

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	17 May 2022
Title:	Youth Services in Hampshire
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of how Hampshire County Council contributes to support young people to succeed and achieve through the services offered across the County.

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the contents of the report.

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to provide Members with an overview of the rich tapestry of youth services across Hampshire which Hampshire County Council contributes to and/or supports, alongside the wider children's partnership, to ensure that young people in Hampshire benefit from services to support them.
 - The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is used by Hampshire's Children's Trust partnership to identify priorities to support children and young people across the County. A revised plan is due to be launched in June 2022, with five overarching priorities for all partners to deliver against: My Health, My Relationships, My Future, My Family and My Community.
 - Whilst youth services remain a priority, in most cases youth services are not directly delivered by Hampshire County Council. The Council provides significant contributions to facilitate the delivery of services and to meet the partnership commitments within the CYPP.
 - This report provides a summary of the range of different activities provided to young people in Hampshire and how Hampshire County Council contributes to these services.

Contextual information

Background

- The Children and Young People's Plan for 2022-2024 has been developed following feedback from Hampshire children and young people, their parents, carers, professionals and engagement with our Children's Trust partners. The plan covers a breadth of work supporting children, young people and families. Below is a summary of the key links to specific youth work from the plan which is due to be launched in June 2022. The Children's Trust Board is accountable for the delivery of the plan which will be monitored by the Children's Trust Executive Group, chaired by the Director of Children's Services and delivered through the Local Children's Partnerships (LCPs) and Early Help Board. It is this strategic plan that holds all partners to account for the delivery of services to children and, for the purposes of this report, to young people (youth) in Hampshire.

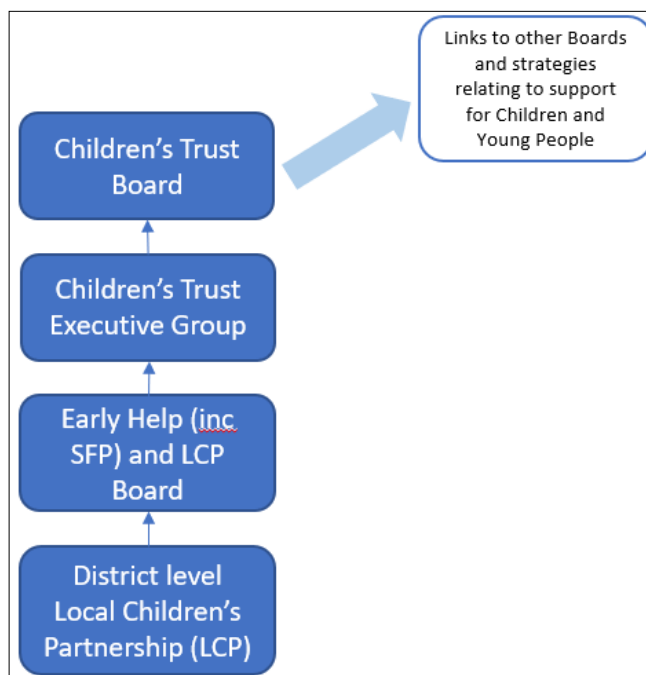


Figure 1: Children's Trust Governance Structure

- The new Children and Young People's Plan has five overarching priorities which set out what the partnership would like to achieve for children and young people, how they will achieve it and how they will know it has been achieved. Further information on many of these aims and projects, where they are already in existence, are explained in further detail within this report. These priorities are:
 - My Health** – this includes the aim to increase participation in the Hampshire Outdoors programmes and links into the Holiday Activity and Food programme.

- 5.2. **My Relationships** – this includes increased participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, and plans to map the youth provision locally alongside partners and increase awareness of training courses available to support young people to challenge inappropriate behaviour.
- 5.3. **My Future** – this includes increasing the number of young people participating in leadership and volunteering opportunities.
- 5.4. **My Family** – this is priority area does not link directly into the youth offer as relates to family, but is included within this section for awareness.
- 5.5. **My Community** – this includes the plan to increase awareness of the street safe tool, increased engagement with the Youth Commission and independent advisory group (IAG) and improved infrastructure and consistency in youth provision access locally.

Hampshire's Youth Offer

The following show the wide variety of provision and support in Hampshire for young people based on the CYPP priority areas – many projects will support multiple areas:

My Health

6. **Hampshire Outdoors** – Hampshire Outdoors provides a range of opportunities for young people in Hampshire. Offers for young people available through Hampshire Outdoors include:
 - Rewilding the Mind – therapeutic based sessions for secondary aged young people – currently being rolled out to young people at risk of becoming NEET (not engaging in education, employment or training) with the possibility of further roll out in future,
 - Bespoke outdoor education programmes to support education units of three NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) hospitals and a secure residential home to meet the needs of young people in these settings
 - Outdoor Learning delivery – working with partners (NHS CAMHS, Children's Services) to provide 1-1 or small group provision for young people struggling with depression and/or anxiety and not engaging in education.
 - Outdoor Connections is a new programme due to start in June 2022 which will involve a Hampshire Outdoors Advisor working with a mainstream school to run outdoor learning in school grounds, with the opportunity to develop a conservation project which can be accredited through the John Muir Award.

7. **Public Health** – Public Health provides a range of services and support to young people in line with the Children and Young People's Plan priorities. Services include:
 - 7.1. **Public Health Nursing Service** – which includes the provision of School Nurses delivering the universal Healthy Child Programme.

- 7.2. **Sexual Health** – which includes specialist open access sexual health service for young people.
- 7.3. **Substance misuse** – which includes the provision of the Young People’s Substance Misuse Service – offering support and treatment for drug/alcohol misuse up to the age of 25, and support to children and young people who have parents misusing drugs/alcohol and are accessing adult treatment services.
- 7.4. **Working with education**– Partnership working with colleagues in schools to design and support provision within schools for young people. There are bespoke online modules available for areas such as: emotional wellbeing and mental health, healthy weight, sleep, smoking and vaping, and relationship and sex education.
8. **Holiday Activity and Food (HAF)** - The Department for Education (DfE) is providing funding to local authorities to coordinate a programme that provides healthy food and enriching activities to children and young people from lower income households during the Easter, Summer and Christmas Holidays from 2022-2025. Hampshire County Council is delivering this through the connect4communities programme. A wide network of community-based organisations deliver the HAF schemes, including existing holiday care providers, schools, childminders, sports coaching, creative and performing arts providers and many others. Healthy meals must be provided at every session. All children in Hampshire who receive benefits related Free School Meals will be eligible to take part in the activities. Fifteen per cent of places were available to other vulnerable children, as defined by the Council.
9. During 2021 there were 76,756 places provided across Hampshire, which enabled 12,668 – 25,322¹ Free School Meal children to access the programme. There were 2,245 secondary school age young people who attended. Young people enjoyed a variety of activities such as: kayaking, climbing, dance, sports, and crafts. Young people had the opportunity to join days out to attractions including the Beaulieu Motor Museum and the Natural History Museum in London. Skills based workshops included cooking, film making, writing and recording music and practical skills such as bicycle maintenance. Targeted projects included opportunities for young LGBTQ people. Some young people were able to enhance their communities through conservation and environmental projects.
10. **Short Breaks** – Hampshire Short Break Activities are for children and young people aged between 0-17 with a disability. As part of this offer Hampshire County Council has commissioned a number of providers to deliver youth specific activities. These activities are typically for young people aged 11-17 and range from youth clubs to holiday clubs to specific classes such a dance or wheelchair basketball.

¹ The range is due to combining data from three periods during the first year of HAF and changes to DfE reporting in the period.

My Relationships

11. **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** - Hampshire Outdoors includes within their offer, the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme for target cohorts, including those with Special Education Needs and Disability; 574 young people started their award through this scheme during the year 2020/21. Hampshire Outdoors is also an Adventurous Activity Provider (AAP) and supports other Duke of Edinburgh providers to run their expeditions. Over 1,000 young people aged 13-25 completed an expedition or residential with Hampshire Outdoors AAP in 2021.
12. **Stop Domestic Abuse** – a range of services are available to those witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse – this includes crisis accommodation, community outreach work and dedicated support for children and families. Age appropriate group work specifically focused on young people includes a range of workshops with a focus on improving understanding of abuse and relationships, as well as topics such as social media and risks around exploitation

My Future

13. **Hampshire Futures** – Hampshire Futures directly delivers a range of work includes the Hampshire Youth Parliament programme, as well as supporting young people's participation, linked to the statutory duty to do so. Associated with this, there are a number of funded engagement programmes which are offered to individuals who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) and to schools/colleges to prevent young people becoming NEET. The team also operates the Virtual College which provides targeted support for children in care and care leavers, post 16. The Employment and Skills hubs seek to create work placements and employment opportunities through partnership working with districts, developers, and suppliers (social value activity). This team also runs a number of European Social Fund (ESF) funded projects (some of elements of which are subcontracted) to support individual, 14-24 year olds, to develop their skills for employment (targeted at low skills/unemployed/NEET)
14. **Hampshire Achieves** – Hampshire Achieves offers a range of Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funded/Ofsted regulated 16-18 programmes including Supported Internships for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) (to age 25). There is an apprenticeship programme which is for HCC employees/schools only but the apprenticeship funding is made available to other employers via a transfer scheme. As part of this, other employers are encouraged to employ young people from priority groups. Also, Hampshire care leavers, 18+, can access any Hampshire adult learning course for free.
15. **National Citizens Service** – The National Citizen Service (NCS) is a voluntary personal and social development programme for 15-17 year olds in England and Northern Ireland, funded largely by money from the UK

Government. It is managed by the NCS Trust who contract delivery to local partners. The County Council supports the promotion of the programme but is not a delivery partner. Data provided by the NCS Trust is that in Hampshire during the summer of 2021, across 103 schools and colleges, 848 young people were supported by the NCS to complete the programme. The cohort included:

- 9.7% with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND),
- 10.8% who were eligible for free school meals
- 1.8% children in care.

In 2022 the NCS organisation is promoting a two week programme which has an initial week of team work, learning life skills and a four night residential. The second week is a social action project including community work. The exact programme varies through different delivery partners, but a key element is that participation is voluntary for the young people involved, with the majority who sign up completing their programme. The NCS suggest 70% of participants feel more confident about getting a job in the future and 78% feel more positive about people from different backgrounds, after taking part in NCS.

16. **Wessex Dance Academy** is a project unique to Hampshire which HCC has supported in partnership with Hampshire Cultural Trust for over a decade. It offers vulnerable young people aged 15-24 the chance to take part in a positive and empowering project with the aim of increasing their confidence and provide them with the skills needed to re-engage with their education, their families and their communities. The programme is an intensive 10-week project using contemporary dance to bring young people together in a positive environment to work together towards a final performance, whilst also developing trusting relationships with adults and their peers, improving their health and wellbeing and taking personal responsibility. Whilst at the Academy they also complete an Open College Network qualification. An independent evaluation published in January 2021 evidenced the positive impact the project has on the young people who complete the course. Particular outcomes highlighted within the evaluation included increased self-esteem and physical health. The Academy also provides a place for learning, and encourages young people to set aspirational goals. Feedback from young people, at the time of the evaluation, who had previously attended the Academy evidenced that 62% were either employed or in further education/apprenticeships.
17. **Care Leavers' Team** – Hampshire has four care leaver teams covering the County and their role is to support young people as they transition from being in care to independence. Each young person is allocated a Personal Advisor (PA) to work alongside them and their social worker until the young person reaches the age of 18. The team support with planning through the 'My Life My Future Plan' – providing an individual plan for the young person through their journey into adulthood. The team remain in touch with care leavers, and offer extended support up to the age of 25 if the young person wishes further advice or support. In November 2020 four bespoke projects were identified for enhancing the support to care leavers. These were:

- Accommodation Stability –during 2021/22, specialist Homelessness Prevention Personal Advisors – temporary posts funded through a government initiative – continued their work to develop links with District and Borough Housing Departments and post-16 accommodation providers to enable early intervention with care leavers and identify risks of homelessness. They have also developed tools to assess a young person’s skills to support moves and enhance placement stability. These posts have now been extended until 2023.
- Education, Employment & Training – a range of work was undertaken in 2021/22, including workshops to promote the KickStart scheme aimed at 16-24 year olds claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment; a post-19 education programme covering personal development, staying safe, citizenship and aspirations and skills for the future; development of a group work programme focusing on developing resilience; increased partnership working with the Virtual College to support young people into education, employment or training.
- Independence Skills – in 2021 there were facilitated housing information workshops and several workshops which focused on money advice.
- Health and Wellbeing – working with partners to identify priorities and plans on how best to support and develop this project has resulted in a number of areas which will continue to be developed during 2022/23 – these include drop in sessions and information sessions for young people but also training for the care leaver teams and post-16 accommodation providers regarding non-stigmatising ‘talk’ in respect of mental health, as well as encouraging self-referrals from young people to italk which is a free talking therapies service to support people suffering from depression and anxiety.

My Family

18. **Local provision through the Early Help Partnership** – Across Children’s Services local district teams undertake a wide range of support specifically to young people in the form of early interventions, known as early help. This is delivered through our early help (family) hubs. Support is given to parents/carers, enabling them to more effectively care for their young people (such as through Talking Teens), but also directly to young people – for example group work for teens who have suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Keep Safe work delivered through 1:1 youth work. Local projects are considered and agreed by district early help services. These projects have ranged from detached youth work in specific geographic areas identified by professionals to youth counselling facilities to support young people following a high profile incident. Funding has also been used in one district partnership to create and develop the Back to Basics model, which is now being rolled out across the County through the Local Children’s Partnerships based in each district. The Local Children’s Partnership includes representatives from the Family Support Service (Children’s Services), schools, police, voluntary and community sector amongst other

partners who work together to identify local needs within the district for children and young people and support the local delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. The Back to Basics model focuses on how families can make small changes to support the wellbeing of all members and improve routines, communication and health of the family. Specifically for young people videos were created to support with their mental health and wellbeing aligned to the Back to Basics approach.

19. **Volunteer Mentoring Scheme** – Trained, supported and managed volunteers have been providing mentoring support to children and young people aged 11 to 17 years old since 2016, following the establishment of the Innovation Volunteers Team within the Children and Families branch of Children's Services. This service is available to children and young people who are receiving support through Children's Services either at Level 4 (receiving support from a social worker) or at Level 3 (receiving support from an early help worker or professional partner). The volunteers usually meet with a young person on a weekly basis for at least six months and together work towards agreed goals. Mentoring is the most popular of the Innovation volunteering strands, and currently (as of March 2022) the service is supporting 37 young people.

My Community

20. **Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)** – This is a pan-Hampshire partnership programme of work led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) with the Hampshire VRU programme sitting within HCC Public Health. This is a Home Office funded programme aimed at tackling the root causes of violence and preventing young people from getting involved in crime. A number of youth specific projects have recently been awarded grant funding through this programme and include:
 - Motiv8 – Gosport and Havant Targeted Youth Support Programme – One to one mentoring to prevent and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and all forms of exploitation – young people are identified and referred for support.
 - Catch22 – Substance Misuse Practitioner – Willow Team. A Catch22 substance misuse practitioner to work alongside the Willow Team. The Willow Team is a specialist children's social care team with multi-disciplinary practitioners focused on reducing child exploitation. The Catch22 practitioner provides targeted and specialist substance misuse interventions to young people involved in County Lines, Criminal or Sexual exploitation, or young people who may be going missing.
 - Yellow Brick Road – The Legacy Project – Providing mentors for young people at risk of being criminally exploited. Family mentors provide support to parents to help them better connect with their young people.
 - Southern Domestic Abuse – Adolescent to Parent Abuse Project – One to one support for children and young people who are using abusive and/or violent behaviours towards their parent(s), plus small group work for parents affected and preventative work with young people.

21. **Supporting Families Programme Grants** – from Government funding received by Hampshire to deliver the Supporting Families Programme, a number of grant rounds have been undertaken to support the charity and voluntary sector to deliver services to support families and young people. In the most recent grant round £200k of funding was available. All of the projects funded aimed to support positive outcomes for the children and young people within the family. Over a quarter of the available funding was offered to projects which were specifically targeted at youth provision. These included:

- Solent Youth Action in Eastleigh to provide Community Buddies to support vulnerable young people aged 10-17
- Educating Individuals Empowering Families (EIEF) to deliver workshops to support young people with their mental health and well-being,
- Unity to expand their social prescribing service for young people This service enables young people to access non-clinical and community based support services which can aid with improving their mental wellbeing – this could include physical activity, creative activity, social opportunities.
- Y Services to deliver a programme to support LGBTQ young people.
- Motiv8 in Gosport and Havant to deliver a 12 week diversion programme for young people identified as being at risk, delivered through one to one mentoring, small group work and family engagement.

In addition to the specific youth offer projects, funding was also given to projects which included a youth offer within a wider family support offer, such as wellbeing and family therapy for young people and their parents, and group work for parents to complement youth services. Other projects offered family support following experience of specific traumas such as domestic abuse.

22. **Hampshire Music Service** – Hampshire Music Service offers a wide range of opportunities to young people by providing every child the chance to participate, enjoy and achieve by making music together. The service offers a range of services in schools, as well as out of school opportunities for young people through the area and county ensembles. This includes wind, string, choirs, bands and jazz, as well as the full orchestra. Many were able to celebrate the talents of the young people supported through the Hampshire Music Service at the recent Chairman's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Concert at the Anvil in Basingstoke.

23. **Youth Investment Fund (YIF)** - A further example of Hampshire facilitating local community youth offers, which is ongoing at this time, is developing links between the Youth Investment Fund (YIF) team and the Local Children's Partnership teams in each district. The £368 million Youth Investment Fund is a key part of an investment by the at Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS), targeted at improving youth services in parts of the country most in need. The money will be made available across the next three financial years – 2022/23 to 2024/25 – for facilities from which open access services for young people can be delivered. The YIF's objective is to create, expand and improve local youth facilities and their services, in order to drive positive outcomes for young people and their communities. A key objective of the fund is to offer opportunities to smaller communities in need

who are often overlooked if they are surrounded by areas of affluence. That being the case, 11 wards across five districts within Hampshire have been identified. At this time guidance on the bidding process is being sought, as HCC is keen to ensure that any funding available to support Hampshire communities to deliver youth services is accessed and that relevant links are made with the Local Children's Partnership and Holiday and Activity Fund (HAF).

24. As highlighted, the youth offer is a partnership responsibility, and other funding for youth services includes grants rounds run through the OPCC in Hampshire – these include grants awarded to projects to specifically support young people. Hampshire Youth Offending Team (YOT) is also funded to support young people involved in or at risk of getting involved in crime. The support available to young people through the YOT includes that delivered by three therapeutic wellbeing officers funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). A separate report on the work of the Hampshire YOT to support young people, is being presented to the Children and Young People Select Committee.

Consultation and Equalities

25. This report is for providing information only and therefore consultation and equalities assessment did not form part of this report.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

26. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
27. **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.** The carbon mitigation and climate change adaptation tools were not applicable because this report is to provide details of the contribution of Hampshire County Council to the delivery of youth services and does not recommend changes or require any decisions which would have any climate change considerations.
28. **Carbon Mitigation.** The carbon mitigation and climate change adaptation tools were not applicable because this report is to provide details of the contribution of Hampshire County Council to the delivery of youth services and does not recommend changes or require any decisions which would have any climate change considerations.

Conclusions

29. Hampshire County Council and the Children's Trust partnership remain committed to delivering services for young people in Hampshire and the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2022-25, developed based on feedback from young people, parents and professionals ensures the priorities reflect the voice of the community in Hampshire.
30. This report provides an overview of the rich tapestry of services and support offered to young people in Hampshire, which Hampshire County Council is directly involved in facilitating, supporting and/or funding. As the reports evidences, across the partnership there is a diverse range of support services, activities and engagement programmes for young people in Hampshire to access.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*