

Appendix 3

Youth Provision District Report

By: Christine Kiely, Service Manager – Area Open Access, North Kent
Integrated Children’s Services, Children, Young People and Education
Kent County Council

Zoe Harris, Youth Hub Delivery Manager – Dartford
Integrated Children’s Services, Children, Young People and Education
Kent County Council

Subject: KCC Delivered and Commissioned Youth Provision in Dartford

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides an overview of youth provision available in the district of Dartford. This includes provision that is directly delivered or commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC).

1. KCC Directly Delivered Youth Offer in Dartford

1.1 The KCC internal youth offer in Dartford, consists of a variety of key activities for young people to engage with. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. **Girls Group:** An open access group for girls who struggle to socialise in mixed-gender settings. This programme is determined by the participants and has included sessions on positive relationships, mindfulness, equality and diversity, and rights and responsibilities.
- ii. **Work Experience, University Placements and Apprenticeships:** We offer work experience for young people open to Children’s Social Work Services (CSWS), Youth Justice, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Early Help and Preventative Services (EHPS). We also offer university placements to youth work students and have one apprentice supported in the district in Business Support.
- iii. **Wired Wednesday:** This session is an open access youth work session open to all young people aged 12-19 (up to 24 with additional needs). However, we actively facilitate attendance of those most at need. Such as, those open to EHPS, CSWS, and Youth Justice. Activities include issue-based work, cooking on a budget, music, sports, and arts.
- iv. **Boys Group:** This is a targeted group for boys with challenges specifically relating to them. Referrals come in from colleagues in Youth Justice, Early Help Units, CSWS, and external agencies.
- v. **Create:** This session is an open access youth work session open to all young people aged 8-19 (up to 24 with additional need). Young people who attend this session are working towards an accreditation award, including ASDAN and Arts Awards. The Sports Leader Award programme is currently being planned.
- vi. **Friday Fusion:** This is an open access group open to all young people aged 8-12. Young people who attend this session participate in a variety of activities supported by a team of trained

peer leaders.

- vii. **Duke of Edinburgh (DofE):** An accredited open award centre that currently delivers bronze and silver DofE opportunities.
- viii. **Dartford Detached:** Our detached work responds to the local need and Community Safety Unit (CSU) requests, in partnership with our commissioned provider.
- ix. **At Risk of NEET Programme:** Offering support and guidance to young people who are at risk of becoming NEET at the end of Year 11.
- x. **LGBTQ Youth Group:** This is a new group session, offering access to support services to young people who identify within the LGBTQ community. This is delivered in partnership with Porchlight.
- xi. **Dartford Music Lab:** This is a term-time Saturday session, delivered by Kent Music, with support from Early Help staff at the Youth Hub. Young people aged 8+ can access free music tuition in a safe and fun environment.
- xii. **Young Leaders Programme:** An accredited training programme for young people aged 12+ who have applied to become peer leaders within the youth hub.
- xiii. **Low Risk Missing Return Interviews:** Missing person return interviews are carried out by Early Help staff. This is for every young person assessed as low risk, to ensure we understand the reason for their missing episode and ensure their safety and wellbeing.
- xiv. **Additional Support:** This support is carried out by Youth Hub staff, for young people 8-19 (25 where they have additional needs). Additional Support is a one to one intervention carried out with the young people after a Signs of Safety assessment. This work is carried out over 6-8 weeks. Those young people are encouraged and supported to access the universal offer to provided ongoing support.
- xv. **Swanscombe Youth Session:** Funded by members grants, a weekly youth session attracting approximately 40 young people aged 8-19. The project restarts in October 2019.
- xvi. **Dartford Youth Council:** Monthly support at Youth Council meetings held at Dartford Council Chambers. This work includes training of new members; campaign support; off site residential work.

2. KCC Commissioned Youth Offer in Dartford

- 2.1. There are 12 Youth contracts across Kent, delivered by 7 providers. PlayPlace are currently subject to a 5-year contract with KCC to deliver universal youth provision in Dartford.
- 2.2. The youth offer from PlayPlace, includes the following programme of support:
 - i. **Universal Youth Sessions:** These are open access sessions run from a variety of centres, including Tree Estate Community Centre, Stone Baptist Church, and Wilmington Church.
 - ii. **Detached Youth Work:** Detached provision is delivered in Dartford Town Centre, Swanscombe, and Stone.

- iii. **Weekly Arts Club:** This club is aimed at a younger age group (8-12 years).
- iv. **School Holiday Programmes:** This includes Community Days and attendance at local festivals.

3. Governance

- 3.1. The overarching responsibility of the district Young Person Partnership Conversation (YPPC) is to ensure that there is a good understanding of the youth offer within their respective districts and for this to inform the Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG). This enables youth work to remain consistently of a high standard for children and young people (aged 8-19 years and up to 25 with additional needs) living in the district. The YPPC's is open to both district and county Members.
- 3.2. The YPPC's take place three times a year within an agreed timetable that runs alongside the LCPG.

4. Partnership Working in Dartford

- 4.1. There are key areas of work that KCC are involved in or leading on, alongside partners in Dartford, which have a focus on engaging with and supporting young people. Much of the partnership working is focussed on getting young people to access the universal provision, access the district, or to access the correct tier of support.
- 4.2. The Schools Link Worker role is shared across Early Help in Dartford, with regular meetings and networking opportunities offered throughout the school year.
- 4.3. The Youth Hub Delivery Manager and Senior Early Help Workers attend meetings of the Vulnerability Forum at Dartford Council, to discuss current issues across the District. This also acts as an opportunity to assess young people networks and discuss areas of concern and partnership working opportunities.
- 4.4. Partnership working with YMCA Thames Gateway has enabled the creation of the LGBTQ Youth Group.
- 4.5. Working in partnership with Kent Music has allowed us to offer a free music tuition service to young people across Dartford. The project has been running since September 2017 and in that time over 20 young people have regularly attended, learning a variety of musical instruments such as Trumpet, Djembe drums and Ukulele.