

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities

## DECISION NO.

12/01866

**Unrestricted/Exempt** (delete as required) - If exempt please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

## Subject:

The Future of Youth Services in Kent

## Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities I have hereby agreed to exercise the County Council's ongoing statutory duty to provide educational leisure-time activities for young people by:

- Implementing the model of local service delivery described in detail at Appendix A, and developing service specifications to meet the requirements of local priorities for commissioning
- Engaging with young people to act as joint decision makers during the process of recruiting/selecting KCC staff and the evaluation of tender information to appoint commissioned providers
- Continuing to work alongside Locality Boards to shape service delivery to meet local need and monitor the effectiveness of commissioned providers
- Commencing the new service delivery model in full on 1 January 2013

## Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

None

## Reason(s) for decision, including response to any Cabinet Committee recommendations, and any alternatives considered

Under the Education Act 2006 (Section 1, subsection 6) the Local Education Authority has a function in respect of Youth Work whereby it must secure for qualifying young persons sufficient educational leisure-time activities for the improvement of their well-being and sufficient facilities for such activities. The duty to provide these services was reiterated by the Education Select Committee (June 2011) and that Committee has also recommended (October 2011) the Government consider how it will judge and intervene in areas where this duty has not been fulfilled.

The Education Select Committee identified that evidence shows that open-access services can sometimes be as effective as targeted ones in reaching vulnerable young people and that both can perform similarly life-changing roles in young people's lives. As such this committee has recommended Local Authorities recognise that an open-access service could be more appropriate than a targeted one for improving certain outcomes for young people and take this into consideration when commissioning services.

The model described during consultation sought to effectively carry out this duty by the provision of open-access services which also offer the opportunity for additional support to more vulnerable

young people. At the same time the proposal recognised the need for local people to take part in the design and delivery of services by proposing the commissioning of youth work at a local level.

A central aim of the proposed model is to encourage a wide range of local providers to develop new and innovative methods of working with young people which are relevant to local contexts. In this way it is hoped that local communities will grow in confidence and resilience as they become providers of services as well as consumers.

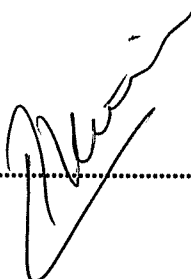
The attached decision report provides a detailed summary and analysis of the consultation response, of which full account has been taken in making this decision.

The Cabinet Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 fully endorsed these proposals. This, together with the extensive consultation process that has been undertaken with Locality Boards or other similar Local Member Groups across the county, gives me confidence that there is broad support for this proposal.

**Background Documents:**

1. Youth Service Transformation Consultation Documents, July 2011
2. Youth Service End of Consultation Report, January 2012
3. Record of Decision 11 0168, January 2012
4. Equalities Impact Assessment

Signed



Date

2 May 2012