

<b>Report title: Youth Services Update</b>	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 9 October 2023	<b>For:</b> Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> County wide	

### 1. Introduction

At Full Council on 11 July 2023 an amended Motion was passed requesting that this Committee considers a report on the Youth Service from the Cabinet Member for the Arts, Heritage and Culture.

### 2. Action required

**The Committee is asked to consider:**

- (i) **The update on the Youth Service attached in the Appendix to this report.**
- (ii) **Identify any follow-up scrutiny actions.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 A Motion on the Youth Service was moved at Full Council on 11 July 2023. It was then moved that the Motion be amended. The amended motion was put to the meeting and carried and became the substantive motion which was then carried.
- 3.2 An extract from the draft minutes from the 11 July 2023 meeting of Full Council is reproduced below:

#### 2. Youth Service in Essex County Council

Moved by Cllr Dave Harris and seconded by Cllr Aidan McGurran.  
'Essex is a diverse county and there are significant differences in the opportunities for our young people to attend youth facilities and participate in activities with other youngsters. Some of our young people are being denied these opportunities because of where they live in the county.

Clearly youth provision is hampered in some areas because of a lack of volunteers and voluntary organisations – compared with communities that are

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well organised with established links to groups who can set up appropriate facilities for the youth.

The Council therefore asks the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee to consider creating a “task and finish group” to consider Youth Services and Youth Club provision, using information held by Essex Youth Service Officers and details held at District, Borough, and City Councils.

The aim is to ascertain areas of lack of service and viability of volunteer led groups so that Essex County Council officers can provide appropriate support to “level up” youth service provision.’

It was moved by Cllr Mark Durham and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay that the motion be amended to read:

‘Since remodelling the Youth Services back in 2015, the numbers of attendances by young people has risen from just over 40,000 to nearly 80,000 which this Council warmly welcomes.

However, Essex is a diverse county and although not yet quantified, there are potentially differences in how this increase has materialised across the County.

The root causes behind any variances are likely to be complex and this Council therefore requests that the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee considers a report to be provided by the Cabinet Member for the Arts, Heritage and Culture which sets out how the current model operates and how resources are deployed across the County.

The aim being to ascertain how improvements can be made and best practice shared to ensure even more young people, across all parts of the County, can access and benefit from high quality and sustainable youth service provision.’

The amendment moved by Cllr Mark Durham and seconded by Cllr Louise McKinlay was put to the meeting and was carried and became the substantive motion. Having been put to the meeting the motion was carried.’

### 3.3 Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Mark Durham, Cabinet Member - The Arts, Heritage and Culture.  
Julie Auger - Youth Services Manager  
Michael O’Brien - Head of Specialist Education Services

## 4. **Update**

Update is attached in the Appendix.

## 5. **Appendix**

Power Point presentation: Essex Youth Service