

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

a) What cash and % change in funding are you planning for between 2011/12 and 2012/13 for:

Youth work?

Youth services?

Connexions?

Will this involve a reduction in staffing levels and if so, what FTE reduction do you envisage?

ANSWER:

It is not possible for us to provide you with accurate numbers for the expenditure on youth work and youth services for 2012/13 or related FTEs as we are in the process of carrying out a strategic commissioning review of the services which will be provided to 0-19 year olds in the future.

Budgeted expenditure on Young People's Support in 2011/12 was £3.232m which covers both Youth Work and Youth Services.

Expenditure on Connexions in 2011/12 was £3.2m. In 2012/13 the Council is only responsible for providing information, advice and guidance to vulnerable young people aged up to 19 (and aged up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) to participate in education, training and employment. The Council is also responsible for maintaining accurate data on participation to ensure that support is appropriately targeted. As a result the expenditure in 2012/13 will reduce to £2m. The Council is currently in the process of procuring this work. We are therefore unable to provide information on reductions in Connexions staffing levels at this stage.

The Council budget reductions for 2012/13 propose the reduction of ten FTE posts within the Youth Service together with a growth of three additional frontline youth work posts.

b) What changes in funding have you made in respect of provision for young people in the voluntary sector (via commissioning or your grants programme) between 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/14?

No changes to funding in respect of provision for young people in the voluntary sector have been made between 2010/11 and 2011/12. The strategic review mentioned in (a) above includes all work provided by the voluntary sector for 0-19 activities and interventions and therefore it is not possible to comment on the expenditure in 2012/13 onwards in relation to the Youth Service specifically.

c) Were any services or facilities for young people closed or withdrawn entirely in 2011/12? Are you anticipating the closure or withdrawal of any youth provision in 2012/13?

See (b) above.

d) I would like to find out how much budgets have changed in the work covered by the Early Intervention Grant over the past 3 years and the projections for next year. Can you please tell me how has your LA's spending on the services and activities covered by the early intervention Grant (EIG) changed in the last 3 years and how much do you plan to spend next year (12-13)

In respect of the
Youth Opportunity Fund
Positive Activities for Young People Programme
Children's Fund

Services covered by the EIG were protected in 2011/12 and so there were no significant changes from 2010/11. Expenditure on EIG in 2012/13 will be £19.36m.

This includes activities and interventions previously supported through the Children's Fund and PAYP.

How much was spent in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

What is the equivalent projected expenditure for 2012/13

There were no activities funded from the previous Youth Opportunities Fund in 2011/12. Future commissioning arrangements are yet to be determined following the completion of a period of further representation on the 0-19 Strategic Commissioning review Core Offer proposals.

How many young people accessed these services in each year, and how many are projected to access equivalent services in 2012/13?

There is no individual breakdown of access to these activities by funding stream.

iv) Can you please summarise the main impacts of the changes in funding, e.g. levels of service, outcomes achieved, and describe any mitigating action you have taken to minimise the impact ?

The approach of the Council has been to support Youth Service funding for both directly provided Youth Work and commissioned youth and positive activities during 2011/12 and not to implement any reductions in grant funding to Council or voluntary sector youth provision. Our approach has been to work with providers to identify an outcome based framework through a strategic commissioning process that is currently undergoing a period of representation.

We have sought to avoid a 'salami slice' approach to cuts and will seek to remodel services on an outcome based framework, that delivers both efficiency and cost savings whilst targeting services at our most vulnerable young people. This approach has minimised the impact on service delivery to

date and allowed a more strategic approach to delivering our local Youth Offer that details all activities and interventions for children and young people including youth work provision.

Our proposed approach going forward is for a mixed model of directly provided and commissioned youth support services, commissioned at both a City and local neighbourhood level, to reflect local needs and strategic priorities contained within our Children and Young peoples Plan and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This will provide service remodelling of the existing youth service workforce to provide more targeted youth support within a more integrated 13-19 workforce working with our most vulnerable young people.

v) Where your LA is continuing the work of the grant, but perhaps from a different budget or with a different title please show the actual expenditure and FTEs in each year for the service or activity that was covered by the actual grant in 2009-10.

Unable to show actual expenditure and FTE equivalents until the current period of representation is completed and we move to a new commissioning model for 0-19 services.

I would also be very pleased to receive copies of any relevant reports on youth services which from the last year, which set out your local authority's approach to future provision.

For your information this letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is being applied, namely the information is accessible by other means. If you follow the below link onto our website, we believe this is prove to be helpful.

www.leicester.gov.uk/iocstrategicreviews

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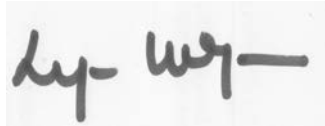
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager