

Report title: Essex Youth Service – follow up	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Julie Auger - Youth Services Manager	
Date: 14 February 2024	For: Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: County wide	

1. Introduction

This item is a follow-up to respond to specific requests from the Committee arising from the meeting on 9 October 2023 which considered an update on Youth services.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the further information provided and identify any follow-up scrutiny actions.

3. Background

- 3.1 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. Accordingly, the Committee were updated on Youth Services at its meeting on 9 October 2023. A link to the minutes of that meeting is [here](#).
- 3.2 Under Minute 7 for that meeting on 9 October 2023 the following was recorded which forms the basis and structure for this follow-up item.

Extract of minute – 9 October 2023

Some members voiced concern at the length of the youth services presentation which had reduced the time available for the subsequent agenda item on carers. Cognisant of that, it was agreed that a further update on Youth services was necessary but needed to be focussed on specific 'asks' and that the following be requested:

1. (a) Whilst noting the aim to build closer links between Councillors and young people, to be given more detail on how this is being done and specifically

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(b) the process to facilitate and re-institute in a similar form any local YSG forums that wished to reform in some way and how that would be anticipated to work in practice, and

(c) to further update on any replacement bodies for YSGs more generally being considered and/or proposed?

(d) to understand how projects previously supported by the YSGs can continue to be supported and delivered (for example, delivery of productions at school such as Crucial Crew) and where they are currently being and not being delivered.

2. Whilst noting the success of the youth support role at Basildon Hospital Accident and Emergency, to understand more how this scheme is being considered for expansion to other hospitals, the role of the Violence and Vulnerability Unit and other partners in the scheme and the structure of funding it, and the contributors.
3. What measures are in place or are to be put in place to reach hard-to-reach individuals including the home-schooled? What are the challenges and limitations in this area?
4. More information on the equity spread of services across the county, identifying any unevenness of provision and what can be done to address it. This should include participation rates as well across the county to identify if that is also uniform and whether there are particular rural areas, for example, with travel and infrastructure challenges.

It was further agreed that a small working group of Committee members may be formed to observe the delivery of some youth services and report back to the full Committee. Councillors Gooding, Guglielmi and Stamp indicated interest in serving on such a Group should it be formed.

4. Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Mark Durham, Cabinet Member - The Arts, Heritage and Culture.
Julie Auger - Youth Services Manager
Hannah Thurston - Business Development Manager

5 Appendix

A. Power Point presentation: Essex Youth Service

B. One page infographic titled Essex Youth Service 01/04/2022 – 31/03/23