

# APPENDIX N

**WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**12 JANUARY 2010**

**EXECUTIVE - 2 FEBRUARY 2010**

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**Title:**

**WAVERLEY YOUTH STRATEGY 2010 TO 2015**

[Portfolio Holder: Councillor Carole King]

[Wards Affected: All]

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**Summary and purpose:**

The reason for this report is to inform the Executive of the purpose for developing a Waverley Youth strategy specifically aimed at young people aged between 11 and 19 years who live and go to school in the borough; how the Youth Strategy will link to and compliment current plans/strategies and how Waverley will work with its relevant partners to deliver the Youth Strategy Action Plan

This report was considered by ELOS on 12<sup>th</sup> January and its comments are noted at the end of the report.

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**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

The Strategy relates to three out of the Council's five Corporate Priorities those being:

1. **Priority two: Improving lives.** To help ensure equality of opportunity for young people in the borough through developing and improving access to youth provision.
2. **Priority three: Leisure.** To increase and improve access to leisure opportunities for young people, particularly the more vulnerable and disadvantaged.
3. **Priority five: Value for money.** To ensure all services and provision developed offer good value for money for users and partners.

The action plan attached to the strategy, attached at Annexe 1, sets out how the above Corporate Priorities will be delivered.

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

Completion of an Equality Impact Assessment for the Strategy.

**Resource/Value for Money implications:**

There are no finance/risk management implications associated to this report.

## **Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications associated to this report.

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## **Background**

### **1. Best value review of services for young people in Waverley - 2006**

- 1.1 In 2005 the Environment and Leisure Over View and Scrutiny Committee set up a Special Interest Group to undertake a *best value review of services for young people in the borough*. This review was endorsed by the Executive at its meeting on 24 August 2004. The key objectives of this review were to:
1. Identify what services for young people were being provided by the Council
  2. Identify key needs within the borough
  3. Identify gaps in service delivery
  4. Raise awareness in the community of services and facilities available for young people
  5. Identify opportunities for greater partnership working with other service providers in a more coordinated and joined up approach ensuring service delivery meets local needs
  6. Develop mechanisms to ensure that the voice of young people are heard on an ongoing basis
  7. Develop an action plan for the Council with key priorities, which could be monitored and evaluated to feed into Waverley's Community Strategy, Cultural Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The Special Interest Group presented their findings to the Executive in February 2006 with a proposal that the Council fund a Community Development Officer specifically for youth. The purpose of this post was to enable the Council to be a key driver with partners and stakeholders for the implementation of the action plan and initiatives that were proposed following the review.
- 1.3 The Community Development Officer for Youth was appointed in July 2006 and started work on implementing the Best Value Review Action Plan: Below are examples of some of the actions that have been implemented to date:
1. The develop and implement a Corporate Safeguarding Policy for the Council in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities
  2. Set up Waverley's Youth Forum (Top Youth Council) to give young people a voice and influence the democratic process, now has 18 young people from across Waverley who attend regularly
  3. Facilitated the Youth Council to disseminate Waverley's allocation of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund, approximately £270k to date
  4. Hosted activities to support the Local Democracy Campaign, which encourages young people to become more involved with local government. Activities included; Political Speed Dating, I'm a Councillor Get Me Out Of Here and Councillor Question Time

5. Worked with local communities, statutory and voluntary agencies to set up local provision such as, Cranleigh Youth Café, Sandy Hill and Broadwater Park Multi Use Games Areas and a Waverley wide Skate and Bmx Project
6. Organise an Annual Youth Day - currently in the process of auditing the value of the this event

## **2. Changes in Legislation for Children and Young People**

- 2.1 Following the investigation into the death of Victoria Climbe, Lord Laming drove forward the Change For Children Process, which included the Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and Youth Matters Programmes. Borough and District Council's were charged with nominating a Lead Member and Lead Officer to take responsibility for Children and Young People under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004. From 2006 to date there has been considerable change within Surrey County Council in relation to the delivery of services for children and young people.
- 2.2 Because of the Change For Children Requirements, Surrey County Council was charged with setting up a Surrey Children and Young People's Partnership by April 2006 (part of the legislative process) to be responsible for developing an integrated approach around the delivery of services for children and young people. After considerable consultation a four year action plan was developed with twenty two key priorities with the aim to deliver the actions in partnership with borough and district councils and the voluntary and faith sectors, with Surrey taking the leading role. To ensure the satisfactory delivery of this process all Local Authorities would be reviewed under new inspection arrangements following the Joint Area Review.

## **3. Why a Waverley Youth Strategy?**

- 3.1 Surrey County Council's inspection under the Joint Area Review (JAR) took place in April 2008 and was published in July 2008. The inspection highlighted various services that were inadequate and this centred on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people and families in Surrey. One area highlighted for improvement was developing the role of borough, district councils and the voluntary and community sector in the delivery and commissioning of services for children and young people.
- 3.2 Surrey County Council has now re focussed the Surrey Children and Young People's Partnership and renamed it the Surrey Alliance paying more attention to working with their partners in the development and delivery of services. Five key priorities were identified with SMART outcomes and actions for one year to improve their services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The Alliance is currently finalising an action plan to cover the next four years; the key priorities will be similar but for the first time outcomes and actions will be developed in conjunction with key partners and stakeholders.
- 3.3 Whilst Waverley does not have a statutory responsibility to provide services to young people, it recognises the importance young people play in the

community. With all the changes taking place within Surrey County Council, the creation of the Services For Young People Department and imminent change in how Surrey will commission their services, it has become an even more appropriate time to define the role that Waverley Borough Council plays in delivering services to young people, how it works now and would like to work in the future.

- 3.4 Despite Waverley providing a wide range of services and provision to all young people in the borough, the Council should not underestimate the role it plays in helping to improve the lives of its most disadvantaged and vulnerable, particularly in Housing, Leisure and Waverley Training Services. Through this the Council is a key partner with Surrey County Council in helping them achieve the outcomes in the Surrey Children and Young Peoples Plan.

#### **4. Comments from the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 4.1 The committee considered the Youth Strategy and Action Plan at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January and noted below are its comments.

1. The Committee fully supported the Youth Strategy and Action Plan and recommended to the Executive that it be endorsed.
2. The Committee praised the Community Development Officer (for youth) and Portfolio Holder for being able to do so much for young people with a limited budget.
3. The Committee questioned the costs of the proposals detailed in the Action Plan. Members were assured that the costs were met through partnership and those actions were deliverable from the limited budget that was available.
4. The Committee agreed that the strategy gave the Council a clear direction for delivering services to young people in the Borough.
5. There was a concern about the service provided to young people in rural areas. And, if it was not possible to take activities to them, should look at how to improve transport to enable these young people to come to the main four centers in the Borough. Members suggested that the availability of grant funding should be investigated.
6. The Committee asked for regular updates on the action plan at future meetings.

#### **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 The purpose of the strategy is to identify and focus on what young people in the borough have told us about the important issues affecting their lives. To be effective the strategy will compliment and link with Surrey Children and Young People's Plan, Surrey Youth Development Service's borough plan and other key strategies and documents. This will enable Waverley to work more effectively with their partners on issues such as health, crime, education, careers, social care and vulnerable young people. This document will also aim to inform and influence future plans and strategies that are relevant to and affect young people in the borough.

- 5.2 The strategy is still in draft form as it is awaiting the feedback from the last round of consultation. At the November meeting of Waverley's Top Youth Council they requested that we went back to the young people living and going to school in Waverley to ensure that the Strategy and Action Plan reflected their initial discussions and comments.
- 5.3 In the period between ELOS and Executive in January 2010 the Strategy will be completed, incorporating comments from the consultation taking place during the week beginning 14 December 2009.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive endorse the Youth Strategy and Action Plan.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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