



ASPIRATION

CHOICE

HERITAGE

Youth Services Consultation January 2016

Evaluation and Performance Team



City of Westminster

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1 Introduction

This report summarises the responses to a public consultation which has been undertaken regarding proposals to change how the council supports the provision of Youth Services.

In January 2015 the council consulted young people on changes to Youth Services as a result of significant budget reductions. Further budget reductions mean that it is necessary to make further changes to Youth Services.

Westminster City Council developed proposals which would see the establishment of a new Partnership for Young People. The council proposes to use its unique position at the heart of London to bring together a range of partners, including trusts, charities, service providers and the private sector to create a more sustainable approach to Youth Services.

The council believes a Partnership for Young People would:

- bring together a traditionally fragmented and diverse sector, giving youth providers a greater voice and more sustainable future
- act as a strong centralised fundraising vehicle to attract resources for young people in Westminster
- offer young people a more diverse range of support and activities - from a wider range of providers - that better meet their interests and needs
- capitalise on the unparalleled opportunities available in central London
- offer a hub for best practice sharing in the sector

The aims of the public consultation were to:

- Present the proposed scheme for consultation
- Encourage and gather a broad range views on the proposed scheme
- Gauge overall views on the proposal
- Understand any issues or concerns for young people, parents, local residents and youth workers.

The public consultation on changes to Youth Services opened on the 4th January and ran until the 31st January 2016.

1.1 Response to the consultation

There were 21 responses to the online survey questionnaire, from a range of people including parents, young people, residents and youth workers.¹

The majority of respondents (62%) are aged between 25 and 64. Fewer respondents are 19 or younger (34%).²

Parents responding to the survey were asked, 'How old is your child/are your children?' Four parents said that they have children between the ages 0-4, one parent said they have children between the

¹ 21 Responses, 'Are you responding to the consultation as a...?', *Youth Services Consultation*, January 2016

² 21 Responses, 'Which of the following age groups do you fall into', *Youth Services Consultation*, January 2016

ages of 5-7 , one parent said they have children between the ages of 8-12 and three parents said they have children between the ages of 13-19.³

³ 7 Responses, 'How old is your child/are your children?', *Youth Services Consultation*, January 2016

2 Questionnaire Response Analysis

The consultation questionnaire asked respondents to comment on how they feel about the changes to Youth Services, the criteria used to develop proposals, feelings about the partnership approach and priorities for Youth Service partners to address. This section details the response received to the consultation questionnaire.

2.1 Comments on the development of the proposal

Respondents were asked *'Do you have any comments about how we have developed these proposals or do you think there are other criteria we should consider when developing proposals?'*

There were 13 responses to this question. A breakdown of some of the common theme is below:

- Several respondents commented that they are unsure what Partnership for Youth policies actually mean
- Several respondents commented about how they are unsure how these policies were developed
- Several respondents feel that there is not enough support for people with learning difficulties and/or physical impairment

A full list of responses is available separately.

2.2 Overall support for the consultation

Respondents were asked *'To what extent do you agree or disagree that the council should support a partnership approach to Youth Services?'* 14% of respondents strongly support this approach and 48% said they tend to support this proposal. In contrast, 24% say they tend to disagree with proposals and five percent strongly disagree with proposals.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the council should support a partnership approach to youth services?

- Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree
■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree



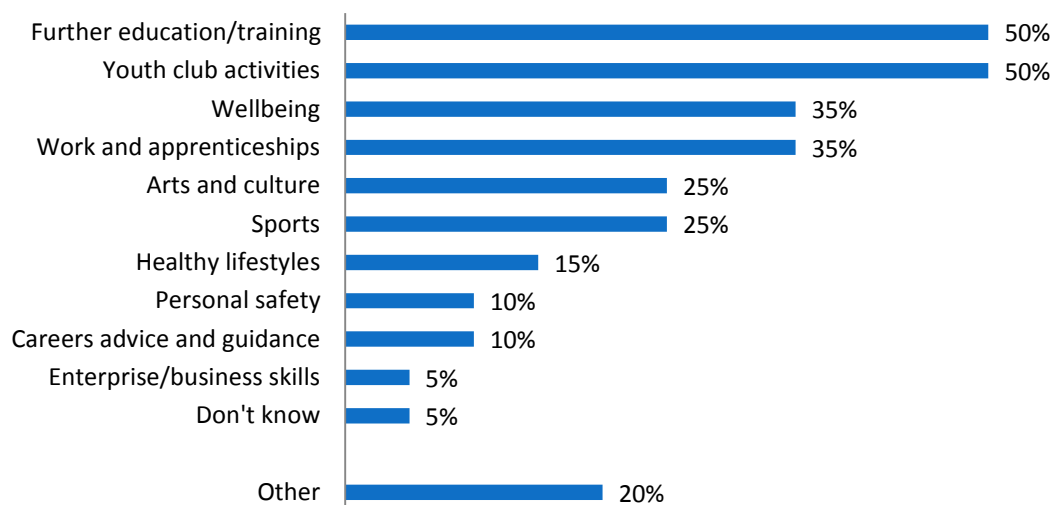
2.3 Priorities for the Youth Partnership to address

Respondents were asked ‘What do you think are the most important priority areas for you a youth partnership to address?’ Respondents were given 12 options to select (including ‘Don’t Know’ and ‘Other – write in’) and were asked to pick a maximum of three options.

There were 20 responses to this question. 50% respondents want the Youth Partnership to address needs; in further education and training; and youth club activities.

For a full breakdown of the response to this question please see the chart below:

What do you think are the most important priority areas for you a youth partnership to address?



SOURCE: 20 RESPONSES TO THE YOUTH SERVICES CONSULTATION, JANUARY 2016

There were four ‘Other – write in responses’. These responses can be seen below:

‘Other – write in’ responses
Gangs, violence and drugs
Housing/Homelessness
Youth-led provisions
I think it's unfair to pin it to 2, as they are interlinked.

2.4 Which Youth Services are used?

Parents with children between the ages of 8-19 were asked 'Which one of the below Youth Services does your child (or children) use most often?' Responders were given a list 13 Youth Services and an option to select 'None of these'. Only three respondents answered this question, The Caxton Youth Centre is mentioned in one response and the other respondents say that their children do not at use any of the listed Youth Services⁴

Respondents under the age of 19 were asked 'Which one of the below Youth Services do you use most often?' Responders were given a list 13 Youth Services and an option to select 'None of these'.

There were seven responses:

- 1 – The Crypt Youth Club
- 1 – DreamArts
- 1 - Marylebone Bangladesh Society (MBS) Youth Club
- 1 – Westbourne Park Family Centre
- 3 – None of these⁵

2.5 Further comments

Respondents were asked 'Do you have any further comments about the proposal for Youth Services?'

There were 14 responses to this question. A breakdown of some of the common theme is below:

- Respondents commented that young people should be consulted on the changes and what services they feel are necessary
- Several respondents feel that the council should still be involved in providing key Youth Services
- Additionally, one respondent commented that some programmes would benefit from partnership while others should remain independent to maintain their 'uniqueness'
- Several respondents commented on how this strategy could be put into practice and question why there are few details on how this strategy will actually be achieved.⁶

A full list of responses is available separately.

⁴ 3 Responses, 'Which one of the below youth services does your child (or children) use most often?', *Youth Services Consultation*, January 2016

⁵ 3 Responses, 'Which one of the below youth services do you use most often?', *Youth Services Consultation*, January 2016

⁶ 14 Responses, 'Do you have any further comments about the proposal for youth services?', *Youth Services Consultation*, January 2016

3 Stakeholder meetings

3.1 Key Stakeholders

Officers held two meetings with key stakeholders including; funders, RSLs and Youth Service providers. The purpose of the initial meeting was to scope the future offer for Youth Services. The subsequent meeting further developed the foundation model.

3.2 Youth Council

A commissioner attended a meeting of the Youth Council to inform them of the Youth Services Consultation and of plans to stop funding to Youth Services and create a Young People's Foundation.

Youth Council members were not aware that the consultation was taking place and would have liked for it to have been better publicised. Members completed paper versions of the consultation questionnaire.

Members were concerned that funding was going to end for youth services and when asked about the possible impact of this they mentioned that, although they do not use youth services themselves, they feel that young people who do use these services, and whom are most in need, should be consulted. Reasons given for not attending youth clubs included;

- They are attended by a different type of people, not their friends. It's difficult to mix if the people are completely different and have very different backgrounds.
- Sometimes the age group attending are too young for older age groups to mix with.

Members thought that a good quality youth club should;

- Be a good place for workers to identify vulnerable young people and help them before their situation gets worse.
- Be a good space, with cool furnishings and up-to-date images. For example - The Hive in Camden.
- Be in a neutral location which is easily accessible to all i.e. near public transport and not in the middle of an estate.
- Have a respected youth worker who is in control of the behaviour at the club.
- Have good signposting to other services for example, if a young woman is pregnant.
- Welcome and be accessible to young people of all abilities.

There followed a brief discussion about paying for services. Some youth clubs charge a small amount (50p) to attend sessions and perhaps clubs could charge. Members discussed that even though this was a small amount it could be a barrier to attendance for some families and it would be these families that would benefit most from the services

Youth Council members were keen to be involved in the development of a Young People's Foundation and would like to feed into larger meetings via an adult for example, a commissioning contact. The Youth Council suggested that they could facilitate focus groups and discussions with

young people who attend youth clubs. They thought that a wider group of young people should be involved in deciding the priorities of the foundation, who and which organisations it would fund and service improvement/inspection.