

KIRKLEES CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MEETING DATE: 20th December 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: Kirklees Youth Alliance (KYA)

1. Purpose of paper:

This report looks to provide the Partnership Board with a summary of the Kirklees Youth Alliance (KYA), the background to the KYA being formed, its purpose and what it now hopes to achieve. The KYA is referenced within the emerging Kirklees Children and Young People's Plan.

The Board is asked to note the positive progress made regarding the KYA to date, provide comment as necessary and ensure that organisations within their own network, that are involved in the delivery of services for local young people, are invited to join the network of local youth organisations that the KYA hopes to support.

2. Background:

With the severe financial position facing local authorities, the direct provision of professional youth services has been challenged across the country. The impact of this review in Kirklees was for the Council to have to make the very difficult decision to no longer directly provide generic youth services.

A group of local partners who shared a concern that such a change in provision would be detrimental to local young people and lead to a range of subsequent negative outcomes taking place, met to consider what could be done. The partners wanted to try to provide some form of support network for the wide range of local youth service providers, largely within the voluntary and community sector, and also, if at all possible, support the provision of youth activity in areas of disadvantage and / or with targeted sections of the community (e.g. LGBT, disability, women & girls, etc.).

The partners now involved in trying to move the KYA forward are: Kirklees Council; the University of Huddersfield; Kirklees Active Leisure; Central Youth Club, Huddersfield; Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing; West Yorkshire Police; and Huddersfield Town Foundation.

The KYA model being developed in Kirklees closely follows a similar, successful partnership being developed in Doncaster, now known as "Expect Youth" (<http://expectyouth.co.uk/>), with learning continuing to be shared between the two partnerships.

KYA has the following Vision/ Mission/ Aims:

Vision:

All young people in Kirklees will have access to opportunities to develop their personal, social and educational potential, in order to become responsible citizens who play a role in shaping their local community.

Mission:

Kirklees Youth Alliance will build a partnership of key stakeholders. We will champion and support the development of quality, values-based youth provision across Kirklees that supports the development of young people's life skills to enable them to play an active and responsible role in the life of the community;

Aims:

1. Drive the development of a new, non-profit partnership venture to enable young people's engagement with positive activities and personal development opportunities.
2. Lead a whole system change to the delivery of youth services, ensuring a diverse range of opportunities available to young people.
3. To support the development of an inclusive youth work offer that caters for all young people and breaks down potential barriers to young people's participation.
4. To support activities that provide young people with the necessary experience and confidence to make responsible decisions about their lives.
5. To encourage intergenerational and cross-community work that helps to integrate young people into the wider community and increases the voice of young people in local decision making.

It is considered that the KYA will provide an important element in the Kirklees Children and Young People's Partnership Plan, trying to ensure that some degree of positive provision for local young people's youth service can be maintained. This will be achieved by working within a coordinated system that seeks to link to the major programmes, such as Thriving Kirklees, Kirklees Community Hubs and Early Intervention & Prevention. KYA will also coordinate future funding and other opportunities across its network, seeking to ensure that these provide the maximum benefit to young people in Kirklees.

3. Proposal:

Kirklees Council has indicated that it has been able to identify a degree of funding to support this initiative in the medium term. Crucially, this funding will be used to attract a senior leader for the KYA to drive forward the initiative; ensure it effectively links with the range of other providers involved locally; and identify where further support is required and, ideally, how this support can be provided.

The role will also work with other partners to engage with local young people to gain their views and priorities, working across the partnership to agree how best these priorities can be met. The post-holder will also be charged with seeking further funding to ensure the long term sustainability of the initiative.

The level and duration of funding has still to be finalised, with discussions with the Council continuing. The post is proposed to be employed by Third Sector Leaders (TSL) – Kirklees, given the synergy with many youth service providers being from the VCS.

KYA contributes to a number of the draft Children and Young People's Plan outcomes, including wanting local children and young people:

- To have the best start in life and be healthy;
- To aspire, achieve and enjoy life;
- To feel safe and live in a strong... and a vibrant community;
- To feel valued and contribute to society.

The KYA initiative will also its own outcomes to ensure that it is making a positive impact and supporting local youth provision.

The Board is asked to comment constructively on the progress to date of the KYA and suggest ways in which the initiative can move forward from this point.

4. Financial Implications:

As above, Kirklees Council is looking to identify the required funding for the proposed KYA Development Manager position and, ideally, their related development budgets.

5. Sign off:

Alasdair Brown and Paul Lewis, the TSL representatives to the Board, and Susan Greenwood, from KNH, are all supportive of the KYA initiative, with Susan and Alasdair both currently sitting on the KYA steering group.

6. Next Steps:

KYA intends to move forward by:

- Confirming the funding support available from Kirklees Council and over what period this support will be available;
- Finalising the job role for the Development Manager position, and advertising / recruiting to this position;
- Developing an initial work plan for the role, including the priority of engaging with local young people to consider their views and priorities, as well as developing the network of local youth providers to ensure a supportive and connected infrastructure can be developed.

7. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Kirklees Children and Young People's Partnership Board:

- 1) Notes the contents of this report and the progress to date of the Kirklees Youth Alliance;
- 2) Supports the approach being taken, communicating the initiative amongst their own networks;
- 3) Constructively comments as to further aspects that the KYA can consider as it continues to develop.

8. Contact Officer:

Alasdair Brown, Chief Executive – alasdair.brown@kal.org.uk / M: 07528-252084

Martin Purcell, Course Leader: Youth & Community Work, University of Huddersfield – m.purcell@hud.ac.uk / T: 01484-478105