

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>20 October 2005</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Youth Matters - A response to the Green Paper</b>
<b>Summary</b>	This paper sets out a response to the consultation on the Green Paper, Youth Matters. The response has been compiled through a special meeting of a range of partners involved in the Strategic Review of Services for Young People and a single issue meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 September 2005. The closing date of the consultation is 4 November 2005.
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	<div> Elizabeth Featherstone  Assistant County  Education Officer  (Community)  Tel: 01926 412151  elizabethfeatherstone@warwickshire.gov.uk </div> <div> Ann Mawdsley  Senior Committee  Administrator  Tel: 01926 418079  annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk </div>
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	No.
<b>Background papers</b>	Green Paper - Youth Matters, July 2005,  Cabinet Paper - Strategic Review of Services for Young People: Progress Report, 21 July 2005

### CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN: -

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Elected Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Richard Grant Cllr Katherine King - "The Green Paper has been explored in detail by the Children & Young People O&S Committee with valuable support both from our officers and contributions from local partners, and the points raised at the special meeting provided a sound basis for our response as a Council. I am pleased to commend this report to the Cabinet that they submit this as our

contribution to the Government as part of the consultation process."  
 Cllr Jill Dill-Russell  
 Cllr Helen McCarthy

- |                          |                                     |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Cabinet Member           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Izzi Seccombe<br>Cllr Peter Fowler<br>Cllr John Burton – “noted” |
| Chief Executive          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Legal                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Jane Pollard<br>Richard Freeth  |
| Finance                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Other Chief Officers     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| District Councils        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Health Authority         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Police                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Council                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Cabinet                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an O & S Committee                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an Area Committee                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further Consultation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Agenda No

**Cabinet - 20 October 2005.**

### **Youth Matters - A response to the Green Paper**

#### **Report of the Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

##### **Recommendation of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

That the Cabinet approve the response to the consultation on the Green Paper 'Youth Matters'

#### **1. Views of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Following presentations from the following invitees:

Mike Bell (Learning & Skills Council)  
Vivienne Bennett (Health)  
Emma Bowers (County Youth Panel)  
Mike Bunn (Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services)  
Elizabeth Featherstone (Education)  
Peter Hatcher (Education)  
Diane Johnson (Youth Offending Team)  
Shola Shobowole (County Youth Panel)  
Steve Stewart (Connexions)  
Paul Thompson (Positive About Young People)

and discussion by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the following points were agreed for inclusion in the response:

1. **Being Positive About Young People** and emphasising that the majority of young people were hard-working and engaged in their communities by carrying out inter-generational work to better understand and respect each other and work together.
2. It was agreed by all stakeholders that **Opportunity Cards** would be expensive and require huge infrastructures to operate. They would not be beneficial to young people and the money could be better spent on youth services or subsidised transport for young people.
3. **Young People needed to be at the centre** of the Green Paper, meeting their needs, aspirations, learning and health requirements.

4. **Resources** were crucial to the success of the Green Paper and there was a need to ensure funding streams, monitor delivery and ensure money was not wasted.
5. The Green Paper needed to **build on current good practice of partnership working** within Warwickshire.
6. **Transport** was crucial to accessing facilities for young people.
7. There was a need for better **communications** for young people, parents and families and groups should be targeted within their own environments for greater impact.
8. There was a need to break down the **barriers facing disabled children and young people** to include them.

## 2. Background and introduction

- 2.1 The Government published the long-awaited Green Paper, Youth Matters, in July 2005. The draft response has taken into consideration comments from a special meeting of a range of partners involved in the Strategic Review of Services for Young People and a single issue meeting of the Children and Young People O&S Committee. The closing date for the response is 4<sup>th</sup> November.
- 2.2 This response has been compiled by gathering the views of colleagues involved in the Implementation and Advisory Groups of the Strategic Review of Services for Young People. The group did not feel in a position to respond fully to all the questions posed by the DfES, for example the first question about the most important issue facing young people, but where individual organisations have responded to a particular question this has been included. An event was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August at Wedgnock House. A list of the individuals and organisations involved is attached at **Appendix A**. A meetings map showing groups and organisations involved in preparing responses to the Green Paper is shown at **Appendix B**. Preliminary work is underway to consult with parents and families, but we will be unable to collate this in time for the closing date. It will, however, form part of a ongoing dialogue as we set up new services for young people.

## 3. Response to the Green Paper

- 3.1 This response, attached as **Appendix C and Appendix D**, includes general comments as well as specific. Overall, the focus of the Green Paper on young people and teenagers is welcomed. The aspirations are positive: clearly an improvement on services as they currently exist.
- 3.2 The transfer of responsibilities to Local Authorities, for example in relation to 16 to 18 years olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) is welcomed and it is helpful to have clarity around the Local Authority's responsibilities and arrangements for partnership working through "Children's Trusts". The integration of services and the responsibility to determine structures for service

delivery is also strongly supported. Warwickshire's proposals to develop an integrated service for young people complement the proposals in this Green Paper. Indeed, the direction of travel for implementing the 2004 Children Act in Warwickshire sits well alongside government intentions outlined in this document. The document also sits well alongside the Government's and Warwickshire's 14-19 strategy which places the learner at the centre of planning and seeks to meet the learner's entitlement to a range of courses and programmes to meet his/her individual needs and aspirations. The emphasis on supporting parents of teenagers is also welcomed and is highly desirable.

3.3 There is however:

- A very short timescale for implementation.
- A great deal of debate to be had around the details such as the opportunities and arrangements for Connexions.

3.4 We need to be aware that by focusing on teenagers and young people, the Council does not create further transitional barriers at 13: transition from child to adult is already a challenge and it is important not to create a new one at 13.

3.5 A critical observation is the stated aspiration that these changes can be made within existing resources. If we are to meet the needs of all young people, the development of a high quality integrated Youth Support Service will require careful and strategic designation of resources. The new resources outlined in the Green Paper, which amount to £20 million per annum capital for projects, would generate about £50,000 per authority according to the Local Government Association. This is disappointing in terms of the aspirations identified.

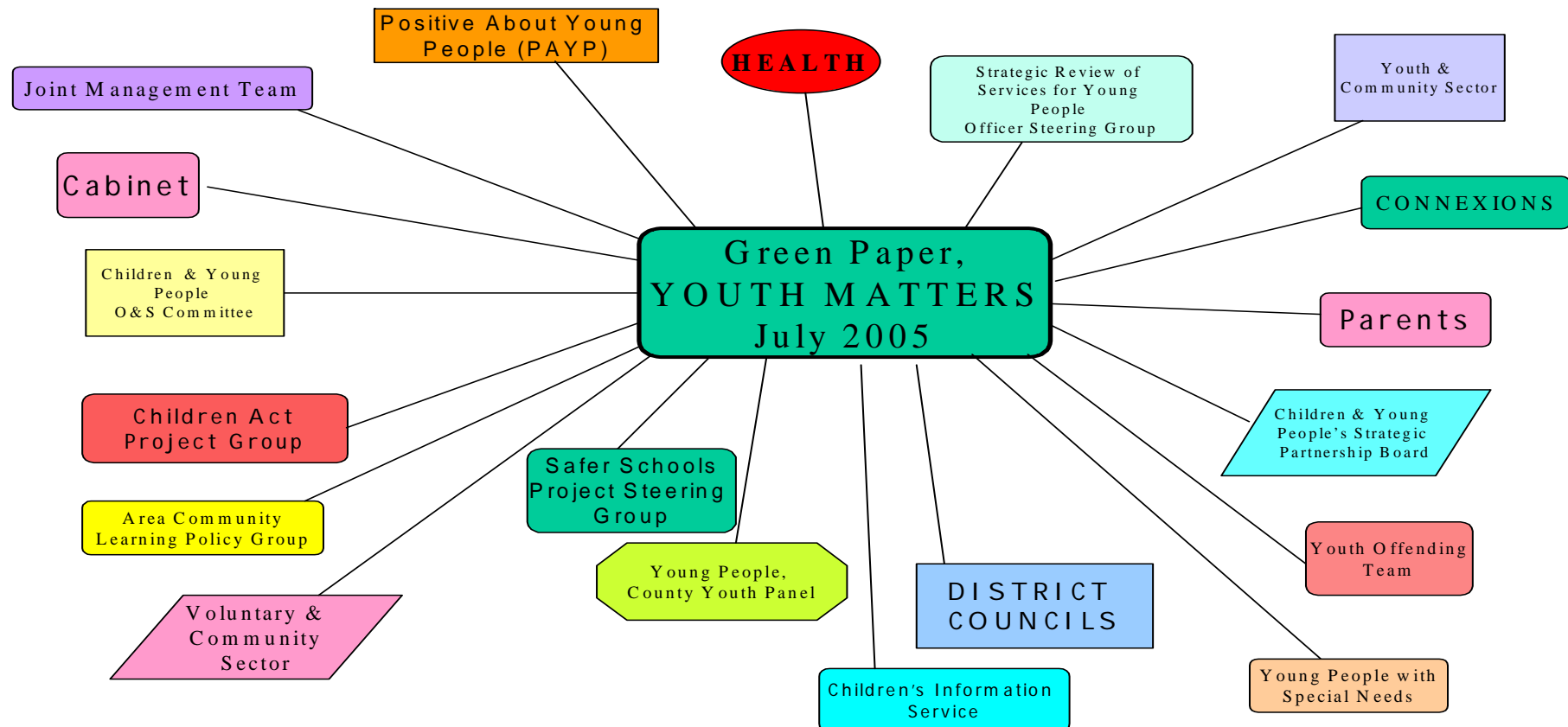
CLLR RICHARD GRANT

Chair – Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Shire Hall  
Warwick

## Appendix A

# Green Paper, Youth Matters - Consultation



## Appendix B

### **Consultation Process - Green Paper, Youth Matters**

*Consultation Deadline - Friday 4 November 2005  
Lead Officer - Elizabeth Featherstone*

		Week 11	Week 10	Week 9	Week 8	Week 7	Week 6	Week 5	Week 4	Week 3	Week 2	Week 1
Group	Contact	W/c 22/08	W/c 29/08	W/c 05/09	W/c 12/09	W/c 19/09	W/c 26/09	W/c 03/10	W/c 10/10	W/c 17/10	W/c 24/10	W/c 31/10
Strategic Review of Services for Young People Officer Steering Group	Dharmista Harkisan-Hall			06/09/05 (Steering Group)								
Joint Management Team	Jo Jones				15/09/05							
Children Act Project Group	Amanda Golub			05/09/05								
Children & Young People's Strategic P'ship Board	Lynne Thompson	By correspondence										
Children & Young People O&S Committee	Ann Mawdsley					22/09/05						
Cabinet, Shire Hall	Alison Gibbons									20/10/05		
Youth & Community Service	Peter Hatcher	Ongoing										
Connexions	Steve Stewart					22/09/05 CYP O&S						
Young People – County Youth Panel, Questionnaires	Rob Townsend, Mike Maguire								14/10/05 County Y'th Panel			
Young People with Special Needs –	Peter Lovelock	Various										

Clubs and Questionnaires												
Positive About Young People (PAYP) Board Meeting	Mike Maguire	By correspondence										
Youth Offending Team	Rachel Faulkner	By correspondence										
Safer Schools Project Steering Group	Mike Slater								14/10/05			
Area Community Learning Steering Group	Janet Neale	By correspondence										
Health via CYP O&S	Viv Bennett					22/09/05						
Childcare Information Service	Anne Roberts							04/10/05				
Parenting Forums	Julie Toal	Various										
Voluntary and Community Sector via CYP O & S	Mike Bunn					22/09/05						
District Councils via JMT and CYP O&S	Mary Hawkins				15/09/05 (JMT)	22/09/05 (CYP O&S)						

31 August 2005



## **Youth Matters**

### **Consultation Response Form**

**The closing date for this consultation is: 4  
November 2005.**

**Your comments must reach us by that date.**

department for

**education and skills**

creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

The information you send to us may need to be passed to colleagues within the Department for Education and Skills and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available on public request, individual consultation responses. This will extend to your comments unless you inform us that you wish them to remain confidential.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.** ☐

Name

Organisation (if applicable) Warwickshire County Council

Address: Warwickshire County Council  
2 Northgate Street  
Warwickshire County Council CV34 4SP

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact:

Telephone: 0870 000 2288

e-mail: [info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794113

e-mail: [consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

Which of the following best describes you:

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Carer	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Person (under 13)
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Person (13-16)	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Person (17-19)	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Person (other) Please Specify in the box below
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional working with young people	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer working with young people	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify in the box below

Please Specify:

If you work with young people, which best describes the organisation you work in:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Youth Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Connexions Service
<input type="checkbox"/> School	<input type="checkbox"/> Further or higher education institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Private or voluntary & community sector youth work organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector information and advice organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other voluntary & community sector organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:

Please Specify:

## General

1 a) What do you think are the most important issues facing young people now?

Comments:

Being accepted by their peer group. Fear of not being accepted can lead to getting involved with drugs, sex and bullying etc. (Warwickshire Police)

1 b) How are these issues different for younger (13-16) compared to older (17-19) teenagers?

Comments:

Bullying is a greater fear for 13 – 16 year olds. (Warwickshire Police)

2 Are there issues faced by particular groups of teenagers that are not addressed in this document? If so, what are they?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

3 Do you know of any projects or initiatives which have been outstandingly successful in tackling the challenges covered in this document? If so, please give details.

X Yes

☐

No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

Some examples are:

The Youth Inclusion project (Rugby)

Youth Inclusion Support Panel (CHARM)

The County Youth Panel & Local Youth Forums

Ban the Bully (Polesworth)

Health Store (Hatters Space)

Youth Bank

Positive Futures – Rugby

True Visions

The Bradby Club

Engaging Young People – West Midlands Culture and leisure Officers Assoc.

Choosing Health

Chips and Sport

Positive Operational Drop-in Strategy (PODS)

4 a) How can we encourage young people to take their responsibilities seriously?

Comments:

It is clear that Young People appreciate boundaries to be set; and respond to support and encouragement.

Setting boundaries and giving the appropriate levels of praise for effort and development whatever the skill base.

Young people also require clarity in the boundary setting and positive role models from adults.

The concept of 'designing health in' to all initiatives and developments should be adopted. For example, all premises become non-smoking.

4 b) What should the incentives be for good behaviour?

Comments:

There needs to be more focus on building self-esteem from which flows confidence and evidence of personal responsibility.

Tailor made rewards to the individual circumstances. For example, a certificate for one case, or public praise in the media

4 c) What sanctions should be applied for poor and disruptive behaviour?

Comments:

There are already a number of sanctions in place – ABSOs, ABCs (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts) Reparation, school exclusions, and sanctions in Youth Centres. Is another Global sanction needed which then produces another group of disaffected Young People?

4 d) Do you know of any examples of schemes which have applied these kinds of incentives and sanctions effectively?

Comments:

Positive about Young People have developed a philosophy within its PODS\* of encouraging the group to take more responsibility for behaviour. As a consequence nobody is banned for any length of time, all young people are encouraged to attend and overall behaviour both in and around the PODS has improved dramatically.

\*PODS = Positive Operational Drop-In Strategy, ie. Movable meeting places for young people using Positive About Young People resources.

5 What more could be done to divert young people from risk-taking behaviour, like smoking, binge-drinking and volatile substance and illicit drugs misuse?

Comments:

Teenagers need to have role models closer to their own age. There should also be controlled exposure to the dangers described above, with the support to keep them safe. Teenagers need also to have opportunities for risk taking and enjoy the sense of challenge and achievement. Young People should be able to make choices about their behaviour based on accurate, relevant and timely information.

Support the concept of 'designing health in' to all initiatives and developments. Further clarification is needed regarding the transfer of accountability of drug misuse services.

6 What practical benefits and challenges will there be in developing an integrated youth support service?

Comments:

There is a debate to be had about the interpretation of an "integrated" youth support service – joint commissioning and planning, invisible bureaucracy and seamless service would seem to be some of the key elements. The focus must be on delivery for Young People, offering equity and access across urban and rural areas. The major challenge will be workforce development. 'Bridging the Gap' attempted to address this – how much progress has been made? The same issues apply to the implementation of the Children Act 2004.

The government should be clearer about what it means when it uses the term commissioning. The Green Paper often talks about children's trusts as if they are separate legal entities to which functions can be delegated. The Children Act 2004 did not provide the necessary legal infrastructure.



7 How can the Connexions brand be used to best effect within the reformed system?

Comments:

The Connexions brand can be maintained if it is strongly supported nationally. Locally, it is anticipated that we might want to promote the Youth Support Service to achieve the impact of an integrated service.

8 What more can we do to ensure that reformed services are focused on achieving the improved outcomes we all want to see?

Comments:

Careful consideration will need to be given to how resources are allocated to develop seamless services which achieve the improved outcomes. Structural reorganisation can be beneficial but will not always save resources.

## Chapter 3

### Empowering Young People: Things to do and Places to go

9 a) What do you think of the emphasis in the proposals on empowering young people themselves to shape local services?

X Agree

☐

Disagree

☐

Not sure

Comments:

Strongly agree. The skill of bringing Young People's views and requirements to reality is critically important. We need to be 'real' and honest with Young People about their expectations. We also need to broaden the base of those consulted, especially those who are 'hard to reach'.

9 b) What options are there for achieving this?

Comments:

One option could be to offer Young People ideas (a toolkit) of what could be developed or provided. Deliver the ideas with skill and use peer mentoring to get to the 'hard to reach' Young People. Volunteering could be a means of engagement and enthusiasm.

10 a) What should be done centrally to support the development and delivery of local opportunity cards?

Comments:

Money. Negotiate discount with National leisure providers. Make sure the cards do have some value. Be wary of using them as a sanction. Have an efficient replacement mechanism/system in place. Don't use as a subliminal ID card.

It is understood that the New Opportunities Card is a variation on the Connexions Card. Has that been evaluated and, if so, how beneficial has it been? It is of concern that the local authority would need to support the bureaucracy to implement such a card.

The O&S Committee have looked at ways in which a 'Travel card' for use on local bus services could be developed to provide, for example, home-to-college transport and subsidised use of public transport outside peak times. This concept was strongly supported by CYP O&S and young people as a means of enabling all young people to engage in a range of activities.

10 b) How should opportunity cards be developed so that the maximum number of young people can benefit?

Comments:

The cards need to be skilfully marketed to Young People. Make sure that the leisure activities are available locally. Make sure access is not only available by use of the cards.

Discounted youth travel and passport to leisure as an alternative.

11 a) Which activities do you think have the most benefits for young people?

Comments:

This is best addressed by the young people themselves. There is growing evidence that encouraging young people, who are currently inactive to undertake some physical activity, can have significant health, social, environmental and economic benefits. Sporting activities are a good idea and giving Young People their own territory. Adventure activities such as climbing activities.

11 b) Do the proposed national standards on activities cover the right areas?

X Yes

☐

No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

National standards are welcome. They are a baseline and basic. They will need to be reviewed (Nationally) on a regular basis.

11 c) Are they achievable and affordable within existing resources?

☐

Yes

☐

No

X Not Sure

Comments:

We would need to use our existing resources very carefully and effectively to achieve this. Resources must be allocated to services that young people want and need.

Basically, we believe that there is no guarantee that we can achieve these standards within the resources available.

## Chapter 4

### Young People as Citizens: Making a Contribution

12 Will our proposals, taken together with those of the Russell Commission, lead to increased mutual respect between young people and others in the community?

☐

Yes

☐

No

X Not Sure

Comments:

There is a lot of emphasis on the Russell Commission no other evidence-based research.

Mutual respect and confidence in such a large programme will take time and there would need to be more examples/case studies of the impact volunteering has made on the lives of young people and their communities.

13 What more can we do to recognise and celebrate young people's positive contributions to their communities?

Comments:

Raise the profile of volunteering to a much wider audience e.g. businesses and employers who can support and role model the concept by giving something back to the local community.

Mentoring Projects within schools can be well placed with the curriculum and the concept of volunteering can be introduced at an earlier age. Many children and young people are already involved in some sort of volunteering. Therefore, this idea can be further enhanced during the teenage years.

There needs to be a greater sense of value placed on volunteering that credits it's worth not just by giving reward points. Young people need to have a sense of worth that empowers and motivates them to engage in volunteering and something that is of interest to them.

14 Would the opportunity to earn rewards motivate young people to get involved in their communities?

☐

Yes

X No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

Not all young people!

There is a concern that some of these types of schemes in the past have not been successful as anticipated.

Some kind of audit of the range of volunteering and mentoring projects could give an indication of the reasons why young people get involved in the first instance and these have been successful without the idea of earning points, they have other types of benefits/rewards.

15 How can we ensure that young people from the diverse range of communities that make up today's society are effectively engaged by service providers?

Comments:

Many service providers consistently review their mechanisms on how best to engage with young people.

There would need to be a clear focus and process that enables a positive impact on local needs. This would encourage and give confidence to young people in getting involved at a variety of levels including the decision-making process.

## Chapter 5

### Supporting Choices: Information, Advice and Guidance

16 What kind of help and support is most important for young people?

Comments:

Opportunity of access is the greatest need. This often fails for a variety of reasons and the paper refers to exploiting new technologies as a means of communication, again the key challenge would be access to these facilities/provisions.

Honest advice on drugs and alcohol detailing the range of consequences depending upon what they choose to do.

17 How can we ensure that information, advice and guidance provided to young people is comprehensive, impartial and challenges rather than perpetuates traditional stereotypes?

Comments:

By ensuring effective partnerships are built upon that involve the range of stakeholders that make a contribution to this area of work. We must engage more with young people to seek their views.



18 What do you think of our proposals to devolve responsibility for information, advice and guidance to children's trusts, schools and colleges?

☐

Agree

☐

Disagree

X Not sure

Comments:

The government should not underestimate the complexity of the proposals it is making for developing responsibility for information, advice and guidance. Children's trusts are not bodies to which functions can be delegated. How much of the Connexions IAG budget is currently tied up in staffing and infrastructure? Will TUPE and/or the Code of Practice on Workforce matter apply to Connexions staff on the transfer of funding? If a school or college can withdraw from the arrangements, will the school or college be required to take staff on TUPE, etc., transfers? Should schools and colleges be entitled to withdraw where third party contractual commitments have been entered into? Who takes the risk? If a school or college makes alternative arrangements, who bears the cost of ensuring the arrangements are appropriate and any additional costs of putting in alternative arrangements where they are found to be inadequate? We need further clarification concerning the reference to schools and colleges being responsible for the "well-being of students".

19 a) Do you agree that it is important to have minimum expectations of the information, advice and guidance received by young people?

X Yes

☐

No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

Yes, as this engages young people and clearly states what their entitlements should be regardless of who provides the service and so that young people do not receive a raw deal.

19 b) Are the proposed expectations correct for each age group?

X Yes

☐

No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

It has been felt for sometime that any sort of IAG is appropriate to the young persons development and the suggested age groupings are welcomed as it offers young people to explore the options during their critical transitional phases.

20 a) Do you agree there is a case for quality standards for information, advice and guidance? If so, what should they cover?

X Yes

☐

No

☐

Not Sure

Comments:

Yes, a quality standards framework would establish a baseline that can ensure some quality control over the service as this is a very important aspect that can help or hinder young people if not provided with the appropriate information at the right times.

20 b) How can they be made affordable without putting pressure on financial or workforce resources?

Comments:

Who pays for it in the first instance – schools or other?

21 Would quality awards for IAG help to ensure high quality and impartiality?

☐

Yes

☐

No

X Not Sure

Comments:

Perhaps auditing the current range of provision and its quality will provide some baseline information.

22 Do you think a 'personal health MoT' for 12-13 year olds would be an effective way of helping young people make a successful transition to the teenage years and to secondary education?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	X Not Sure
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Comments:

Is this age bracket correct? Should it not need to be slightly earlier so that effective planning can take place for a successful transition?

## Chapter 6

### All Young People Achieving: Reforming Targeted Support

23 Do you think there is a good case for bringing together within children's trusts responsibility for commissioning different services which provide support to young people with additional needs?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Ofcourse there is a good case. Replicated as per the Every Child Matters. Need levels will need to be defined in order to decide who should have additional support. We shouldn't forget that areas as well as individuals have needs.

24 How can we ensure that young people facing particular barriers, for example those who are disabled, are effectively engaged by service providers?

Comments:

Make especial efforts with skill. Barriers include Young People's perceptions of 'not cool'. Area based detached Youth work (which require special skills).

25 How can we ensure that the new lead professional role is successful in co-ordinating the delivery of targeted support to young people who need it?

Comments:

Ensure effective data on needs is available and analysed. Proper assessment model is essential. Clear guidelines (protocols) also needed.

26 What more could be done to help older teenagers make a smooth transition to support from adult services, where they need them?

Comments:

Make sure that both new arrangements for children AND adults specifically address “transitions”. This will include protocols and seamless assessment. In fact, a “transition strategy” will be needed. Note that there will be efficiencies to be had through collaborating.

## Parents

27 At what stage(s) of their children's lives would parents find it most helpful to receive information about how they can support their teenage children?

Comments:

Before they get there. i.e. at 12/13 years.

Do we need a parent's information line?

This should be part of a parenting strategy. Remember each child is different-individual/holistic/personalisation.

28 a) On which issues would parents of teenagers most like support?

Comments:

Parent's consultation is essential to determine their priorities. Parents would probably derive much support from each other – parent support groups/mentoring systems should be helpful.

28 b) How, or through whom should information be delivered?

Comments:

As per Children's Trust Information Strategy. Do make sure we use the Voluntary sector to their full potential.

29 How could schools help parents remain involved with their teenagers' learning and future education opportunities?

Comments:

Use the developing extended schools programme currently underway.



## Other

30 Do you have any other general comments?

Comments:

Overall we warmly welcome Youth Matters and that it fits within the broader Every Child Matters agenda. Timescales need synchronising with Every Child Matters. There are predictable concerns over resourcing / will there be additional resources available? Make sure "hard to reach" youngster's needs aren't eclipsed by an emphasis on general / universal provision.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply**

☐

Here at the Department for Education and Skills we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

☐

Yes

☐

No

#### Code of Practice on Consultation

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 4 November 2005

Consultation responses can be made: [www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations)

by email to: [youthmatters.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:youthmatters.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

or in writing to: Consultation Unit  
Area 1A Castle View House  
East Lane, Runcorn  
Cheshire  
WA7 2GJ



## **Appendix D**

### ***Green Paper Youth Matters***

#### **Summary responses from Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005**

## **Background**

Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting met on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 to consider a draft response to the Green Paper Youth Matters. The draft response had been compiled through a special meeting of a range of partners involved in the Strategic Review of Services for Young People. The closing date for consultation is 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

Following presentations from a number of key partners, members discussed the paper and put forward a number of points to be included in the final response to Cabinet. These broadly fell into the following headings, as suggested by the Chair:

#### **Being Positive About Young People**

It is clear that the vast majority of young people are engaged within their local community and are hard working. Teenagers need to have the opportunity to take risks and enjoy the sense of challenge and achievement. Members agreed that young people should be able to make informed choices about their behaviour.

Members want to see young people at the centre of the Green Paper, meeting their needs, aspirations, learning and health requirements. Services need to be more up front with young people about health issues.

## **Opportunity Cards**

It was agreed by all stakeholders that opportunity cards would be expensive and require huge infrastructure to operate. They would not be beneficial to young people and could result in misuse by a minority. The funding could be better spent on subsidised transport for young people or youth services and limit the number going onto the Youth Offending Services.

## **Resources**

The new resources outlined in the Green Paper, which amount to £20 million per annum capital for projects, would generate about £50,000 per authority according to the Local Government Association. Members recognised that if we are to meet the

needs of all young people, the development of high quality integrated Youth Support Service will require careful and strategic designation of resources. Members felt very strongly that resources must be allocated to services that young people want and need, and to monitor delivery to ensure money was not wasted.

## **Building on Current Good Practice**

There are many examples of excellent services for young people and their parents. Members would like to see us building upon this good practice, e.g. The County Youth Panel and Local Youth Forum, early interventional work with agencies such as PAYP, partnership working with colleagues in Health. Members welcomed the approach of partnerships across agencies to jointly deliver the five outcomes enabling multi-agency approaches to improving health. Members supported the proposals to further enhance opportunities for volunteering within the local community. 45% of young people are currently engaged in volunteering, we should build upon this impressive start point, particularly within the voluntary sector.

## **Transport for Young People**

Members would like further investigation into the use of a 'Travel Card' for young people for use on local bus services, enabling them to access a range of activities provided by the public, private and voluntary sectors. This was endorsed by the members of the County Panel who felt it would be very well received and a better alternative to an 'Opportunities Card'.

## **Communication with Young People, Parents and Families**

Effective communication with all young people, parents and families is essential to determine our priorities. Members would like to see more detached Youth Outworkers, seeking the views and requirements of young people, particularly the hard to reach group. Although we have a Parenting Strategy and a range of parenting forums, members felt that further publication was required – do we need a Parents Information line? Members were pleased that there was considerable parental support during the early years, but identified gaps for parents of older children and teenagers.