

ANGUS COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
25 AUGUST 2011

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS: FORFAR DRUGS INITIATIVE GROUP AND MONTROSE YMCA
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report outlines positive work undertaken respectively by Forfar Drugs Initiative Group and Montrose YMCA under the terms of Service Level Agreements with the education service.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note:
- (i) the good progress made by the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group and Montrose YMCA in relation to work carried out in accordance with their Service Level Agreements with the education service
 - (ii) the extension of Service Level Agreements with both organisations until 31 March 2012.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Education Service has operated a Service Level Agreement with Forfar Drugs Initiative Group since 2005. This agreement was extended in 2007 and again in 2008, on the basis of a review of progress and the positive work carried out by this Drug Initiative Group
- 2.2 A Service Level Agreement has also been in place with Montrose YMCA since September 2004, which was subsequently extended in 2005 and again in 2008.

3 FORFAR DRUGS INITIATIVE GROUP: CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 A Service Level Agreement operated with the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group from April 2008 to March 2011.
- 3.2 The operation of that Service Level Agreement has been the subject of quarterly monitoring returns and regular contacts with and observations by Community Learning and Development Service staff. Information gathered from these sources together with local contacts with Forfar Drug Initiative Group staff, within the context of partnership activity and interagency work, has contributed to a review of progress against the requirements set out in the Service Level Agreement.
- 3.3 Over the period of the Service Level Agreement, the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group and its staff have shown a strong commitment to working in partnership with other youth work providers in Forfar. The lead worker from the Drugs Initiative Group is a valuable and valued member of the Forfar Children's and Learning Partnership.
- 3.4 The Drugs Initiative Group has made significant progress in involving young people in the overall running of their organisation and specifically in decision-making in relation to the Pitstop Youth Café.
- 3.5 The Group has successfully delivered the outputs described in the Service Level Agreement, those being to:
- operate an open youth work provision; this has a regular attendance of over 35 young people

- provide support to young people within a supportive social environment
- provide appropriate personal information, support and counselling for more vulnerable young people
- assist young people to access and benefit from more specialist support services
- encourage groups of young people with shared interests to work together and develop activities for themselves

4 MONTROSE YMCA: CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Service Level Agreement with Montrose YMCA ran from 2008 – 2011 and required the agency to:
- operate an open youth work provision, offering a welcoming environment to young people and opportunities for them to take part in a range of activities
 - provide three hours of focussed youth work activities offering young people the opportunity to learn skills in a range of aspects of their shared interest and to be involved in the planning and decision making for this provision
 - participate actively in the work of the Montrose 'Integrated Children and Young People's Services Partnership' (previously known as the Montrose Integrated Community Schools Partnership) and contribute to the shared planning of services for young people in the town.
- 4.2 A formal review of progress in relation to the outputs and outcomes expected by the terms of the Service Level Agreement was conducted in late 2010 and early 2011. In addition to evaluating progress, the review provided an opportunity to consider any changes that may be required in any extended Service Level Agreement.
- 4.3 Overall, the review concluded that Montrose YMCA has provided a satisfactory level of service within the terms of the previous agreement. It noted that young people had benefited considerably from the opportunities on offer. They had developed a more positive view of themselves and their own worth. There was evidence of improvement in relationships between some of the young people and adults in the community. Young people were better able to form and develop good relationships with their peers and adults. They were also more confident and able to plan and develop activities for themselves.
- 4.4 The review identified a number of areas where there was scope for improvement in performance. These included the need for:
- a stronger focus on impact and outcomes in reporting on open and focused youth work provision
 - a greater emphasis on providing opportunities for young people over the age of 16 who are in need of 'more choices and more chances'
 - improved communication between Montrose YMCA and Local Community Learning and Development Service staff, with a view to achieving more effective co-ordination of local provision.

5 FUTURE ACTIVITY

- 5.1 In light of the positive progress in respect of work carried out in accordance with the terms of the Service Level Agreements with both agencies that ended on 31 March 2011, procurement exemption requests were submitted.
- 5.2 These were approved and both service level agreements have been extended to 31 March 2012, with no change to the level of funding provided.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The costs of these Service Level Agreements are respectively £3,776 and £10,708. These costs will be met within the Education Service's 2011/12 revenue budget.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from the consideration of this report.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

9 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

9.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement 2011-14

- our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens
- our communities are safe, secure and vibrant

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law & Administration.

NEIL LOGUE
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.