

# ITEM NO. 5

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 17 May 2007

**SUBJECT:** Final Report of the Youth Services Working Group

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Patrick Sebastian - Scrutiny Support Officer  
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**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

## **PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To formally present to Cabinet the report of the Youth Services Working Group. The report has been considered by the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) on 24 April 2007 (Minute No. 57 refers).

## **REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations requiring consideration by the Cabinet.

Local authorities must demonstrate that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities, and ensure wherever possible that young people were offered appropriate "places to go and things to do" reflecting Government's ambition for youth opportunities set out in the national standards. New statutory duties incumbent on local authorities under Youth Matters, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 – functions in respect of leisure-time activities for persons aged 13 to 19 and certain persons aged 20 to 24.

Possible resource issues arising from recommendations contained within this report.

National benchmarking indicates Sefton is 110 out of 130 Local Authorities for Youth Service expenditure (9<sup>th</sup> against our statistical neighbours). Previous projections suggested that growth of £600,000 would be required to bring the Youth Service to the required standard, however given the current financial circumstances of the Council and the Youth Service's current capacity to develop, a more realistic figure of an increase to the Youth Service budget by £300,000 over a 3 year period would enable both the mainstreaming of NRF and SRB projects in the south of the borough and provide sufficiency of resource in the north.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

R1 Further development of the Youth Matters agenda to ensure young people will have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. There are opportunities for the Council to engage further with young people and encourage involvement in Sefton MBC Strategy Development. This could be achieved in part through the co-option of young people as members on Local Area Committees and the Scrutiny & Review Committee (Children's Services). Encouraging young people to volunteer, contribute to, and develop their local community.

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R2	The Youth Service should restructure its operational management immediately to enable delivery of service in recognising government's expectation of targeted approach to youth services.
R3	The Youth Service is poorly funded in comparison to other Local Authorities this will need to be addressed in the current and forthcoming financial years. This issue needs to be addressed urgently.
R4	Better Balance of Spending on Service - Geographically, there is an imbalance of resource versus need. Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) and Single Regeneration Bid (SRB) Funding are being used to support rather than enhance mainstream delivery in the south of the borough.
R5	The Youth agenda involves a wide range of partners - Leisure, Police, Connexions, Fire Service, Voluntary and Community Sector and of course the young people themselves. Success will only be achieved if all partners recognise the interdependences and commit to working together to achieve common aims/outcomes.
R6	Extension of Frontline Services - The work of frontline service staff i.e. Youth Workers / Outreach Workers is recognised as invaluable in engaging with young people and developing sustainable Youth Services, with positive local community outcomes as a result.
R7	Sefton Youth Service is rated highly by service users themselves as a provider of safe places for young people to meet. However, the demand for such facilities still exceeds supply.
R8	Demand from service users also exists in support of extending opening hours at existing Youth Club / Youth Centre facilities to cover Friday and Saturday nights.
R9	Publication of Information - There is a need for publication of consolidated contact details for Sefton Youth facilities via websites and hard copy publications, providing young people and their parents with access information on the type of facility, location, and opening hours information available in their area.
R10	There is an opportunity to further utilise existing facilities to provide a youth focussed approach 'one stop shop' to provide advice to, and gather feedback from young people. Good examples of this practice currently exist, but service across the borough is not consistent.
R11	Additional focus on "hard to reach" young people can be achieved via closer working with partner organisations such as Connexions using "not in employment, education or training" (NEET) data.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the 'call in' period for the Minutes of the Meeting.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:** N/A

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Dependent upon Cabinet decision / support

**Financial:**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure		200,000	200,000	200,000
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N			When?	
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:** N/A

**Risk Assessment:** N/A

**Asset Management:** N/A

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

Contained within the body of the report

**Corporate Objective Monitoring:**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2.	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3.	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5.	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		
8.	Children and Young People	√		

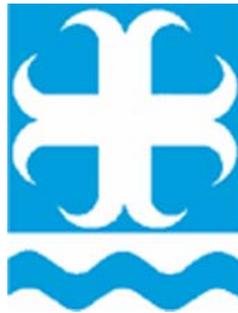
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**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Contained within the body of the report

**SEFTON COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE  
(Children's Services)**



**Youth Services Working Group**

**FINAL REPORT**

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### Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the report of the Working Group looking into services for young people in Sefton. Over the months members of the group have met with many young people and a variety of staff who work with them in different settings. The experience has been highly positive with the majority of the young people being highly enthusiastic and willing to engage. However, there is a significant minority who feel cut off from the mainstream and who have difficulties in engaging with services. The Youth Service is aware of the need to target these young people and is coming up with imaginative ways to do so.

Inevitably the Group found that there are issues with the sufficiency and distribution of resources and hopefully these can be addressed over time to give a proper reflection of the need to invest in our young people locally. The other most salient issue presenting was the need for agencies, especially Sefton Council, to provide a voice for young people and to maximise inclusion. Many of the young people we met are keen to explore different ways of doing this and Sefton Members of the Youth Parliament are leading the way.

I hope this report is of interest and sparks debate to raise the profile of young people in Sefton and the funding of services in particular. I believe that the remit the Group set itself was very demanding and that we have only begun a much longer process. I would like to thank all my Councillor colleagues who participated in this Group, particularly Cllr Fred Weavers and special thanks go to Mrs Sandra Roberts, Co-opted Member for her tireless input. Sincere thanks are also due to Patrick Sebastian, Scrutiny Support Officer, for all his time and efforts, and all those young people and staff, particularly Margaret Loughlin, Assistant Director, Children's Services, who were involved in the work of the Group and the production of this report.

Cllr Paul Cummins  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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## **1.0 WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT EXPECT OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY?**

Central to the theme of the Scrutiny Review into Youth Services, Members were apprised of the new statutory duties incumbent on local authorities under Youth Matters, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to ensure that young people are clear about services that are provided.

To:

- Provide a safe, relaxed, fun and inviting environment
- Provide well-equipped centres and projects
- Listen to young peoples views
- Respect young people's views
- Treat young people with respect
- Ensure a sense of ownership amongst young people
- Show enthusiasm and give encouragement
- Provide a referral service for guidance and counselling if needed
- Provide recognition through accreditation
- Ensure that young people are valued for their input in planning and evaluation in running of centres and projects
- Encourage integration with the whole community
- Ensure access for all

Through its Council Plan 2006/2007, Sefton MBC is committed to:

a) ensure that opportunities are provided for Sefton children and young people to make a positive contribution to society, through the modernisation of the youth service, increasing the range of activities available – Strategic Objective 19 (CSSA 04).

b) ensure that opportunities are provided to help Sefton children and young people achieve economic well-being – Strategic Objective 20 (CSSA 05).

## **2.0 YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 4(2) of 13 June 2006, the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) considered the report of the Legal Director on the Work Programme to be determined by the Committee in respect of Working Groups. It was resolved that a new Working Group be appointed as follows.

### **2.1 Membership**

Councillors Cummins (Lead Member), Larkin, Shaw, Sir Ron Watson and Weavers, and Mrs. S. Roberts

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## 2.2 Terms of Reference and Objectives

1. Sufficiency of provision within Sefton – to examine current services and obtain feedback from service users as to the type, level, and appropriateness of facilities
2. Partnership working (including the involvement of young people) – engage with service users from the outset, working with young people and service providers.
3. Accessibility of provision for vulnerable young people.
4. The development of Targeted Youth Support Services including the effectiveness of communication and coordination of services.
5. Gaps in services for young people – identify shortfall or under-utilised service provision based upon geographical areas and/or specific age groupings.

At its inaugural meeting held on the 18th July, 2006 Members felt that the review would also enable them to monitor Sefton MBC's approach to the implementation to the Government paper, *Youth Matters: Next Steps* (published on 8th March 2006) which set out the vision for empowering young people, giving them somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

The paper encouraged involvement of young people to have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them, the Working Group felt this might also be an opportunity to view work being undertaken to encourage young people to volunteer and contribute to their local community.

## 2.3 Meetings / Site Visits

- Tuesday, 18th July, 2006 - Working Group Meeting – Southport.
- Tuesday, 26th September, 2006 - Working Group Meeting – Southport.
- Thursday, 19th October, 2006 - young peoples Event - Floral Gardens, Southport – (51 young people - approximately 20% Male, 80% Women).
- Thursday, 26th October, 2006 - young peoples Event - Waterloo Rugby Club, Blundellsands – (Approximately 30 young people).
- Tuesday, 31st October, 2006 - Working Group Meeting – Bootle.
- Wednesday, 1st November, 2006 - young peoples Event - Aintree Race Course, Aintree. (Attendance in excess of 120 young people, pre-booked).
- Tuesday, 14th November, 2006 - Site Visit - Aintree Youth Centre.
- Wednesday, 22nd November - Site Visit - Meols Cop Youth Centre.
- Monday, 4th December, 2006 - Site Visit - Brunswick Youth Centre, Bootle (young people interviewed).
- Monday, 4th December, 2006 - Site Visit - Litherland Youth Centre, Litherland (young people interviewed).
- Tuesday, 5th December, 2006 - Working Group Meeting – Southport.
- Monday, 22nd January, 2007 - Working Group Meeting – Southport.
- Monday, 12th February, 2007 - Officer / Lead Member Meeting - Bootle.
- Monday, 19th February, 2007 - Site Visit / Working Group Meeting - Litherland Youth Centre (participation by young people, and Youth Council members).

In addition to the above meetings / visits individual Members of the Working Group, as part of their ongoing Ward work, took the opportunity to conduct their own visits to Youth Centres / Clubs and gather information of relevance to the review.

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## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1 Further development of the Youth Matters agenda to ensure young people will have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. There are opportunities for the Council to engage further with young people and encourage involvement in Sefton MBC Strategy Development. This could be achieved in part through the co-option of young people as members on Local Area Committees and the Scrutiny & Review Committee (Children's Services). Encouraging young people to volunteer, contribute to, and develop their local community.
- R2 The Youth Service should restructure its operational management immediately to enable delivery of service in recognising government's expectation of targeted approach to youth services.
- R3 The Youth Service is poorly funded in comparison to other Local Authorities this will need to be addressed in the current and forthcoming financial years. This issue needs to be addressed urgently.
- R4 Better Balance of Spending on Service - Geographically, there is an imbalance of resource versus need. Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) and Single Regeneration Bid (SRB) Funding are being used to support rather than enhance mainstream delivery in the south of the borough.
- R5 The Youth agenda involves a wide range of partners - Leisure, Police, Connexions, Fire Service, Voluntary and Community Sector and of course the young people themselves. Success will only be achieved if all partners recognise the interdependences and commit to working together to achieve common aims/outcomes.
- R6 Extension of Frontline Services - The work of frontline service staff i.e. Youth Workers / Outreach Workers is recognised as invaluable in engaging with young people and developing sustainable Youth Services, with positive local community outcomes as a result.
- R7 Sefton Youth Service is rated highly by service users themselves as a provider of safe places for young people to meet. However, the demand for such facilities still exceeds supply.
- R8 Demand from service users also exists in support of extending opening hours at existing Youth Club / Youth Centre facilities to cover Friday and Saturday nights.

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- R9 Publication of Information - There is a need for publication of consolidated contact details for Sefton Youth facilities via websites and hard copy publications, providing young people and their parents with access information on the type of facility, location, and opening hours information available in their area.
- R10 There is an opportunity to further utilise existing facilities to provide a youth focussed approach 'one stop shop' to provide advice to, and gather feedback from young people. Good examples of this practice currently exist, but service across the borough is not consistent.
- R11 Additional focus on "hard to reach" young people can be achieved via closer working with partner organisations such as Connexions using "not in employment, education or training" (NEET) data.

**4.0 SEFTON STATISTICS**

**4.1 People Statistics**

From the onset, it is important to note the number of young people living in the Sefton MBC area.

**4.2 Resident Population and Age**

The resident population of Sefton, as measured in the 2001 Census, was 282,958, of which 47 per cent were male and 53 per cent were female. Please note 25 per cent of the resident population are under the age of 20, with 10 per cent aged between 13 and 19. These ratios have changed little over recent years, although more recent statistics are showing a reduction in the number of Sefton births, and declining school rolls.

Resident population (percentage)

	Sefton	England and Wales
Under 16	20.2	20.2
16 to 19	5.1	4.9
20 to 29	9.5	12.6
30 to 59	40.6	41.5
60 to 74	15.9	13.3
75 and over	8.7	7.6
Average age	40.4	38.6

*Source: 2001 Census, ONS*

**4.3 Children and young people**

Children and Young people are not evenly distributed over the whole of the Sefton area. The 2001 Census, ward table data identifies the highest proportion of the population under the age of 20 years tend to be concentrated in the south of Sefton, and part of the outskirts of Southport in the north of the borough.

**4.4 Education, Employment and Training (EET) Statistics**

16-18 year olds in Learning at 30/11/2006 (% total in brackets)

Bootle	1920	(75.59%)
Crosby/Maghull	3106	(86.40%)
Southport	3078	(82.83%)
Sefton	8104	(82.27%)

*Source: Connexions*

Note: Sefton EET statistics are the highest rates in Merseyside.

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### % 16-25 Learning Difficulties or Disabilities in EET

	Nov 2005	Nov 2006
Bootle	63.97%	61.00%
Crosby/Maghull	78.39%	73.00%
Southport	82.28%	80.00%
Sefton	75.96%	72.58%

### % 16-18 Youth Offenders in EET (supervised)

	Nov 2005	Nov 2006
Bootle	44.80%	44.40%
Crosby/Maghull	69.20%	78.60%
Southport	53.10%	51.90%
Sefton	53.40%	51.60%

### % 16-19 Teenage Mothers in EET

	Nov 2005	Nov 2006
Bootle	26.32%	24.68%
Crosby/Maghull	26.92%	29.41%
Southport	25.00%	38.46%
Sefton	26.03%	29.33%

*Source: Connexions*

## 4.5 Economic Activity

Within Sefton, 19 per cent of those unemployed were aged 50 and over, 10 per cent had never worked and 36 per cent were long term unemployed.

In August 2000, there were 5,350 Jobseeker Allowance claimants in Sefton of which 24 per cent had child dependants. The Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week.

*Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 2000*

In August 2000, there were 24,580 Income Support claimants in Sefton, of which 2 per cent were aged under 20. Income support was introduced on April 11th 1988 and can be paid to a person who is aged 16 and over, is not working 16 hours or more a week, and has less money coming in than the law says they need to live on.

*Source: Department for Work and Pensions, 2000*

## 4.6 Housing and Households

In Sefton there were 116,847 households in 2001. 98 per cent of the resident population lived in households. The remainder of the population lived in communal establishments. Note the percentage of households containing dependent children.

Number of households (percentage)

	Sefton	England and Wales
One person households	30.6	30.0
Pensioners living alone	17.2	14.4
Other All Pensioner households	10.6	9.4
Contained dependent children	30.3	29.5
Lone parent households with dependent children	7.6	6.5
Owner occupied	74.2	68.9
Without central heating	12.8	8.5

*Source: 2001 Census, ONS*

## 4.7 Area Statistics - Indices of deprivation in Sefton

Sefton ranked 78 out of 354 local authorities and districts in England. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 is an overall measure of deprivation in an area. A rank of 1 indicates the area is the most deprived local authority according to the measure, whilst a rank of 354 indicates it is the least deprived local authority.

## **5.0 EVERY CHILD MATTERS (ECM)**

During the course of the review it was clear to the Working Group that local authorities needed to demonstrate that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities, and ensure wherever possible that young people were offered appropriate “places to go and things to do” reflecting Government’s ambition for youth opportunities set out in the national standards. New statutory duties incumbent on local authorities under Youth Matters, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 must ensure that young people are clear about services that are provided.

### **5.1 Children Act 2004**

The Children Act 2004 provides the legal underpinning for Every Child Matters: Change for Children - the programme aimed at transforming children's services. A series of documents have been published which provide guidance under the act, to support local authorities and their partners in implementing new statutory duties. At the same time an overview of these and other guidance supporting the ECM programme has been published.

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### 5.2 Youth Matters

Youth Matters, the Youth Green Paper, was published on 18th July 2005 and the subsequent consultation ended on 4th November 2005. With over 19,000 responses from young people, this is one of the largest responses to a Government consultation from any one group.

The Government response, Youth Matters: Next Steps was published on 8th March 2006 and sets out the vision for empowering young people, giving them somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

Young people will have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. We also want to encourage young people to volunteer and contribute to their local community.

### 5.3 Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunities Fund

Chief Executives and Directors of Children's Services in local authorities received a letter from the Minister of State for Children and Families, about funds being made available to make the vision a reality. Guidance on delivery of the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) was published on the 8 March 2006. During the course of this review, 3 YOF/YCF events were hosted by Sefton Youth Services, allowing Working Group Members to meet with young people and hear their views first hand.

As part of the review, the Working Group were apprised of detail of Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunities Fund (revenue expenditure) available in Sefton.

The capital programme currently includes a total of £299,400 for Youth Capital Fund, phased £149,700 in 2006/07 and £149,700 in 2007/08. It is permitted to carry forward 40% of the 2006/07 allocation to 2007/08. The allocations for the Youth Opportunities Fund are £173,084 in both 2006/07 and 2007/08. No carry forward is permitted for Youth Opportunities Fund.

*Details were reported to the Cabinet Member Children's Services (9th August 2006) and Cabinet (10th August 2006)*

The aim of the funds is to involve young people, especially hard to reach young people, in identifying positive activities and things to do and to support their role as decision makers, grant givers and project leaders. There are no restrictions on the range of initiatives and activities that the YOF can fund provided that they are supporting the outcomes from Every Child Matters. Young people should be encouraged to consider local needs and circumstances as a part of their role in shaping provision for young people beyond their immediate group.

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*There are opportunities for the Council to engage further with young people and encourage involvement in Sefton MBC Strategy Development.*

Youth Capital Fund (YCF) is a discrete capital budget for a two-year period, again to be spent on what young people want and is designed to work in tandem with the YOF. It should not be used as a substitute for mainstream funding.

The Working Group heard that arrangements for implementing the YCF should allow for the active involvement of young people with particular emphasis on those who are disadvantaged in all aspects of planning delivery monitoring and evaluation of YCF.

The funds were publicised widely throughout Sefton and 17 bids have been received from young people to date. All bids included quotes from suppliers in line with Sefton Council's financial procedures.

A group of young people from the Sefton Youth-Bank Project, elected representatives to UK Youth Parliament and other volunteers were consulted and involved in the decision-making process. They undertook a programme of training, set priorities and established a scoring mechanism for grant applications. In addition, three major consultation events were held to establish what services exist for young people in Sefton, identify gaps and to enable a wider range of young people to have the opportunity to express their views on what the funds should be used for. Members of the Working Group also attended the consultation events, utilising the opportunity to speak directly to young people, and to gather, first hand their views on Sefton youth Services in general.

The young people met as a panel to consider grant applications, and made recommendations for spend of the Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunities Fund.

Successful Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunities Fund Bids to date:

**Approved January 2007  
Youth Capital Fund (YCF):**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Litherland Youth Centre (a)	£6,160.00	Decorating and re-wiring new computer suite, additional toilet facilities
Meols Cop Youth Centre Music and Dance Group (Southport)	£16,958.00	Creation of a music studio to include refurbishment of schools outbuilding, studio soundproofing and installation of equipment

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Rampworx Young Person's Steering Group (Netherton)	£11,256.00	Building work, renovation of 'chill-out' and homework club space
The Escape (Netherton Activity Centre)	£87,943.00	Complete refurbishment of youth space, internet café and juice bar
Orrell Mount Pavilion (a) (Bootle)	£9,167.00	Teen Shelter
Orrell Mount Pavilion (b) (Bootle)	£3,159.20	Refitting kitchen in existing building
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£134,643.20</b>	

### Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF):

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Litherland Youth Centre (a)	£9,950.00	IT equipment
Litherland Youth Centre (b)	£8,002.00	Activities and resources
Meols Cop Youth Centre Music and Dance Group (Southport)	£23,398.00	Equipment and training
Crosby Vaulting Group	£1,983.00	Equipment
Crosby Riding for the Disabled	£2,233.00	Equipment
Rampworx Young Person's Steering Group (Netherton)	£5,185.00	Equipment and furniture for 'chill-out' and homework club space
Phoenix Tang Soo Do Martial Arts Club (Southport)	£2,000.00	Advertising, hall rental and equipment
Merseyside Chiefs (Southport)	£13,469.00	Dragon Boat, training and associated equipment
Meols Cop High School (Vulnerable children)	£560.00	Holiday fees

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Tuesday Girls Club, Stanley Youth Centre (Southport)	£6,295.04	Painting meeting room/study room, residential, babysitting course, IT equipment and furniture residential babysitting course.
Orrell Mount Pavilion (b) (Bootle)	£2,000.00	Kitchen equipment
Sefton Youth Inclusion Project – Participation Group (Ford)	£1,000.00	First Aid Training
Sefton Youth Inclusion Project – Participation Group (Ford)	£500.00	Gardening equipment
Renaissance Dance Group (Brunswick Youth Club and the Ash Street Baptist Church in Bootle)	£4,621.69	Equipment, training, costumes and venue hire to enable the group to put on professional dance and music displays with competitions and awards ceremonies.
Southport Young Mums	£1,753.00	Residential
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£82,949.73</b>	

**Approved 7 March 2007  
(YCF and YOF):**

Bid 01 Friends of Aintree Village	£4,052.00	Newly formed group, open to all age groups through local schools. Aim is to hold two consultation events for both young and old people, to reflect views with a long term aim of producing a sports facility within the community.  <b>Approx 200 young people 10-19</b>
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<p>Bid 02 Nintenders, Formby YC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£1,200.00</p>	<p>A group of 10 young people wanting to create a safe place where young people can meet and develop their musical interests and skills, and to purchase some new equipment.</p> <p><b>Approx 50 young people 13-19</b></p>
<p>Bid 03 Great Britain Dragonboat Team</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£16,000.00</p>	<p>A group of 8 young people part of a National Under 18 Water Sports Team. Require funding for travel, and equipment to train and race at the World Championships in Sydney, Australia.</p> <p><b>8 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 04 Brunswick Youth Centre</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£2,000.00</p>	<p>A group of 8 young people involved in youth forum. Want to visit London, stay in a hotel look at the difference in culture and attend a theatre performance.</p> <p><b>8 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 05 Future Inheritors, SING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£3,500.00</p>	<p>A group of 25 young people from various youth clubs in Bootle starting up their own youth forum. Want training and to go on a residential, in order to develop their group and individual skills in making effective decision-making.</p> <p><b>25 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 06 Spartac Gymnastics Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£2,870.00</p>	<p>A group of 65 young people with learning / physical disabilities who attend gymnastic club. Applying for funding to enable 2 gymnasts to join the GB squad in Austria. Help is towards travel, accommodation / food, kit, escort.</p> <p><b>65 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 07 Formby Potters</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£600.00</p>	<p>A group of young people wanting to learn new skills in Golf. Requires 8 x 1hr lessons @ £60 per person</p> <p><b>10 young people</b></p>

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<p>Bid 08 Aintree Baby Course</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£2,089.58</p>	<p>A group of 8 young people wanting to obtain equipment in order to run a course looking at the responsibilities of having children at a young age hopefully helping other youth groups in future. <b>8 + young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 09 Litherland Youth Centre</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£3,283.00</p>	<p>A group of 12-15 young people involved in youth committee, wanting to visit London after a recent meeting with a representative from local government. <b>12 young people / 2 Staff / 1 volunteer</b></p>
<p>Bid 10 EAL children, Meols Cop</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£450.00</p>	<p>A group of 15 young people whom English is not first language. Aiming to build confidence and self-esteem through fencing coaching. <b>15 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 11 Meols Cop, Family Street Dance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£1,200.00</p>	<p>A group of 150 young people participating in after school clubs dance activities. Would like to put on a larger performance, and asking for help towards t-shirts for before and after the performance. <b>150 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 12 Community Choir, Meols Cop</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£500.00</p>	<p>A group of 40 young people who put on performance in their community to all generations are wanting help with providing t-shirts with the group logo on. <b>40 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 13 Formby Youth Centre</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£1,400.00</p>	<p>A group of 5 young people asking for a coach and sports equipment for various sports <b>5 young people</b></p>

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Bid 14 Woodvale & Ainsdale Community Assoc.	£10,000.00	A group of 120+ young people members of a community association. Hoping to run a variety of different experiences in educational trips. Including training for leaders, mini-bus hire and residential. <b>120 young people</b>
Bid 15 Formby Youth Centre	£1,250.98	A group of 35 young people looking to replace old equipment and help improve facilities in the club. <b>35+ young people</b>
Bid 16 YIP - Residential	£8,000.00	A group of 12 young people wanting to undertake residential trips, which will include the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award. £800 per trip over 2/3 days. <b>12 young people</b>
Bid 18 YIP – Bike project	£3,000.00	A group of 12 young people wanting help towards basic mechanics, road safety, map reading, and personal safety. <b>12 young people</b>
Bid 19 YIP – Hornby Centre	£3,000.00	A group of 12 young people wanting new equipment for club, but to also open up 2 other provisions with equipment. <b>12 young people</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£64,395.56</b>	<b>787 young people</b>

**Approved 21 March 2007**

**YCF and YOF:**

Bid 01 Bootle & District Explorer Scouts	£2,000.00	A group of 12 young people from a Bootle based uniformed organisation are requesting funding to purchase equipment to practise before they enter Challenge Cup 2007. This will also be able to be used by other members and new recruits. <b>12 young people</b>
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<p>Bid 02 Young Women's Project, Stanley Youth Centre</p>	<p>£240.00</p>	<p>A group of 15 young women would like to bring in a dance tutor to teach dance. This will help them achieve their Duke Of Edinburgh Award. <b>15 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 03 Crossens Community Centre Youth Group</p>	<p>£1,894.98</p>	<p>A group of 25 young people are asking for funding for new equipment. This includes 2 new computers, printers, software, chairs, televisions and a playstation. <b>25 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 04 Wednesday Girls, Stafford Moreton</p>	<p>£7,000.00</p>	<p>A group of 14 girls, would like to take part in a programmes looking at sexual health, relationships, health and motivation and various singing and dancing programmes. In addition, they will use funds to arrange residential looking into parenting/teenage pregnancy. <b>14 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 05 Meols Cop Allotment Project</p>	<p>£3,703.07</p>	<p>A group of 12 young people aged 13-19 have recently been offered their own allotment and are asking for funding to buy materials and equipment to start off their project. <b>12 young people</b></p>
<p>Bid 06 Meols Cop Germany International Group</p>	<p>£2,040.00</p>	<p>A group of 6 young people aged between 16-18 are actively interested in issues around politics and culture. Funding would help them attend an International Youth Conference in Germany around European Culture. <b>6 young people</b></p>

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Bid 07 Birkdale Youth Centre	£760.95	A group of 60 young people would like to purchase an air hockey table and a table tennis table so that they can undertake the physical recreation section of the Duke Of Edinburgh Award. It would also offer more activities to club members. <b>60 young people</b>
Bid 08 Southport Skate Committee	£8,000.00	A group of 100+ people ranging from 8 to adults would like to hold a two-day event providing activities for young people in the Southport Area e.g. skating etc <b>100 young people</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£25,639.00</b>	<b>244 young People</b>

As authorities develop new ways of delivering services to young people it is hoped that Sefton will be in a position to share new ways of working with others to bring about real and positive change for young people.

New statutory duties incumbent on local authorities under Youth Matters, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 must ensure that young people are clear about services that are provided. Local authorities will need to ensure that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities, and secure for young people an appropriate offer of “places to go and things to do” that reflects the Government’s ambition for youth opportunities set out in the national standards.

*Services for young people are high on the national and local agendas, Sefton Youth Service has changed significantly in 2006 but there is still some way to go for it to achieve its aspirations.*

Sefton Change for Children Implementation Project:

Phase 1 East Sefton Pilot

Over coming months Sefton will run a project in the Sefton East Parishes covering the wards of Park, Sudell and Molyneaux; and involving all the schools and services within that part of Sefton. The project will, for the first time, bring together the interdependent elements of the Change for Children programme and embed new ways of working particularly across universal services such as early years settings, schools and health settings i.e. the settings that are best equipped to identify possible needs at an early stage.

The project will inform the eventual rollout of the Change for Children Programme

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to all schools and services across Sefton and will also inform the further developments of area working.

### **5.4 Inter-Agency Cooperation to Improve the Well-being of Children: Children's Trusts**

The guidance on the duty to cooperate (Section 10 of the Children Act) provides the underpinning framework for children's trusts. Well-being is the term used in the act to define the five Every Child Matters outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

### **5.5 Sefton Children's Trust Arrangement**

Sefton MBC was one of the first local authorities in the UK to integrate its education and children's social care services and establish a single Children's Services Authority.

In accordance with the Children Act 2004, the Children's Services Authority has established a strategic partnership, the Sefton Children and Young people's Thematic Group (CYPTG), to oversee the establishment children's trust arrangements.

The CYPTG see the next phase of development as the implementation of key policies that will change the way services are delivered, shifting the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children and young people's lives to actually preventing things reaching crisis point. This is extremely important in order to help Sefton children and young people achieve the outcomes of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being. As part of this ongoing process, it is hoped that the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) will be called upon to comment / monitor the implementation as work progresses.

A key element in the implementation of children's trusts is the development of a strategic plan by the local authority and its partners - the Children and Young people's Plan (Section 17 of the Children Act). Sefton Council's Plan 2006/2007 contains a number of strategic objectives specifically targeted at Children and Young People across a number of key areas – creating a learning community, creating safe communities, customer contact, in addition to the broader areas of jobs, education, regeneration and health – all of which impact on the lives of young people in Sefton.

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The Sefton Change for Children Programme, as set out in the Children and Young people's Plan (CYPP), is about improving and changing services for children, young people and families. The introduction of the Common Assessment Framework, lead professional and information sharing are integral to the programme and are supported by the broader aspects of workforce reform and multi-agency working.

The Sefton Children's Trust Executive (CTE) operates as the overall co-ordinating and accountable group responsible for the implementation of the Change Programme.

Key workstreams that the Sefton Children's Trust Executive are responsible for include:

- Lead Professional
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
- Workforce Reform
- Information Sharing (including Contact Point implementation)
- Service Directory
- Performance Management
- Commissioning
- Children's Centres
- Participation Strategy
- Parenting Strategy

### **5.6 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)**

The Children's Green Paper stated the Government's intention to streamline planning requirements for children's services, building on reforms already undertaken such as the creation of a Single Education Plan for LEAs, by April 2006. In July 2004 Ministers agreed for provision of a statutory Children and Young people's Plan in the Children Bill. The development of such a plan supports the move to more integrated and effective services to secure the outcomes for children set out in Every Child Matters and reflected in the Children Bill. The aim is to:

- streamline current complex statutory planning requirements. In addition to the repeal of the Children's Services Plan, already covered by the Bill, repeal of the requirement for the Education Development Plan (EDP), Early Years Development and Childcare Plan, School Organisation Plan, Behaviour Support Plan, Class Sizes Plan, and the Adoption Services Plan;
- enable the removal of a number of non-statutory planning requirements;

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- support integrated service delivery. The plan will cover the functions of the local authority in respect of education and social services for children, and so reflect the full range of statutory responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member as set out in the Bill;
- reflect the proposals for integrated CPA assessment of local authorities' Children's Services from 2005; and
- form a statutory core for the wider planning activity of Children's Trusts, which will bring together the relevant plans of all the partners covered by the duty to cooperate, and include the full range of services to be inspected under the new arrangements for Joint Area Reviews.

### **6.0 SOMEWHERE TO GO? SOMETHING TO DO?**

*(Department for Education and Skills – Consultation, November 2005)*

The above national survey provides a wealth of data on the views of young people. (Over 19,000 responses were received with regard to this particular Government consultation).

As part of the consultation a number of group responses were received representing the views of over 5000 young people. Analysis of the group responses followed closely the analysis of the individual responses. The group responses provided valuable comments, particularly for the questions that did not invite comments in the original consultation.

The age breakdown of the respondents was as follows:

Under 13	1813
13 – 16	12961
17 – 19	2884
Over 19	292
Parent	185
Not Given	886

Full analysis of consultation responses may be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conResults.cfm?consultationId=1324>

*There is an opportunity in Sefton to further utilise existing facilities to provide a youth focussed approach 'one stop shop' to provide advice to, and gather feedback from young people.*

## **7.0 SEFTON YOUTH SERVICE BEST VALUE REVIEW**

### **Young people's Survey**

In 2004/2005 Sefton MBC undertook its own survey of Young people providing similar responses to that of the National Survey.

532 young people took part in Sefton Youth Service's Best Value consultation. Every effort was made to contact difficult-to-reach groups.

83% of the young people said they had contact with Sefton Youth Service.

The survey showed that the Youth Service delivers particularly well on:

- Safe places to meet - 75%
- Youth Workers to listen and support - 86%
- Activities to get involved with - 76%

The weakest area is that of young people being heard and a chance to make a difference where 15% said it was poor or very poor - an issue, since addressed by Sefton Youth Service as part of its implementation of the Youth Matters agenda.

### **Local Residents' Survey**

As part of the same exercise, local residents were contacted through community organisations and on the street. They went through the questionnaire with the Best Value researcher. 90 people were contacted in Bootle, Maghull and Southport. 62% of these were women.

The age profile was as follows:

18-24	8
25-34	12
35-44	23
35-45	24
55-64	9
65 & over	14

52% were a parent or carer of a young person aged 13-19. 55% of local residents said that they had contact with Sefton Youth Service.

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The three activities which were considered to be the **most** important by local residents were:

- Training and education guidance.
- Information on health and sex education.
- Opportunities to get Awards and qualifications.

The two activities which were considered to be the **least** important by local residents were:

- Arts and music activities.
- Housing advice.

Only 50% answered the question, *What should the Youth Service do that it doesn't?*

Of those that answered, 48% wanted more provision of all kinds, more centres, workers, detached workers, longer / varied opening times.

Interestingly enough, although the core sample of young people recently interviewed by members of the Working Group was much smaller, comment remained much the same.

Both the young people's and resident's views above are endorsed by Members of the Working Group, senior officers and youth service workers.

*The work of frontline service staff i.e. Youth Workers / Outreach Workers is recognised as invaluable in engaging with young people and developing sustainable Youth Services.*

## **8.0 SEFTON YOUTH SERVICE – CURRENT ISSUES**

### **Youth support**

The Youth Service provides informal, social education and personal development experiences for young people, 11 to 25 years, with a target age range of young people 13 to 19 years. Through the Service's involvement, young people should be empowered to have their voices heard and their influence extended, and be encouraged to play an active part in their inclusion and engagement in society.

Sefton Youth Service provides opportunities for young people in 5 areas of service delivery. These are:

- Centre-based work
- Detached and outreach work
- Awards programmes and accreditation
- Political education and engagement
- Partnership working

### **Statutory requirements**

The Youth Service has a number of Key Performance Indicators and National Standards to meet. In addition, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 recently introduced a new duty on local authorities to secure access for young people in their area to sufficient positive leisure-time activities.

Activities that improve young people's personal and social development are central to the new legislation and a specific duty to secure access to sufficient youth work activities and related facilities is included in the Act. The local authority has a new duty to publicise information on positive activities and related facilities in the area and to ascertain and act upon young people's views about current positive activities and facilities. Sefton Youth Service requires significant development to be in a position to undertake these duties.

### **Current provision in Sefton**

Youth Service provision in Sefton has been analysed across the three Children's Services areas against indicators of need including population (aged 13-19), young people known to the Youth Offending Team for the first time (YOT), teenage pregnancy rates (TP), young people not in education, training or employment (NEET) and incidence of 'youths causing annoyance' calls to the Police (YCA)

During the course of the review, the Working Group were apprised of issues impacting on equality of service provision across the borough i.e. need versus resource.

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*Summary of analysis based on need against current Youth Service resource allocation*

Wards	Current % YS resource	13 – 19 population	%			
			YOT	TP	NEET	YCA
Area 1 (North)						
Total	26.97	26.33	25.3	30	23.64	16
Area 2 (Mid Sefton)						
Total	41.46	37.4	20.48	15	18.78	25
Area 3 (South)						
Total	31.55	36.2	54.22	55	57.58	59

Analysis indicates an imbalance of resource weighted against need towards mid-Sefton, the Youth Service 'exemplar' area. Currently NRF and SRB funding are being used to support rather than enhance mainstream delivery in the south.

*Geographically, there is an imbalance of resource versus need.*

### Resource issues and recommendations

National benchmarking indicates Sefton is 110 out of 130 Local Authorities for Youth Service expenditure (9<sup>th</sup> against our statistical neighbours). Previous projections suggested that growth of £600,000 would be required to bring the Youth Service to the required standard, however given the current financial circumstances of the Council and the Youth Service's current capacity to develop, a more realistic figure of an increase to the Youth Service budget by £300,000 over a 3 year period would enable both the mainstreaming of NRF and SRB projects in the south of the borough and provide sufficiency of resource in the north.

It is proposed that the Youth Service adopts a resource model approach to re-profile resources per area in order to respond to local community needs:

- 60% universal provision
- 40% targeted provision (vulnerable groups)

The resource model should be reviewed annually to ensure fit with Children's Trust arrangements and continue to support preventative strategies.

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*The Youth Service should restructure its operational management immediately to be able to deliver the proposed model.*

*The Youth Service is poorly funded in comparison to other Local Authorities this will need to be addressed in the current and forthcoming financial years.*

### **8.1 Sefton's Joint Area Review (JAR)**

The Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection took place between 12 and 24 June 2006. The Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) received a report on the findings of the review at its meeting of the 20th March 2007.

Extracts relevant to this review are reproduced below for information.

What is it? The Joint Area Review (JAR) is a new kind of integrated inspection into what life is like for children and young people growing up in a local area, and how well children and young people are supported by their local authority.

Sefton's JAR included all services for children and young people that are managed or commissioned by:

- The Metropolitan Borough Council.
- The Health Service.
- The Police.
- The Youth Justice Services.

The JAR focused on the five outcomes for children and young people identified in the Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework, i.e.

- Being Healthy,
- Staying Safe,
- Enjoying & Achieving,
- Making a Positive Contribution,
- Achieving Economic Well-being.

As well as covering services available to everyone, the inspection also covers services that are preventative or targeted to specific groups such as those who:

- Are vulnerable.
- Have learning difficulties.
- Have disabilities.
- Are being looked after by the Council.

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Who produced the JAR reports?

The following JAR reports are the outcome of the inspection of Sefton Children's Services carried out by Ofsted in partnership with other government agencies. The JAR reports describe the outcomes achieved by children and young people growing up in Sefton and evaluates the way local services, taken together, respond to their views and contribute to their well-being.

Sefton Youth Service was fundamentally reviewed in 2004 leading to a reorganisation of the service in 2005. A senior manager from Connexions has now been seconded for an initial year to head the youth service and is positioned strategically to direct the diversionary aspects of Connexions delivery. The youth service is located within the Children's Services Directorate with the head of the youth service being line managed by an Assistant Director. Aside from the head of service, there are two full-time team manager posts, 20 full time youth workers, 5 administrative staff and 143 part-time youth workers which is equivalent to nearly 52 full time equivalent staff. The population in Sefton is around 282,000 with nearly 25,000 young people aged 13 to 19. Service managers estimate that 40% of young people aged 13-19 are reached annually by the service with 17% who engage in regular activities. The service's total budget for 2005-2006 is £2,227,950 representing approximately 1.2% of the education budget. Nearly 17% of this budget is allocated to the voluntary and community sector with an equivalent amount being generated for the service through external funding.

The recent Joint Area Review (JAR) carried out in Sefton was extended to include coverage of the youth service. During the inspection period, a total of 18 youth projects, including youth centres and targeted interventions, were visited together with an observation of outreach and detached work. Further interviews and discussions also took place with full and part-time youth workers, youth service managers, the council leader and representatives from the voluntary sector and partner agencies. Information about youth services and partnership working was additionally drawn from other JAR interviews and observations as well as service documentation.

Value for money. The local authority and the new head of service provide good strategic leadership although some aspects of operational leadership, including quality assurance, remain weak. Despite a low level of funding to date, effective use is made of available resources. The service is able to provide a reasonably wide range of provision and is beginning to work effectively with partners to the needs of priority groups in local communities. Staff have created good, trusting and productive relationships with young people. Meaningful participation by young people in the planning, management and evaluation of provision is nevertheless underdeveloped. The service's self-assessment report accurately identifies the main strengths and weaknesses of the provision and inspectors generally agreed with the grades awarded.

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### Strengths

- The service has good strategic leadership and clear direction.
- There is effective partnership working in key areas.
- Targeted work with specific vulnerable groups is good

### Areas for development

- Improvement in the collation and use of management information.
- More systematic assessment of need and prioritisation.
- Increase in the consistency of quality assurance arrangements.
- Embedding of workforce training and continued professional development.
- Extension of the involvement of young people in participation and decision-making.
- Improvement of the poor condition of, and resources available to, buildings used by the youth service.

The standards of young people's achievements overall are satisfactory. There are, nevertheless, good examples of achievement in youth sessions, particularly with local and national awards and targeted work where young people are well supported in increasing their levels of skill, knowledge and understanding. Here, young people are able to see direct links between achievement and their progression towards further education and employment.

Good progress is being made in encouraging youth participation. Significant steps have been taken in consulting with a large number of young people, notably in relation to Youth Matters, where the council received 750 returns and with the Children and Young people's Plan where 3,000 responses were obtained. Youth councils and emerging youth forums help young people to be self-managing and to develop their confidence and skills as debaters and team workers. There are, however, insufficient opportunities for young people to be directly involved in decision-making within youth centres and in the design and delivery of the youth service as a whole.

A wide analysis of anti-social behaviour issues was undertaken with the inclusion of police, leisure and Connexions data which led to multi-agency 'Youth Only Zone' (YOZ) work and an encouraging extended use of leisure passes. Further useful work has been undertaken by Sefton youth service in conjunction with the transport police, as part of the YOZ initiative. Despite very good feedback from agency staff, young people and the general public, however, overall monitoring and evaluation of this scheme is insufficient.

The condition of some of the buildings used by the youth service is poor, despite efforts being made by staff to change the situation through, for example, attracting help from the probation service to decorate premises. The council has

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carried out an audit of premises to ensure that they comply with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001. While resources are limited, some centres have experienced recent investment. Staff strive to make the best use of their premises and available resources, including the imaginative use of mobile youth service facilities, but too often the centres appear sparse and somewhat neglected. The use of information technology is also underdeveloped with little improvement having taken place since the critical review in 2004.

The number of qualified staff has improved although recruitment and retention remains problematic. There are high numbers of sessional workers who work a small number of hours, which lessens the opportunity for sustained and consistent work with young people: efforts are being made to ease this situation by increasing hours where possible. A comprehensive training strategy now exists, which includes relevant compulsory elements such as child protection and the curriculum framework, but this has not yet been consistently applied or properly embedded. Youth workers are, nevertheless, aware that they are working to educational principles and are reasonably clear about the curriculum strategy adopted.

The council demonstrates a keen interest in, and support for, the growing resolution of the residual problems in the youth service. Decisive action has been taken and good recent progress has been made at a strategic level to deliver a better quality of overall youth work practice, to engage more constructively with local partners and to forge a more positive identity for the service. Although staff feel more focused and supported, they are unclear about the current operational split between targeted and area-based work within the service, and there are inconsistencies in relation to delivery.

Recent increases in funding are welcomed, given the under-developed infrastructure of the youth service. Despite the overall budget per young person increasing between 2004 and 2006, Sefton remains behind statistical comparators and the national figure. The previous level of under-funding has prevented fuller investment in youth service training and necessary improvements to the existing facilities and resources.

### **8.2 Partnership Working**

Strong partnership-working exists with particular agencies and focuses on clearly specified geographical areas. An integrated approach is well developed at strategic level through groups such as the multi-agency support team (MAST). Some of the best examples in practice relate to those with the police, leisure and education although there is also a rapidly improving relationship with Connexions which has been enhanced by the secondment to the head of the youth service.

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*Despite current resource limitations Sefton MBC has achieved demonstrable success through partnerships working, for example – Sefton Leisure Department (Positive Futures and Open Access programmes), Merseyside Fire Service, Merseyside Police, the Voluntary Sector and Connexions*

Further examples of partnership working may be found in the Children's Services Service Plan 2006/07 (Youth Service), and Youth Services Mid-Year Review (September 2006) on the Sefton MBC website [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

*The Youth agenda involves a wide range of partners - Leisure, Police, Connexions, Fire Service, Voluntary and Community Sector and of course the young people themselves. Success will only be achieved if all partners recognise the interdependences and commit to working together to achieve common aims/outcomes.*

### **8.3 Positive Futures Scheme**

During the course of the review, the Working Groups was keen to see evidence of successful partnership working across departmental boundaries and with partner organisations. In particular, the Working Group were keen to focus on initiatives that targetted 'hard to reach' or 'disengaged' young persons.

Positive Futures is a national programme based upon a partnership between the Home Office, Sport England, the Football Foundation and the Youth Justice Board. Locally the project is supported by Leisure Services, the Drug Action Team, the Primary Care Trust, and Children's Services. It was felt that information provided to the Working Group in respect of Sefton's approach and successes in respect of the Positive Futures Scheme was of sufficient merit to be presented to the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) in its entirety. Extracts are reproduced below:

The overall aim of the initiative is to encourage children and young people at risk of social exclusion to take part in sporting and leisure pursuits as a means of improving their immediate quality of life and long term outcomes.

The understanding that play, leisure and recreation are not only positive pastimes, but are fundamental to providing the skills and experiences needed in adulthood is well established and supported by research. Moreover, the provision of such activities can lead to improved health, educational attainment, employment prospects and a reduction in offending behaviour.

Sefton Positive Futures is managed by the Sport and Recreation Section of Leisure Services and works in partnership with a number of key agencies including Children Services.

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### Summary of Key Outputs Sefton Positive Futures scheme

22172 young people benefiting from programme.  
In excess of 5000 hours of support for young people.  
29 young people achieving accredited awards.  
15 young people supported on Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programmes.  
Over 200 young people living in residential care supported by Positive Futures.  
Over 2000 Leisure Passes issued to support partners work.  
45 young people attending Youth Offending Team.  
350 young people supported from Pupil Referral Units.  
150 attendees of the XL programme.  
613 children and young people with disabilities supported by Positive Futures.  
17 community groups supported.  
9 Full time jobs created.  
Over 15 part time jobs created.  
Over £2.2 million of additional investment secured.

### Summary of Key Outcomes

Notwithstanding the difficulty experienced in measuring the impact of the Positive Futures project key parties have reported the following outcomes as a result of young peoples involvement in the programme: -

- Reduction in offending behaviour for young people on programme.
- Significant reduction in crime and anti social behaviour at key pressure times during school holidays reported by the police.
- Reintegration of 11 young people to mainstream education with a saving of £30,000 per reintegration.
- Reduction in participant's substance misuse with a knock effect in a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour and a saving to the health services.
- A more integrated service for children with disabilities, resulting in less segregated service being required representing a significant saving on behalf of Children's Services.
- An improvement in self-esteem and confidence for young people attending Positive Futures.
- Positive Feedback from various partners and parents as to the positive benefit of attendance on relationships.
- Increased number of young people taking up sporting opportunities as a result of Positive Futures.
- Increase attainment and attendance of Pupil referral Units.
- Positive futures were highlighted as key contributors to two "Very Good " OfSTED reports for their work in Pupil Referral Units.
- Maximum score of five for the CSCI Inspection for Sefton children homes for leisure provisions.

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- Significant noticeable improvement in the behaviour of young people allowing for the reintegration on 11 young people into mainstream schools.
- Improved relationships between pupils and teachers leading to better attendance and attainment in school.
- Positive feedback from teachers from both Pupil Referral Units as the benefit of the programme to compliment the teaching in school.

### **Recognition of Good Practice**

The programme has been highlighted as a model of good practice by numerous regional and national bodies and government offices as well as being selected and pilot studies across the country.

DoH, Quality Protects.

DfES Every Child Matters Conference.

Home Office, National Drugs Conference, Leeds, 2004

Home Office, National Positive Futures Conference, Chelsea. 2005.

ILAM & CLOA National Conference, Bournemouth, 2003.

Welsh National Sports Development Training Conference, Cardiff, 2003.

Football & Social Inclusion Conference, London, 2003.

Merseyside Cultural Forum.

Winning Team Seminar by 'The Who Cares Trust'. 2005.

Northwest Sports Board

Sport England

### **9.0 CRIME AND DISORDER**

Crime, and the fear of crime is not just an issue of concern to adults. A high percentage of the young people interviewed during the course of the review commented on their personal fears in relation to crime. The majority of those interviewed stated that safe places to meet with their friends (indoors and outdoors) were high on their agenda.

A paradox identified by young people in the Litherland area of Sefton:

*“Our parents tell us to stay together with friends – safety in numbers – but because of Section 30 Orders on our estate, if we walk around, or sit in groups of more than 2, the Police break us up”*

During the course of the review, Working Group Members heard evidence from key partners engaged in tackling crime and disorder within Sefton.

This included representation from Sefton’s Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, who identified the following points from the “heavy” end of the service, dealing with young offenders.

- Busiest times for (youth) offending - Friday 4:00pm to Saturday 10:00pm.

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- Believes that there is a need for Youth Centres to open more / longer hours (a comment supported by young people).
- Respect Agenda requires co-ordination – parenting skills an issue.
- Alcohol a serious contributory factor.
- Aware that behaviour improvement programmes in schools is having a positive impact on people's lives.

*Sefton is rated highly by service users themselves as a provider of safe places for young people to meet. However, demand still exceeds supply.*

*Demand from service users also exists in support of extending opening hours at existing Youth Club / Youth Centre facilities to cover Friday and Saturday nights.*

### **9.1 Sefton Youth Engagement and Support Strategy (YESS) April 2006**

'All young people who are vulnerable to becoming involved in risk-taking behaviour should be offered co-ordinated and effective services that support them to make a positive contribution to their communities and prevent them from having serious problems in the future'

### **9.2 Sefton Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008**

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in Sefton has produced its third Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy. Its five key priorities, all of which are relevant to the YESS, are:

- Reducing priority crime
- Reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol
- Increasing voluntary and community engagement
- To make the physical environment cleaner, safer and greener

Young people are one of the cross-cutting priorities for the Strategy, as communities have long expressed concerns about young people congregating and anti-social behaviour.

Its action plan proposed intensive targeting of those most at risk, through Youth Inclusion Projects (YIPs) in priority wards, diversionary programmes for targeted young people and diversionary activities for priority wards, neighbourhoods and hot-spot areas.

*There is a need for publication of consolidated contact details for Sefton Youth facilities via websites and hard copy publications, providing service users with access to type of facility, location, and opening hours information.*

### **9.3 Youth Justice Plan 2006-2007**

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Sefton Youth Offending Team (YOT) submitted its Youth Justice Plan for 2006-2007 in May 2006. The overall aim of the Plan is to prevent and reduce offending by young people in Sefton. One of the key targets for the YOT is to reduce the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system, through prevention and early intervention approaches that include the YIP and the Centre for Restorative Practice.

Another relevant target within the Youth Justice Plan is to reduce re-offending by young people already well-known to youth justice services, through assessment, planning and appropriate multi-agency interventions. There are clear linkages between the Youth Justice Plan, the Prevent and Deter Strategy and the YESS.

Home office guidelines and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 apply to persons under the age of 18 years:

If the offence is deemed suitable, they admit the offence, they, have not previously had a 'Reprimand or a final warning within the last two years of the offence or previously had a conviction at court, they may be dealt with by one of two ways. Known as 'Diversion' from court process.

In practice this means:

If the offence is 'deemed suitable', a matrix of offences exists which dictates which offences are eligible for diversion. Taking into account the circumstances of the offence and providing a 'score' for the offence. The 'score' dictates the disposal.

The first disposal would be by way of a 'Reprimand'. Once reprimanded, an individual would never be eligible for a second reprimand. The second disposal is a 'Final Warning'. This is dictated by:

- a) Have they previously been reprimanded?
- b) Does the gravity score dictate a final warning as it is more serious and scores higher than a reprimand?

Both reprimand and warnings are similar in that.... They are not a conviction but will be recorded against the offender for the next five years or until their eighteenth birthday whichever is the longer period. Should they re offend within this period, this disposal will influence how they are dealt with for the new offence. Should an offender be sent to court for the new offence and be found guilty, the reprimand or warning may be cited.

Where as an offender should never receive a second reprimand, there is a facility for an individual to receive a second final warning! However there has to be a two year period between the last and the new offence and the second offence has to be minor and not of a similar nature to their first.

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Having administered a final warning, a document is completed known as an 'Asset'. This is a tool that gives an insight into a number of aspects of the offender's life. It covers health, living accommodation, lifestyle, attitude towards offending and others. If an issue is raised within this asset, then it would be the job of a member of the Youth Offending Team (often a Police Officer) to arrange an intervention programme to address the issue and thus attempt to reduce offending behaviour and attitudes towards offending. e.g. If an individual had a drug issue, counselling would be arranged.

Along with the reprimand and Final warning programme, there are other disposal options for the police e.g. Fixed Penalty Fines.

### **9.4 The Respect Agenda**

The Respect Action Plan (January 2006) broadened the government's approach to tackling antisocial behaviour. It promoted early intervention to prevent children and young people getting involved in antisocial behaviour. It also addressed the behaviour of the most challenging families.

The plan combined strong local enforcement action where necessary with tailored support for individuals and families to address the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour.

The cross-government plan is consistent with the aims and principles of Every Child Matters and Youth Matters. It is known that children and young people who engage in antisocial behaviour, or whose families engage in antisocial behaviour, are likely to experience a range of negative outcomes and problems.

Furthermore, when children and young people become involved in antisocial behaviour or crime, it is often other children and young people who suffer.

Sefton is currently fully engaged in progressing its Action Plan with regard to the Respect agenda.

## **10.0 CONCLUSION**

Sefton has had demonstrable success in its Youth Service Agenda. Young people in Sefton are attaining success in education and personal development, and in comparison with other local authorities in the Greater Merseyside Region, statistics show lower levels of teenage pregnancy and anti-social behaviour activity.

However, inequalities of resource (and youth facilities) across the borough remain, and the challenge facing the local authority to engage with economically disadvantaged and 'hard to reach' groups of young people remains. It is hoped that the recommendations contained within this report may identify opportunities to address these challenges.

## **10.1 Acknowledgements**

The Working Group is grateful to all those witnesses and other persons who assisted it with its research and provided it with information.

## **10.2 Supporting Information**

During the process of this review, the Working Group has gathered a substantial amount of information and data, which has been invaluable in helping it to form its conclusions and recommendations.

Any background information required is available on request from Patrick Sebastian, Scrutiny Support Officer (telephone 0151 934 2176 e-mail: [patrick.sebastian@legal.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.sebastian@legal.sefton.gov.uk))

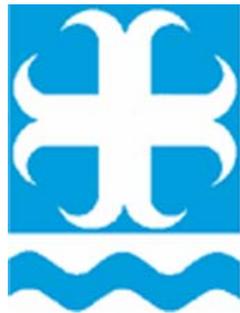
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**APPENDIX A**

**SEFTON COUNCIL**



**SCOPING EXERCISE  
YOUTH SERVICES  
WORKING GROUP  
September 2006**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Councillors Cummins (Lead Member), Larkin, Shaw, Sir Ron Watson and Weavers, and Mrs. S. Roberts

### **Extract:**

SCRUTINY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (CHILDRENS SERVICES) Meeting of 27 June 2006.

### MINUTE 10 (3). WORK PROGRAMME - WORKING GROUPS

Further to Minute No. 4(2) of 13 June 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Legal Director on the Work Programme to be determined by the Committee in respect of Working Groups.

RESOLVED: That

a new Youth Services Working Group, consisting of Councillors Cummins (Chair), Larkin, Shaw, Sir Ron Watson and Weavers and Mrs. S. Roberts be appointed to review:

- Sufficiency of provision within Sefton
- Partnership working (including the involvement of young people)
- Accessibility of provision for vulnerable young people
- The development of Targeted Youth Support Services including the effectiveness of communication and coordination of services
- Gaps in services for young people

## ITEM NO. 5

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Sufficiency of provision within Sefton – to examine current services and obtain feedback from service users as to the type, level, and appropriateness of facilities
2. Partnership working (including the involvement of young people) – engage with service users from the outset, working with young people and service providers.
3. Accessibility of provision for vulnerable young people.
4. The development of Targeted Youth Support Services including the effectiveness of communication and coordination of services.
5. Gaps in services for young people – identify shortfall or under-utilised service provision based upon geographical areas and/or specific age groupings.

To monitor Sefton MBC's approach to implementation to the Government paper, *Youth Matters: Next Steps* published on 8 March 2006, setting out the vision for empowering young people, giving them somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

The paper encourages involvement of young people to have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them, the Working Group will want to identify ways to encourage young people to volunteer and contribute to their local community

### **METHODS OF ENQUIRY**

*Investigative techniques/site visits*

To receive report, and guidance on the delivery of the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF).

To receive information, advice and guidance on making services for young people more flexible and accessible.

To be aware of the 14 "pathfinder local authority areas" piloting targeted support for young people experiencing difficulties, and coordinated by a lead professional.

To investigate methods that support the aims contained in *Youth Matters: Next Steps* - to include better support for families, more youth friendly accessible health services and greater access to sports, culture and the arts.

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Recognition of the wider issues and links across the local authority – and establish which departments are involved?

Identify how Sefton MBC performs in its advocacy / co-ordinating role, and how can it improve in this respect?

Are there any roles played by the voluntary sector that impact on Youth services and what links (if any) do these organisations have with Sefton MBC?

### **TIMESCALES**

*See Planning Chart*

Members have indicated that the review report should be presented to Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) at its meeting of the 13 February 2007.

### **OFFICER SUPPORT**

*Named Officers*

Lead Officer: Margaret Loughlin, Assistant Director Young people Support

Scrutiny Support Officer – Patrick Sebastian

### **OTHERS WHO WILL BE INVOLVED**

Witnesses - residents, stakeholders, tenants, other public sector organisations to call as witnesses, consultants etc.

Residents and Young people of Sefton.

Margaret Loughlin, Assistant Director Young people Support

[Margaret.loughlin@cs.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Margaret.loughlin@cs.sefton.gov.uk)

0151-934-3161

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPORTING TO CABINET/COUNCIL**

*Timetable of committees, link into the planning chart, type of report/minute*

It is the intention of the working group to formally present its report at the meeting of the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) 13 February 2007.

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### PLANNING CHART

The Planning Chart is an example of the way reviews could/should be planned.

It is recommended that realistic time frames in which to carry out tasks should be considered including possible delays for public holidays and Council business. Effective planning suggests that more planning time be built into the chart.

Activity	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 07	Feb 07
Scoping	XXXX					
Consider Documents	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XX	
Witnesses		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
Site Visits		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
Initial Findings			XX	XXXX	XXX	
Draft Report				XX	XX	
S&R Cttee Considers						XXXX
Submit to Cabinet (if appropriate)						XX

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### Ten Step Process Flow Chart

Committee agrees Working Group membership and appoints Chair.

Working Group complete scoping document determining terms of reference & timetable.

Working Group submit scoping paperwork to Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Background research undertaken and evidence collected.

Working Group meet to determine questions they wish to ask witnesses.

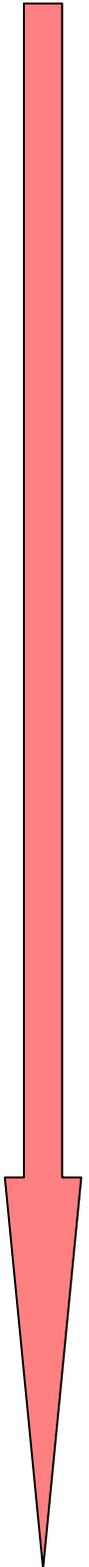
Working Group make any necessary visits & additional evidence obtained.

Witness hearings take place & responses written up by support officer.

Working Group review headings for the final report.

Working Group and support officer draft final recommendations and approve final report.

Scrutiny Committee receives final report and recommendations and how they should be taken forward.



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## APPENDIX B

### Witnesses

Thanks to all those who have contributed to the compilation of this report, including:

Alison Bamforth, YOZ Project Worker  
Simon Burnett, Principal Development Officer, Sefton Leisure Services  
Sue Cook, CPEA - Sefton Youth Engagement and Support Strategy  
Neil Frackleton, Sefton CVS  
Jackie James, Connexions  
Dave Kay, Sefton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit  
Jacqui Kerr, Head of Youth Service, Sefton MBC  
Keith Lloyd, Brunswick Youth Centre (Bootle)  
Margaret Loughlin, Director Children's Services, Sefton MBC  
Bryn Marsh, Director Children's Services  
Ray Moore, Area Youth Worker  
Kenny O'Brien, Litherland Youth Centre (Litherland)  
Chief Inspector Lawrence O'Donnell, Merseyside Police  
John Phillips, Voluntary Sector Youth Coordinator, Sefton Youth Services  
John Preston, Connexions (Southport)  
PC Mike Simmons, Sefton Youth Offending Team (YOT)

Staff and Young People at Brunswick Youth Centre (Bootle)  
Staff and Young People at Litherland Youth Centre (Litherland)

grateful thanks to:

Daniel, Sefton Youth Parliament  
Francis, UK Youth Parliament and Connexions  
Chantelle, Southport Youth Bank  
Holly, Southport Youth Bank

and all the other young people who have taken time to speak with members of the working group during the course of their review.