG and support service and confidential counselling services currently delivered from premises at Castlegate and the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

This service is made up of a team of Connexions Advisors, a team of Personal Support and Inclusion Workers (PSIs), Information, Advice and Guidance leads, Counsellors and Youth Workers.

Connexions advisors work in schools, colleges and in the labour market delivering the local authority's statutory duty to support vulnerable young people at risk of NEET, including those disabled, looked after and disengaged from education age 13 to 19 (up to age 25 for disabled young people), focusing on providing careers advice, guidance support and positive challenge.

The PSIs provide advice to the 16+ age group, on how to access support on employment, Housing, Benefits and health. They support those young people who are NEET by providing a holistic service to help young people to address barriers to education, employment and training.

The counselling services offers confidential support to young people age 16 to 25.

The themes of this transformed service model were agreed at the July Cabinet and are as follows:

- Retaining a smaller core team of qualified advisers to deliver impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET
- Providing a traded service to schools to provide additional support to them in the delivery of their statutory responsibilities

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- Exploring the provision of services currently located at Castlegate through alternative venues
- Ensuring resources are utilised and distributed effectively
- Building capacity within communities.

Engagement and consultation

Engagement and consultation has been undertaken in relation to premises with young people who access services including via Castlegate and with professionals and partners who support this work. This has shown that whilst 50% of young people consulted would prefer Castlegate to remain open, they would attend sessions at an alternative venue in the city centre. The response was less enthusiastic regarding a proposal of community based provision with a majority preferring a city centre venue.

Proposed model

The proposal is to provide targeted support for the most vulnerable young people in order to enable them to access education, employment and training, in line with Council priorities to support young people in the York economy, particularly those who are most vulnerable. We will link with partners to add range and variety to the existing offer.

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- Exploring the provision of services currently located at Castlegate through alternative venues.

In response to the need to find £240k of savings, consultation outlined above and after analysis of the services provided at Castlegate, the recommended model is to close Castlegate and relocate post-16 IAG and existing counselling services to West Offices.

By relocating to West Offices, the service will offer a new reconfigured and coordinated post-16 young people's services as an alternative to the current service offered from Castlegate. The service will work in partnership with existing council services such as Housing, Benefits, York Learning and Future Prospects and partners including Jobcentre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau, National Careers Service and the Voluntary Council to deliver the support currently given by the PSIs.

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Counselling services will be provided in suitable accommodation ensuring a confidential and therapeutic service in line with best practice.

The proposal will retain the current Connexions service which will have statutory responsibility for delivering a targeted approach by supporting identified vulnerable young people age 13 to 19. The focus of the team will be to support vulnerable young people with Education, Health and Care Plans, Looked After Children and those disengaged from education to participate in education, employment and training in with the duty outlined in the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA).

Alternative models

The current IAG and support offer to young people from age 16 to 25 could be maintained but substantial external funding would need to be identified. This could include commissioning a Mutual delivering non-statutory support services for young people.

Questions for partners

Does the proposed model including a retained statutory IAG service and post 16 services offer the right level of service for vulnerable young people?

What are your views on the proposed model to deliver post 16 services co-located with other services and providers from one city centre premises?

Do you have any other comments or views about how young people's IAG services should be delivered?

Name:

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Job title:

Organisation:

Email address:

Please return your written responses to youth.service@york.gov.uk
by midday on Monday 15 December 2014.