Report of the Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report sets out to members the development of the policy and guidelines on Detached Youth Work for Leicester City Youth Service.

2. Summary

2.1 The policy sets out to explain the rationale behind the requirements of Detached Youth work and clarifies the role of Detached Youth Work as one of a number of specialist approaches to working with young people. It also informs the development of partnerships and collaborative working initiatives for developing good practice with some of the City’s ‘hard to reach’ young people.

This policy is seen as a ‘live’ document and will be subject to periodic update as and when required. The policy covers the following areas:

- Introduction
- Context
- Operational Issues
- Staff development
- Future developments

3. Recommendations (or OPTIONS)

3.1 Members are asked to note the report and endorse the policy as a working document for Leicester City Youth Service.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with the report.

4.2 Detached Youth Work requires funding comparable with building based provision. There is a need to establish for each of the Detached Youth Work projects professional expertise, support and expenses.
5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 The policy deals with the key legal issues arising from Detached Youth Work in particular risk and safety considerations, parental consent and confidentiality requirements (Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services – ext 7054).

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DEVELOPMENT OF A DETACHED YOUTH WORK POLICY FOR LEICESTER CITY YOUTH SERVICE

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

1.1 Nationally, Detached Youth Work is an integral part of the Youth Service delivery in engaging with a broad range of young people who do not engage in centre based provision and are ‘hard to reach’.

1.2 In the Development of a Youth Work Strategy for Leicester (2002), it was agreed with Council Members that Detached Youth Work could provide an important method of contacting and working with many more young people and particularly those who prefer “street life” to building based provision.

1.3 The Connexions Strategy for Leicester Shire also highlights the importance of this role in contacting and working with ‘hard to reach’ young people. The Outreach Work Interim Report (2002) funded by The Joseph Rowntree Foundation try to identify the contribution of Outreach and Detached work to the re-integration of socially excluded young people into education, training and employment. The outcome of the study had found that Outreach and Detached projects may complement Connexions, through their ability to reach young people within the Connexions age range. They could act as a bridge to Personal Advisers.

1.4 In the summer of 2001 the deployment of Detached Youth Workers by the Youth Service in particular neighbourhoods, funded by additional resources from the Home Office, proved this point by its contribution to meeting immediate challenges to social inclusion and cohesion and to the Authority’s understanding of the longer term needs of particular groups of young people.

1.5 Jon Bright (1993) in his Handbook ‘Youth Crime Prevention’ written for Care Concern, makes the point that developing the use of Outreach and Detached Youth Workers is one of the key roles in crime prevention.
1.6 Transforming Youth Work Development Fund (2002-2003) gave the Youth Service the
impetus to set up and convene a Detached Youth Work working group consisting of
youth workers, managers and officers from Leicester City and Leicestershire County
Council. The main purpose for the working group was two fold. Firstly, to design and
deliver training for youth workers and secondly, to develop a Detached Youth Work
policy and guidelines for the respective Youth Services.

1.7 The development of the Detached Youth Work Policy involved youth workers from the
field, which culminated in an extensive consultation exercise involving youth workers
(part time and full time), managers, officers and other relevant agencies. (see Appendix
C)

1.8 The Detached Youth Work Policy provides detailed outlines and gives guidance for the
Youth Service managers and workers in Leicester City to support the development of
Detached Youth Work as an effective and co-ordinated method of approach in working
with and responding to young people who are deemed ‘hard to reach’.

1.9 The Detached Youth Work Policy fits within the framework of the Transforming Youth
Work 2001 (Connexions/DfEE publication) document, which provides four key themes
for the setting of key priorities and main objectives in the development of the Youth
Service. The four themes are:-

- Improving the Quality of Youth Work Services to young people with a clear focus on
  those aged 13-19 years which helps young people achieve and progress.
- Developing the Voice of Young People to be heard, including helping them to
  influence decision making at various levels.
- Raising standards of achievement (within a Personal and Social Development
  Approach)
- Targeted intervention with disadvantaged and/or vulnerable priority groups (Social
  Inclusion)

1.10 In the Resourcing Excellent Youth Services (2002), Youth Standards 1 & 2 states
that authorities must specify a “clear definition of target group, by age and by other
characteristics, including ethnic diversity and have a “clear specification, in a planning
framework, of the needs and of the range of opportunities for personal and social
development to which young people in the target have access.” (p23)

1.11 Detached Youth Work will work within the framework of the Youth Work Strategy to
increase the level of participation with particular emphasis on the ‘Hard to Reach’, the
socially excluded, the vulnerable and or those at risk of isolation.

1.12 The priority groups for the Youth Service are as follows:-

- Young people excluded or at risk of exclusion from school
- Young people experiencing barriers to learning
- Young People from abroad (Community Cohesion)
- Young People engaged or at risk of engagement on offending/anti-social
  behaviour
- Young people with drug misuse problems
- Homeless/Runaway Young People
- Young People in geographical areas with multiple needs (NRF wards/Council
  estates)
- Looked After children (in the care of local authorities)
1.13 The Policy document addresses good practice in terms of

(i) Ensuring the effective and consistent approach to Detached Youth Work for the Youth Service and contact with young people.
(ii) The valuable contribution and commitment that Detached Youth Workers make towards a quality Youth Service.
(iii) Partnership working with other agencies for e.g. Youth Offending Team (YOT’s), Connexions, Voluntary Sector etc.
(iv) Risk Assessment – good practice and management
(v) Staff development in terms of effective management, induction, training and supervision of workers.

1.14 Raising Standards of Achievement and aspirations (within a Personal & Social development approach).

The drive to raise the standards of achievement for all young people in the city must involve Youth Services working in partnership with schools and colleges.

The Youth Service contribution to these goals includes the following:-

- Inclusive provision – making contact with young people on their own territory who do not attend centre based provision.
- Focussing on personal and social development that demonstrates learning and attainment to raise aspirations.
- Targeting and addressing issues of disaffection, exclusion and behaviour.
- Contribution to collaboration work with Connexions and Youth Offending Team (YOT) e.g. Young People not engaged in education, training and employment.

1.15 The core areas of the Youth Work Curriculum identify the learning to be gained by young people in terms of ‘outcomes’ and ‘distance travelled’ through Detached Youth Work.

- **Emotional Literacy** – self-awareness, self esteem, motivation, sensitivity to others, handling relationships and diversity.
- **Creativity and Enterprise** – feeling and expressing imagination, thinking, recognising and solving problems, calculating and taking risks.
- **Health and Well-being** – looking after oneself, one’s own diet and lifestyle, keeping physically and mentally fit, dealing with stress; and
- **Active Citizenship** – making contribution, getting involved and becoming influential, developing a voice and place within community, learning for sustainable development.

1.16. The Policy document is aimed at Youth workers (full time and part time) and Managers within the Youth Service. It is also a base line for work with other Service providers within the statutory and voluntary sector who work with young people aged 11-25 yrs old (priority 13 – 19 yrs).
2. Financial Implications

2.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with the report.

2.2 Detached Youth Work requires funding comparable with building based provision. There is a need to establish for each of the Detached Youth Work projects professional expertise, support and expenses.

3. Legal Implications

3.1 These are dealt with at paragraph 5.1 of the Report.

4. Other Implications

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<td>Policy</td>
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5. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972


The Development of the Youth Strategy for Leicester - (2002)


6. Consultations

6.1 Education & Lifelong Learning Department – Lifelong Learning and Community Development Division
Leicestershire County Council Youth Service
The Voluntary Sector
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