

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education and Children Services Committee  
**DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

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**WARD(S):** ALL

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **YOUTH OFFER**

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Education and Children Services Scrutiny Panel an overview of the work that has been conducted to refresh the Youth Offer. As part of the Youth Offer, a new Youth Centre is also being proposed.

The report provides a brief insight to the work that has already been undertaken and the work planned in the coming months to ensure the delivery of this project.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report and comment as appropriate on the approaches that have, and have not been mentioned, which could help deliver the outcomes of the refreshed Youth Offer.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The content provided within this report focuses on providing support to the work of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy.

Primarily, the Youth Offer will focus on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Slough to achieve the following priorities:

Priority One: Starting Well

- Protecting vulnerable children - the Youth Offer will focus on prevention and early intervention. It will promote a culture of self-care and personal responsibility.
- Provide support through health provisions where there are known high priority areas in Slough compared to the rest of the country, such as, obesity and oral health.

- Improving mental health and wellbeing - Mental health disorders in young people in Slough have risen by 9.6% for those aged 5- 16 year in 2015.. Mental health and wellbeing provisions will be supported by the MHST and Emotional Wellbeing Service, Council's Get Active team and other partners.
- The Youth Offer will provide opportunities for individual and community empowerment and volunteering, health promotion and on-going engagement with residents and communities

#### Priority Two: Integration

- The Youth Offer project will support young people to identify needs and encourage access to necessary support and or be signposted. All this will be available from one hub. This will enable an increase in the number of people who can manage their own care and any support needs. Targeted specialised support will also be provided (for example, provisions for young people with disabilities and or special educational needs).

#### Priority Three: Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods

- The Youth Offer project is a co-production approach to understand and build on the voices of young people with the aim of creating young people as the future champions for Slough. Strong collaborative working between all partners and the community will create a shared local identity and young people will be empowered with skills and opportunities in Slough.
- The Youth Offer project will focus on increasing young resident's satisfaction with their local place and improve their levels of happiness by providing services in Health and Wellbeing, Culture and Leisure, Skills and advice and specialist support.

### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The Youth Offer work, directly associates with the Five Year Plan and contributes to three outcomes:

- *Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful*
- *Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs*
- *Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay*

The Youth Offer will primarily focus on *Outcome 1, Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful* by supporting children and young people by providing services from an early start and *Outcome 3, Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay*.

By providing early intervention, identifying signs as a prevention measure and engaging with young people will mean delivering *Outcome 1* but will also build on a strong *Outcome 3*, making Slough an attractive place where people thrive and chose to live, work, study and stay here. The Youth Offer project will work with young people to understand the provisions required to enable a smooth transition

to the delivery of *Outcome 2, Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs* with early support and guidance.

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

Capital funding has been allocated for a proposed Youth Centre: Cabinet have allocated £5m in the 2020/21 capital budget towards the development of a Youth Centre. As the re-design and/or build of a new centre would take place starting in the 2021/22 financial year then a further review and carry-over approval will be scheduled alongside decisions about the 2021/22 budget.

The project is currently in its early stage, it formally started in August 2020 and therefore a detailed financial assessment of implications will be undertaken before budget decisions are taken in February 2021.

Revenue options to secure long term operational needs and any other financial implication that could impact this project are to be scoped as the next step within the Youth Centre work stream of this project. Current options include reallocating existing expenditure used by other council teams, realigning the voluntary sector commission (due for renewal in June 2021), and/or fundraising from the private sector and grant-makers.

Officers are considering the fundraising options, alongside colleagues at One Slough, which will involve dialogue with private sector organisations and local and national grant funders.

(b) Risk Management - There are no risks identified at this stage of the proposed action

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - None

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment - None

(e) Workforce - No posts have been created through the proposed actions.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

##### 5.1 **The Youth Offer:**

5.2 The existing Slough Youth Offer has been active for a number of years, and a refresh was initially planned early 2020. Due to COVID-19 working on the revised offer had to be postponed until this autumn. The project is now being resumed and will be looking at the current youth offer and the opportunities for a new Youth Centre facility to run a multi-agency Slough offer. This project has been presented to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and to Lead Members, and initial thinking is widely supported.

##### 5.3 The main objectives of this project are;

- Design a Youth Offer that meets the needs of young people from 2021 onwards

- Develop a new youth centre that will enable this refreshed Youth Offer to be delivered
- Ensure that the Youth Offer is an integral part of the Councils localities agenda incorporating local youth provision.
- Agree an implementation plan that will see the new centre in place and the new Youth Offer in delivery during 2021/22

5.4 The Youth Offer Steering Group is led by Josie Wragg, Chief Executive and is currently co-sponsored by Ketan Gandhi, Associate Director for Place Regulation and Michael Jarrett, Associate Director for Children and Families. The new Associate Director for Community will also share responsibility to the delivery of this project when appointed.

5.5 The working group also includes colleagues from the Strategy and Performance service, as well as representatives from Youth Engagement Slough through Rob Deeks (Aik Saath) and Dom Unsworth (Resource Production).

5.6 This project will engage with all stakeholders including Members, internal senior officials, Youth Services, Early Help, Voluntary and Community Sector partners and others. This project will be consulted on a multi-agency approach. More importantly, the Youth Offer will be a co-production project with local young people.

5.7 All stakeholders will oversee the delivery of this project and its longevity but the voices of young people will shape the services offered. Young people will be consistently engaged with to help build an offer they can thrive from in Slough.

## 5.8 Youth Centre

5.9 The Youth Offer Steering Group have coordinated discussions that have developed initial thinking on the principles, values, activities, and operating approach of the proposed new youth centre. Initial thinking is as follows:

### 5.10 Audience:

- Will be a hub for young people aged 10-21 years old (with flexibility at either end of the age range to enable a focus on key transition periods in children and young people's lives).
- Open access to all young people living, studying and working in Slough
- Specialised services to meet the needs of specific cohorts

### 5.11 Themes:

- Skills- Developing and upskilling young people for employment
- Safety – A place where young people can feel safe and confide in trusted adults
- Innovation- Young people can be creative and be inspired
- Media and Technology- act as hub for new industries
- Celebrate diversity and inclusion – promote wider community cohesion

### 5.12 Centre:

- Various activities and support to be offered
- A coordinated approach with multi-agency services

- Ensure young people's participation from the start of design and post completion
- Considering co-locating with partners
- Location wise, popular choice is the town centre due to accessibility for both partners and young people
- Build on existing youth service offer especially utilising the localities agenda to ensure the youth offer provides local and centralised services

#### 5.13 **Connecting this up:**

- The centre would enable delivery of Early Help services and outcomes, and the Voluntary and Community Sector youth offer commission (currently provided by the YES Consortium)
- It would link its offer to the activities being delivered through new Localities Hubs and other existing facilities across the Borough
- It would leverage existing collaborations in culture and performing arts
- It would act as a focal point for new collaborations with the private sector, including opportunities to bring in funding and in-kind support through sponsorship and skills sharing
- It would be a visible space that young people can be proud of that sits amongst the wider town centre regeneration
- It would complement Slough's strong leisure offer

#### 5.14 **Timeline:**

- Children and Young People's Partnership Board (23/10/20) - Complete
- The Wellbeing Board (17/11/20) - Complete
- Lead Members and Directors (2/11/20) - Complete
- Education and Children Services Scrutiny (3/12/20)
- CMT – December
- Lead Members & Directors – January
- Cabinet - February
- A capital expenditure business case will be submitted in January to the Capital Monitoring Board and will identify the resources needed to run the facility, including revenue costs.

### 6. **Comments of Other Committees**

The Youth Offer was presented at the Children and Young People's Partnership Board on 23/10/20, and was shared with the Wellbeing Board on 17/11/20 as a general update. Content in this paper, and an accompanying presentation, updates the ECS Committee on the steer received from those forums.

### 7. **Conclusion**

The Youth Offer already enhances the lives of young people living, working, or studying in Slough. The refreshed Youth Offer from 2021 onwards will ensure this continues to be the case over the next five years. A proposed new youth centre will be a place young people can enjoy and thrive., This report provides the current status of this project and with senior officials supporting the Youth Offer, it a fast paced project with clear delivery objectives.

The project will provide a renewed sense of ownership to young people and ensure their voices are heard and they are involved in local decision-making especially when it affects them as residents, workers, or students in Slough.

If Members have suggestions or experiences that can help facilitate shaping and delivering this project these are welcomed.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A new Youth Offer and Youth Centre for Slough, presentation

9. **Background Papers**

None