

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Comments of the joint meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on Reshaping Youth Services		
Contributors	Children and Young People Select Committee and Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	December 4 2013

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report entitled Reshaping Youth Services, considered at its meeting on 6 November 2013.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to note the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee as set out in section three of this referral and agree that the Executive Director for Children and Young People and the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to respond.

3. Children and Young People Select Committee and Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee views

- 3.1 The Committees generally welcomed the progress that had been made and members paid tribute to the work by officers in achieving so much in such a short timeframe, and in overcoming a number of problems. Nevertheless, there remained concerns about the lack of supporting information about the spread of provision by geographical location and type of youth organisation. There were also concerns about the capacity of groups to take on and sustain sufficient provision. Both of these are reflected in the following recommendations:
- 3.2 The Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee should scrutinise the next report on Reshaping Youth Services prior to it being received at Mayor and Cabinet in February 2014.
- 3.3 Further to point 3.3 in the referral agreed by the Committees at the 13 February 2013 meeting and responded to by the Mayor and Cabinet on 22 May 2013, concerning improved information management, mapping and monitoring, the Committees request that:
- the report to Mayor and Cabinet in February 2014 include mapping information showing both the geographical spread and types of youth provision.
 - monitoring of the re-engagement of young people with replacement and newly commissioned services in the Oakridge area be carried out and reported to Mayor and Cabinet in February 2014

- ongoing monitoring of young people's engagement with newly commissioned youth services should take place
- 3.4 Analysis of the range of commissioning applications in terms of location, type of provision and type of organisation should be provided as part of the report to Mayor and Cabinet in February 2014.
- 3.5 The Committees endorse the approach taken by officers to avoid duplication between main grants and commissioned youth services. However, a clear timetable setting out the interaction between the main grants funding programme and the youth services commissioning process should be provided.
- 3.6 The Committees support the proposed evaluation of the application process for providing commissioned youth services.
- 3.7 The Committees are concerned about the ability of smaller community and voluntary organisations to understand and agree to complex contracts. The Committees believe that the complexity and fairness of contracts, with organisations providing commissioned youth services, should be reviewed urgently to ensure they are appropriate and manageable for all organisations, and in time to ensure that any undue complexity or unfairness is taken into account in the awarding of those contracts.
- 3.8 Further to point 3.9 in the referral agreed by the Committees at the 13 February 2013 meeting, and responded to by the Mayor and Cabinet on 22 May 2013, the Committees urgently request that arrangements are made to ensure youth service provision is available in the Downham and Grove Park areas (particularly services once provided by the Oakridge Youth Centre) which suits the needs of the community. In addition, given the urgency of the situation, the Committees request that a clear timescale of when a more permanent solution for the Oakridge Youth Centre can be put in place is provided within 6 weeks of the date the Mayor considers this referral. The Committees call upon the Cabinet Member for Youth to lead this recommendation forward at Mayor and Cabinet.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

Background papers

Reshaping Youth Services – Joint meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, 6 November 2013

Comments of the joint meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on Reshaping Youth Services – Mayor and Cabinet, 20 February 2013

Response to the Comments of the Children Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on Reshaping Youth Services – Mayor and Cabinet 22 May 2013

Minutes of the Joint meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, 13 February 2013

Reshaping Youth Services – Joint meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee and the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, 13 February 2013

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Andrew Hagger, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49446), Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 47916) or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (0208 3149327).