

Decision Maker: **Children and Young People Portfolio Holder**

Date: **For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children and Young People PDS Committee on 14 July 2011**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

**TITLE: CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF YOUTH CENTRES IN BROMLEY – INTERIM REPORT**

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Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: Boroughwide

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the consultation on the Future of Youth Centres in Bromley and an outline of emerging findings in order to seek Council Members' initial views before the full outcomes report is provided in September 2011.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny (CYP PDS) Committee are invited to note and comment on the emerging outcomes of the consultation.**
- 2.2 **The Children and Young People Portfolio Holder is invited to:**
- (i) note this Interim Report;**
  - (ii) consider any comments arising from the CYP PDS Committee;**
  - (iii) note that a full report on consultation outcomes will be provided at the next CYP PDS Committee meeting on 6 September 2011.**

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy: Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Universal Youth Support
  4. Total current budget for this head: £1,155,440
  5. Source of funding: Council Tax/Revenue Support Grant
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional) – Current: 33.3 FTE
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours – N/A
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement: Section 507B Education Act 1996
  2. Call in: Call-in is applicable
- 

### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected) - The cohort of young people aged 10 to 19 years of age who could potentially utilise youth service provision is 35,000.
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Please see section under the heading 'COMMENTARY' in the main body of the report.

### 3. COMMENTARY

#### The Proposal

- 3.1 The consultation on the Future of Youth Centres in Bromley seeks views on:
- (i) a proposal to reduce the number of Council owned youth centres directly operated by the Local Authority (LA) to 4 fixed Centres at Castlecombe (Mottingham), The Link (St Paul's Cray), The Spitfire (Biggin Hill) and Streetwise (Penge and Anerley);
  - (ii) how those youth centres not directly operated by the LA, The Duke (St Mary Cray) and M2 (Bromley Common), might be put to use by the local community and activity providers to provide leisure-time opportunities for young people.

#### Background and Context

- 3.2 The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review has meant severe cuts in funding across all public spending. Bromley Council's two year settlement announced on 13 December 2010 will result in a loss of funding and grant of £27 million when taken with the savings we have already had to make following in-year cuts for 2010/11. Following the meeting of the Council's Executive on 12 January 2011, potential savings to close the budget gap were proposed and were subject of a preliminary consultation with residents and staff. Proposals to achieve savings include a proposal to reduce the number of youth centres directly operated by the Local Authority (LA) in Bromley. This proposal reflects and is linked to reductions in the staffing establishment of the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) which have now been implemented following the agreement of the Executive Councillor for Children and Young People in December 2010 (DCYP10161 and DCYP10165). A timetable showing the sequence of Consultation and decision-making in respect to this proposal and to reductions in the staffing establishment of the IYSS is in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The proposal to reduce the number of youth centres directly operated by the LA has been developed using information about the factors that influence use of youth centres and services for young people. These include youth population density and distribution, school exclusion rates, youth unemployment and incidences of anti-social behaviour by young people. Consideration has also been given to (a) information that we collect about use of our centres and (b) survey data collected in 2009 and 2010 on how young people use their leisure time to participate in structured activity (sports, arts and extra-mural learning).
- 3.4 Use of the LA's youth centres is low when compared to the population of young people. Presently, through the Bromley Youth Support Service, the LA operates 10 fixed youth centres and 1 mobile facility. In 2010/11, these provided 1656 sessions (4968 hours) of open access leisure and learning activities and specialist support and advice operated by the LA. However, of a cohort of 35,000 young people between 10 and 19 years of age, only 2059 participated in four or more sessions provided by the Local Authority (see **Appendix 2**). The cost of attendance per young person attending four or more sessions is variable (see **Appendix 3**) and high in comparison with other types of open access leisure and learning activity provision (see **Appendix 4**). The Tellus4 survey last conducted in October/November 2009, which surveyed 2,000 young people in Bromley schools aged 10, 13 and 15 years, showed only 26% attended a youth centre or club (not all provided by the LA) in the month prior to the survey; this was lower than the national average (28%) and statistical neighbours (29%). This low interest in participation in youth centre activity was also identified by a joint Youth Service and Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum survey conducted in Spring 2009. This survey determined Bromley's rates of youth participation by 13-19 year olds in positive activities outside of school to be 65%, of which less than 4% regularly participated in youth centre-based activity.

- 3.5 Throughout the consultation period, CYP Officers will continue to monitor the use of the Youth Centres. In conjunction with responses received from stakeholders. This data will be used to inform the recommendations for decision presented in the full report on consultation outcomes at the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on the 6 September.

### **Consultation Process**

- 3.6 The consultation was conducted from 20 April 2011 to 24 June 2011 (the closing date for consultation responses). The consultation document (**Appendix 5**) was distributed widely and recipients included Council Members, Head Teachers, Chairmen of School Governing Bodies, Early Years Providers, Community Associations, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Safer Neighbourhood Panels and Partner Agencies – this has produced 23 responses. Young people have been consulted in and around youth centres via a Survey Form – this has produced 113 responses. Four Public Consultation meetings have been held across the Borough attended by 43 people. **Appendix 6** summarises the main outcomes from these meetings. In addition, the Head of Bromley Youth Support Programme has attended meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel Cray Valley East and Bromley Youth Council. All the consultation responses and the notes from the public meetings have been made available to Council Members to view in the Members' Room and made available for public scrutiny at Bromley Civic Centre Main Reception.

### **Emerging Outcomes**

- 3.7 Ward Councillors were alerted to the consultation by email, dated 28/4/11, and were notified of the public meetings by email, dated 26/5/11.

- Cllr Charles Rideout (Mottingham and Chislehurst North Ward) responded in support of the Castlecombe Youth Centre in Mottingham, stating that both he and Cllr Roger Charsley are in regular contact with the Centre's Professional Youth Worker and attend meetings at the Centre regularly. Cllr Rideout praises the work of the Centre, saying "the staff have been successful in turning around many youngsters who would otherwise have faced a life of crime and benefits".
- Cllrs Julian Benington and Gordon Norrie (Biggin Hill Ward) are considering the proposals in relation to the Spitfire Youth Centre in Biggin Hill in more detail before responding.
- Cllr David McBride (Cray Valley East Ward) has responded in opposition to "closure" of the Duke Youth Centre. Cllr McBride states that "the Centre plays a vital role in the provision of youth services to local youngsters and has played its role in diversion activities, meaning that anti-social behaviour and environmental crime has lessened locally. Any closure of the Centre will undoubtedly lead to an increase in both of these aspects, which is very worrying for local residents."
- Cllr Roxhannah Fawthrop (Cray Valley East Ward) has asked for consideration to be given to St Mary Cray Primary School accessing the Duke Youth Centre for indoor sports.

- 3.8 Statistical analysis of the consultation responses is provided in Table 1, **Appendix 7**.

- 3.9 The table shows that the majority of young people (77 out of 113) are against the proposal. If they attend a Youth Centre they are more likely to respond against the proposal; if they do not attend they are more likely to respond undecided/no view. Generally, young people want services directly provided by the LA to continue at all of the Youth Centres and they would like to see additional resources provided to extend activities e.g. Centres to be open more often.

- 3.10 Other respondents are more evenly divided, with 10 of the 23 generally supporting the proposal, 8 against and 5 undecided/no view. Generally there is a concern that reduced youth services could lead to increased crime and disorder. There is a possible misconception that the LA is proposing to stop all service provision at the Duke and M2 centres, when in fact the proposal is to continue to provide services at these centres but via providers other than the LA.
- 3.11 Bromley Youth Council met to discuss the proposal at a meeting on 15 June 2011 and their formal response highlights concerns that are consistent with those received through the questionnaires from Young People. Members of the BYC:
- have concerns about the proposed changes of use and the opportunities to access Duke, M2 and Phoenix Youth Centres. They feel that the service offer will become limited if changes are implemented;
  - would like reassurance that alternative service providers will have professional competence in youth work;
  - are concerned that significant decisions affecting the provision of services in Youth Centres appear to have been taken prior to this Consultation particularly in respect to reductions in the number of staff employed within the IYSS and that young people will have limited opportunity to comment on the implementation of changes to the future use of Youth Centres in Bromley.
- 3.12 The Duke has been the subject of most feedback from the consultation responses and public meetings. Strong support has been expressed for the services currently provided by the Local Authority at the centre. Bromley Fire Service would like the LA to continue to provide services at the Duke rather than the Link Youth Centre.
- 3.13 CYP Officers are in discussion with the Cray Valley East Safer Neighbourhood Panel about the use of the Duke. The outcomes of this will be reported in the full report on consultation outcomes. Initial feedback is positive and welcoming of the opportunity to develop use of the centre to support young people and the community in general.
- 3.14 There has been some contact from potential alternative service providers to run services at three of the centres:
- (i) a prospective provider of a 'family cafe project' at the Spitfire;
  - (ii) a personal trainer with interest in using M2 as a premises for personal fitness training;
  - (iii) a community development consultancy seeking to establish a 'community gym' in the Crays which has expressed an interest in the Duke.
- 3.15 CYP officers are currently working with colleagues in the property team to ensure that rental charge for the centres are affordable whilst also covering the costs of the building. This is particularly important in the case of prospective community and voluntary providers that have expressed interest in making use of the centre to provide leisure time opportunities for young people and services to the local community.

## **Concluding Comments**

3.16 This report has provided an interim summary of the public response to the consultation. Key emerging themes are:

- (i) an interest in community and voluntary sector delivery of leisure time opportunities for young people and other services of community interest and benefit in the centres;
- (ii) local community concern that the absence of youth activity leads to increased incidence of antisocial and criminal behaviour;
- (iii) endorsement of the type of service currently operated by the Local Authority.

Officers are conducting an indepth analysis of the full body of responses to the consultation and this will be used to inform the full outcomes report to the CYP PDS Committee on 6 September 2011.

## **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Children and Young People's Plan 2009/11 and Building a Better Bromley Plan set out the Council's aspirations and objectives for Integrated Children's Services, working with partners to improve outcomes for the Borough's Children and Young People.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The consultation forms part of the second phase of the restructure of the Integrated Youth Support Service (DCYP10165). A savings target of £1200k has been assumed in 2011/12. This will be achieved by savings from the direct provision of Youth Centres and from changes in the delivery of Information, Advice and Guidance which has been the subject of a separate report (DCYP11059).

5.2 The full report on the consultation responses and any actions arising from this will be reported in September. Financial implications may arise from this.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Section 507B Education Act 1996 states (1) A Local Authority in England must, so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to:

- (a) sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
- (b) sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.

6.2 Statutory guidance on the requirements for such is published. However, the Council does have a discretion in how it meets this duty as is expressed by the wording in the Act "so far as reasonably practicable".

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications as a result of this consultation.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	None
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consultation document and Circular letter 048/11 (dated 20/4/11) to consultees.</li> <li>2. Young People's Survey Form.</li> <li>3. Circular letter 058/11 (dated 5/5/11) and Poster promoting the 4 Public Consultation meetings held in June 2011.</li> <li>4. Notes from the consultation meetings.</li> <li>5. Consultation Responses.</li> <li>6. Committee Reports:  DCYP11059 ('Update: Contract for the Provision of Information, Advice and Guidance to Young People' - Part 2 Report, 3/5/11, CYP PDS)  DCYP10161 ('Proposals for Restructuring within Learning and Achievement Services' - Part 2 Report, 8/12/10, Executive)  DCYP10165 ('Proposals for Restructuring within Learning and Achievement Services' - Part 2 Report to 20/12/10, CPY PH)</li> </ol>

**INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE  
RESTRUCTURE AND REVIEW OF  
THE YOUTH SERVICE AND YOUTH CENTRES**

<b>DECISION MAKING AND CONSULTATION TIMETABLE</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
08/12/10	Executive decision to approve proposals for a significant restructuring within Learning and Achievement Division (including reductions in the Integrated Youth Support Service staffing establishment).
20/12/10	Children and Young People Portfolio Holder decision to approve proposals for a significant restructuring within Learning and Achievement Division as reported to the Executive on 08/12/10.
12/01/11	Council's Executive decision to release Council-wide budget options for initial Consultation.
02/02/11	Headlines from Council-wide budget options Consultation reported to Executive.
14/02/11	Full reporting of Consultation outcomes to Executive.
28/02/11	Endorsement of 2011/12 Budget by full Council.
20/04/11- 24/06/11	Consultation on Bromley Council's proposal regarding the future of youth centres in Bromley
14/07/11	<b>Interim</b> Consultation outcomes report to the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder.
06/09/11	Consultation and Outcomes Report to the Children and Young People Policy Development Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder.



**SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE AT  
YOUTH WORK SESSIONS DIRECTLY PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY  
FOR 2010/11 AND FOR APRIL-JUNE 2011**

NAME AND LOCATION	SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY <sup>+(1)</sup>	2010/11		APRIL-JUNE 2011	
		SESSIONS PROVIDED BY LA PER WEEK <sup>+(2)</sup>	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH SESSION <sup>+(3)</sup>	SESSIONS PROVIDED BY LA PER WEEK <sup>+(2)</sup>	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH SESSION <sup>+(3)</sup>
Castlecombe, Mottingham	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	3	12	2	10
The Link, St Paul's Cray	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	3	10	2	10
The Spitfire, Biggin Hill	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	4	12	3	12
Streetwise (leased from Look Ahead Housing Association) Penge and Anerley	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	6	14	3	14
Mobile Team (base is Phoenix, West Wickham) (All areas covered) (Funded by Big Lottery Grant for 2011)	Non-Centre Based Youth Engagement and Positive Leisure and Learning Activity in parks and other public places.	5	12	5	12
The Duke, St Mary Cray	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	3	10	2	10
M2, Bromley Common	Leisure/learning activities for young people	2	8	2	8
Bromley Town Centre	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	4	9	3	9
Darrick Wood, Orpington (LA operates the centre on behalf of Keniston Housing Association)	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	2	20	2	18

NAME AND LOCATION	SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY <sup>+(1)</sup>	2010/11		APRIL-JUNE 2011	
		SESSIONS PROVIDED BY LA PER WEEK <sup>+(2)</sup>	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH SESSION <sup>+(3)</sup>	SESSIONS PROVIDED BY LA PER WEEK <sup>+(2)</sup>	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH SESSION <sup>+(3)</sup>
Phoenix, West Wickham	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people and Duke of Edinburgh Award Open Awards Centre	4	20	This youth centre has converted to Hawes Down Joint Disability Centre. When the centre opens in September 2011, following refurbishment, a Youth Offer (including a disability youth offer) will be provided as part of the new Centre's programme. The Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre will also continue to operate at the Phoenix.	N/A

**NOTES:**

- + (1) This table summarises attendance at youth sessions provided by the Local Authority **only**. Most of the Youth Centres are also used by other organisations (eg day care providers, the Children and Young People Assessment and Respite service, pre-school and after-school clubs, and community and voluntary sector providers of activity for young people) when not in use for youth work sessions directly provided by the LA.
- + (2) A youth session is three hours in length.
- + (3) Average attendance at each session shows the attendance of young people who have been recorded as having attended more than four sessions provided by the LA.
- + (4) With effect from 1 April 2011, the number of sessions provided by the LA per week has reduced reflecting the reduction in the staffing establishment following the restructuring of the IYSS (see para 3.2 of report).

**SUMMARY OF COSTS OF SERVICE DIRECTLY OPERATED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY  
AT LOCAL AUTHORITY YOUTH CENTRES (INCLUDING MOBILE) IN 2010/11**

<b>NAME AND LOCATION</b>	<b>ANNUAL COSTS <sup>+(1)</sup> (£)</b>	<b>SESSIONS PER YEAR <sup>+(2)</sup></b>	<b>AVERAGE COST PER SESSION (£)</b>	<b>AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER SESSION</b>	<b>AVERAGE COST PER PERSON PER SESSION <sup>+(3)</sup> (£)</b>
Castlecombe, Mottingham, SE9 4AT	93,150	144	647	12	54
The Link, St Paul's Cray, BR5 2QL	63,010	144	438	10	44
The Spitfire, Biggin Hill, TN16 3LB	92,250	192	480	12	40
Streetwise (leased from Look Ahead Housing Association) Penge and Anerley SE20 8PY	116,890	288	408	14	29
Mobile Team (base is Phoenix, West Wickham) BR1-BR8 (All)	70,270	240	292	12	24
The Duke, St Mary Cray BR5 4AS	82,730	144	574	10	57
M2, Bromley Common BR2 8DL	25,420	96	264	8	33
Bromley Town Centre	77,240	192	402	9	45
Darrick Wood, Orpington (LA operates the centre on behalf of Keniston Housing Association) BR6 7UA	82,730	96	861	20	43
Phoenix, West Wickham BR4 9AE	109,170	192	568	20	29

**NOTES:**

- + (1) This table summarises the costs for service provided by the Local Authority. Most of the Youth Centres are also used by other organisations (eg day care providers, the Children and Young People Assessment and Respite service, pre-school and after-school clubs, and community and voluntary sector providers of activity for young people) when not in use for youth work sessions directly provided by the LA.
- + (2) The Youth Centres are operated for 48 weeks per year.
- + (3) Cost is per person attending more than four sessions provided by the LA.

**COMPARISON OF INDICATIVE COST**  
(per 3 hour session for provision of  
open access leisure and learning activities for young people)

PROVIDER	COST PER 3 HOUR SESSION (£)
Local Authority providing service in Local Authority Youth Centre	493 <sup>1</sup>
Community and Voluntary Sector Organisation delivery service to a LA commission in their own premises	132
Commercial provider delivering a formal programme of arts and sports activity leading to a qualification delivered in a Local Authority Youth Centre	180

**NOTES:**

1. Average centre cost.



## Consultation: The Future of Youth Centres in Bromley

### Organisation and Management

- ⇒ Administration and Management
  - ⇒ School Organisation

**Audience:** See overleaf

**Action required:** The audience is invited to respond to this Consultation.

**Timing:** The deadline for responses is **Friday, 24 June 2011**.

**Also sent to:** See overleaf

**Type:** Consultation

**Description:** Bromley Council is consulting on the future of its Youth Centres. Comments and views are invited by a deadline of **24 June 2011**.

**Relates to:** N/A

**Date Issued:** 20 April 2011

**Contact:** Kevin Gerred, Partnerships and Planning Officer  
Tel: 020 8313 4024 Email: [kevin.gerred@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.gerred@bromley.gov.uk)

**For reader's use:**



## Consultation: *The Future of Youth Centres in Bromley*

**Audience:**

- Head Teachers of all Bromley Maintained Schools
- Principals of Orpington & Bromley Colleges
- Michael Wheeler, Principal, Bromley Adult Education College
- Phoenix Children's Resource Centre
- Kingswood Centre/Grovelands Centre
- Darrick Wood Primary/Secondary HIUs
- All Chairs of Governors of Bromley Maintained Schools
- All Independent Schools
- All Bromley Council Chief Officers
- All Council Members and Co-opted Members of the Council
- Michael Purton, Principal, Bromley Youth Music Trust
- Community Associations
- Directors of CYP Services and Heads of Youth Support Services in Neighbouring Authorities: (Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley, Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon, Surrey, Kent)
- All Children & Young People Service Managers – CYPSMT and CYPMF
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Chairmen of Safer Neighbourhood Panels
- NHS Bromley, Bromley Business Support Unit
- Early Years Providers
- Chair of Bromley Schools' Forum, Andrew Downes
- Mrs Alison Register, Acting Chair of Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership Executive, Parklands Nursery
- Pre-School Learning Alliance, Bromley Base located at EDC
- Chair of Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum
- Chief Executive, Community Links Bromley
- Members of the CYP Partnership Board
- Director of Education, Board of Education (Rochester), Deanery Gate
- Director of Education, Archdiocese of Southwark
- Borough Commander, Bromley Fire Station
- Borough Commander, Bromley Police Station
- Affinity Sutton Housing Association

**Audience  
(cont):**

Bromley Youth Council, c/o Danie Gordon, Bromley Youth Service  
Bromley MENCAP  
Burgess Autistic Trust (changed name Jan 2011)  
Carers Bromley  
Bromley Welcare  
Lulu Pearce, Chair of Bromley Ethnic Communities Project, Anerley  
Town Hall  
Bromley Parent Voice – c/o Kay Moore, Parent Participation Officer  
Police Sergeant Simone Oram, Youth Partnership Unit, Bromley Police  
Debra Weekes, Bromley MyTime  
Princes Trust  
Caroline Stone, Bromley Council for Voluntary Youth Service  
South London Connexions

**Also sent to:**

Secretaries of Staff Associations  
Councillor Ernest Noad,  
Executive Member for the Children and Young People Portfolio  
Councillor Brian Humphrys  
Executive Assistant to Portfolio Holder (CYP)  
Cllr Robert Evans  
Chairman of the CYP PDS Committee  
Office of the Director of Children and Young People  
Sandra Barnard, Office Services Supervisor (CYP)  
Duncan Bridgewater, Customer Services Manager, Bromley Council  
Susie Clark, Central Communications  
Lee Ramsden, Marketing and Communications Officer, Bromley Council  
Mary Manuel, Head of Community Renewal, Bromley Council  
Jenny Lewis, Reference Section, Bromley Central Library  
Jim Kilgallen, Senior Lawyer (Education), Bromley Council  
Philippa Stone, Committee Administrator (CYP PH), Bromley Council  
Jan Smith, Bromley Youth Service  
Linda King, Bromley Youth Service



## Consultation: The Future of Youth Centres in Bromley

Bromley Council is seeking your views on the future use of its youth centres. The attached document provides the background and rationale for the proposed changes:



Consultation document



Response Form

Bromley Council is proposing to reduce the number of youth centres it directly operates from ten to six. Whilst the Council proposes ceasing direct operation of some youth centres, it intends to encourage and support the local community and activity providers to use the building, on a voluntary or self-funded basis, to provide leisure-time opportunities for young people.

The attached consultation document explains the reasons for the proposal, identifies the issues for consideration and explains the arrangements for wide consultation.

If you would like to comment on the proposal, there are several opportunities for doing so and these are detailed in the attached consultation document. I look forward to receiving your views and comments. The closing date for receipt of responses is **Friday, 24 June 2011**.

The outcomes from consultation will be reported to the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor for Children and Young People at a public meeting to be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **28 July 2011** at 7pm.

This consultation document and response form is available online at [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk).

Thank you for your interest in this important development. I look forward to receiving your views and comments during the consultation process.

Paul King  
Head of Integrated Youth Support Services





# Consultation on the Future of Youth Centres in Bromley



# Consultation on the Future of Youth Centres in Bromley

## 1. Background

The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review has meant severe cuts in funding across all public spending. Bromley Council's two year settlement announced on 13 December 2010 will result in a loss of funding and grant of £27 million when taken with the savings we have already had to make following in-year cuts for 2010/11. Following the meeting of the Council's Executive on 12 January 2011, potential savings to close the budget gap were proposed and were subject of a preliminary consultation with residents and staff. Proposals to achieve savings include a proposal to reduce the number of youth centres directly operated by the Local Authority (LA) in Bromley. This proposal reflects and is linked to reductions in the staffing establishment of the Service which have now been implemented following the agreement of the Executive Councillor for Children and Young People in December 2010.

The proposal to reduce the number of youth centres directly operated by the LA has been developed using information about the factors that influence use of youth centres and services for young people. These include youth population density and distribution, school exclusion rates, youth unemployment and incidences of anti-social behaviour by young people. Consideration has also been given to (a) information that we collect about use of our centres and (b) survey data collected in 2009 and 2010 on how young people use their leisure time to participate in structured activity (sports, arts and extra-mural learning).

Use of the LA's youth centres is low when compared to the population of young people. Presently, through the Bromley Youth Support Service, the LA operates 10 fixed youth centres and 1 mobile facility. In 2009/10, these provided 2079 sessions (6237 hours) of open access leisure and learning activities and specialist support and advice. However, of a cohort of 35,000 young people between 10 and 19 years of age, only 4,000 participated in four or more sessions. The Tellus4 survey last conducted in October/November 2009, which surveyed 2,000 young people in Bromley schools aged 10, 13 and 15 years, showed only 26% attended a youth centre or club (not all provided by the LA) in the month prior to the survey; this was lower than the national average (28%) and statistical neighbours (29%). This low interest in participation in youth centre activity was also identified by a joint Youth Service and Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum survey conducted in Spring 2009. This survey determined Bromley's rates of youth participation by 13-19 year olds in positive activities outside of school to be 65%, of which less than 4% regularly participated in youth centre-based activity.

## 2. Proposal

Statistics on use of our youth centres indicate that, while often meeting a localised need, they are not providing value for money and could be used in a more effective way by the LA and potentially by other providers.

Following consideration of this information we have therefore designated 4 priority areas: Penge, Mottingham, the Crays and Biggin Hill in which it is proposed that the LA will continue to operate a youth centre. Our intention with this proposal is that these will offer a broader range of the open access leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice to young people than they presently offer.

Additionally, in areas where the LA proposes to cease direct operation of a youth centre, we propose to encourage and support the local community and activity providers to make use of the building to provide leisure-time opportunities for

young people on a voluntary or self-funded basis. Bromley has an extensive range of providers of youth opportunities. We know from a survey conducted in 2009 that over 90% of all out of school activity is provided by voluntary and independent providers. Over 500 are advertised on the LA websites. Our intention with this proposal is to support and encourage these organisations to make use of the Council's youth centres to reach more young people.

The table in the document summarises the detail of the proposal and shows which of the youth centres will continue to be directly operated by the LA and those which will be made available to the local community and activity providers to operate on a voluntary or self-funded basis.

### 3. The Consultation

We intend to seek views on:

- (a) The proposal to reduce the number of Council owned youth centres directly operated by the LA
- (b) How those youth centres not directly operated by the LA might be put to use by the local community and activity providers to provide leisure-time opportunities for young people.

The consultation will run from 20 April to 24 June 2011. We intend to share the proposal with as many people as possible so that we are able to develop provision that is responsive to local need.

In addition to written responses we will be seeking views through public meetings and through meetings/sessions organised specifically for young people. These will be organised to take place in May and early June, with the dates being advertised as soon as they are known.

### 4. Have Your Say

To comment on this proposal:

- Complete the Response Form:



Response Form

- Write directly to Bromley Council (quoting Freepost MB1140)
- Email Bromley Council at: [youthcentres.consultation@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:youthcentres.consultation@bromley.gov.uk)
- Use the feedback form on Bromley Council's website [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk), search on: Consultation on future use of Youth Centres in Bromley
- Fax your response to Bromley Council on: 020 8313 4049
- Attend a consultation meeting

#### Your comments need to be with us by Friday, 24 June 2011

- **Helpline:** A telephone helpline has been set up on 020 8313 4088 and this is staffed between 8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday
- **Translation Services:** If you require large print or audio versions of this leaflet, or you require language translation services, please telephone 020 8313 4088

- **Further Information:** Bromley Council's website will be updated with information as the consultation progresses. Visit [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk), and search using the words: Consultation on future use of Youth Centres in Bromley

## **5. Decision-Making Timetable**

All comments from consultation will be summarised in a Report to the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People at a public meeting to be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **28 July 2011** at 7pm. The Portfolio Holder will then make the decision on the future of youth centres in Bromley.

## PROPOSED FUTURE USE OF YOUTH CENTRES IN BROMLEY

NAME AND LOCATION	SPACE	+ (1) SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY	+ (2) SESSIONS PROVIDED BY LA PER WEEK	+ (3) AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (2010/11) AT EACH SESSION	PROPOSED FUTURE USE
Castlecombe, Mottingham	Hall space. Consultation space for 1:1 or small group work. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	3	12	A broader leisure and learning activity offer with better targeting of our specialist support and advice for young people.
The Link, St Paul's Cray	Hall space. Consultation space for 1:1 or small group work. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	3	10	A broader leisure and learning activity offer with better targeting of our specialist support and advice for young people.
The Spitfire, Biggin Hill	Hall space. Consultation space for 1:1 or small group work. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	4	12	A broader leisure and learning activity offer with better targeting of our specialist support and advice for young people.
Streetwise (leased from Look Ahead Housing Association) Penge and Anerley	Small group work and relaxation areas. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	6	14	A broader leisure and learning activity offer with better targeting of our specialist support and advice for young people.
Mobile Team (base is Phoenix, West Wickham)	2 vehicles equipped for leisure and learning activity.	Non-Centre Based Youth Engagement and Positive Leisure and Learning Activity in parks and other public places.	5	12	No change is proposed to the service provided by the Mobile Team
The Duke, St Mary Cray	Hall space. Consultation space for 1:1 or small group work. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	3	10	The LA is proposing to cease direct operation of this youth centre. It will make it available to and encourage the local community and activity providers to make use of the building to provide leisure-time opportunities for young people on a voluntary or self-funded basis.

### NOTES:

- + (1) Most of our centres are also used by other organisations (eg day care providers, the Children and Young People Assessment and Respite service, pre-school and after-school clubs) when not in use for youth work sessions provided by the LA.
- + (2) A youth work session is three hours in length.
- + (3) Average weekly attendance at each youth work session shows the attendance by young people who have been recorded as attending on a regular basis (ie more than 4 sessions).

NAME AND LOCATION	SPACE	+ (1) SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY	+ (2) SESSIONS PROVIDED BY LA PER WEEK	+ (3) AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (2010/11) AT EACH SESSION	PROPOSED FUTURE USE
M2, Bromley Common	Hall space. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities for young people	2	8	The LA is proposing to cease direct operation of this youth centre. It will make it available to and encourage the local community and activity providers to make use of the building to provide leisure-time opportunities for young people on a voluntary or self-funded basis.
Bromley Town Connexions Centre (lease ended 31 March 2011), Bromley North	Consultation space for 1:1 or small group work. Coffee bar space.	Connexions Public Office Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	4	9	With effect from 1 April 2011, the Connexions Centre has closed. Youth Centre staff have relocated to Bromley Central Library and are making use of the library hall and room space to deliver open access leisure and learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people.
The Hub (leased from Look Ahead Housing Association), St Mary Cray	Office and space for small group work	Youth Support Headquarters	n/a	n/a	Closure.
Phoenix, West Wickham	Hall space. Consultation space for 1:1 or small group work. Coffee bar space	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people and Duke of Edinburgh Award Open Awards Centre	4	20	This youth centre has converted to Hawes Down Joint Disability Centre. A Youth Offer (including a disability youth offer) will be provided as part of the new Centre's programme. The Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre will also continue to operate at the Phoenix.
Darrick Wood, Orpington (LA operates the centre on behalf of Keniston Housing Association)	Small group work and relaxation areas. Coffee bar space.	Leisure/learning activities and specialist support and advice for young people	2	20	No change is proposed. The LA will continue to operate this centre on behalf of Keniston Housing Association.

**NOTES:**

- + (1) Most of our centres are also used by other organisations (eg day care providers, the Children and Young People Assessment and Respite service, pre-school and after-school clubs) when not in use for youth work sessions provided by the LA.
- + (2) A youth work session is three hours in length.
- + (3) Average weekly attendance at each youth work session shows the attendance by young people who have been recorded as attending on a regular basis (ie more than 4 sessions).

# RESPONSE FORM

## CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF YOUTH CENTRES IN BROMLEY

The deadline for responses is 24 June 2011

<b>1. Have you used Youth Centres in the past? If yes, in what way?</b>			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:			
<b>2. The LA proposes to continue to operate youth centres in specific areas of the Borough (see table in consultation document) and to invite the local community and other organisations to provide services on a voluntary or self-funded basis in those it will cease to operate. Do you agree with the proposed choice of centres? What is your view on the proposed choice of centres?</b>			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:			
<b>3. Where the LA proposes to cease operation of a youth centre it will encourage the community and activity providers to use the building to provide leisure-time opportunities for young people on a voluntary or self-funded basis. (i) Would you use a centre operated in this way? (ii) Would you encourage others to use a youth centre operated in this way?</b>			
(i) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:			

**4. Where the LA ceases to operate a youth centre in an area, would you or an organisation you represent be interested in providing leisure-time opportunities for young people in that area on a voluntary or self-funded basis?**

Yes  No  Undecided

Comments:

**Additional Comments**

**Thank you for completing this Form.**

To help us in the analysis of this feedback please state whether you are a young person, parent/carer, school, partner organisation (eg voluntary sector, health, police), local resident or other:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to give your personal details, please complete (stating your organisation if appropriate):

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Post Code:**

We will acknowledge receipt of responses but it will not be possible to respond to individual points. All comments received will be summarised in a Report to the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor for Children and Young People at a public meeting to be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **28 July 2011** at 7pm. This report will be published on the Council's website seven days before the meeting.

**Please return to:** Kevin Gerred  
Children and Young People Department  
FREEPOST MB1140  
London Borough of Bromley  
Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH

Return this form to the address above or

**Email:** [youthcentres.consultation@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:youthcentres.consultation@bromley.gov.uk)

**Fax:** 020 8313 4049



## PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS - SUMMARY OF MAIN OUTCOMES

1. **Streetwise:** Meeting took place on 8/6/11 and was attended by five people (three members of the public, Cllr John Getgood, and one member of staff):
  - request from local resident/parent for the centre to publicise/promote its services more than it does presently;
  - greater outreach work to encourage local young people into the centre;
  - lack of activities for under 10's;
  - potential to work with other local providers, eg churches to enhance local provision for children and young people.
  
2. **Castlecombe:** Meeting took place on 10/6/11 and was attended by 16 people (12 public and four staff):
  - concerns limited to the provision of services at the centre rather than the effect of the proposals on other centres and the service as a whole.
  
3. **Duke:** Meeting took place on 14/6/11 and was attend by 13 people (seven public and six staff):
  - community is concerned that absence of youth activity is related to increased antisocial and criminal activity;
  - local community wish to retain the Duke as a local community resource;
  - enthusiasm for the opportunity to develop use of the centre to support young people and the community in general;
  - expression of interest from a Community Development Consultancy to establish a 'community gym' at the Duke;
  - interest from Pastor of River Church to run the facility as a youth and community centre with church meetings on a Sunday and local community groups using the building during the day;
  - concern at the variable attendance at service operated by the LA.
  
4. **Spitfire:** Meeting took place on 21/6/11 and was attended by nine people (three members of the public, three Police Officers, Cllr Gordon Norrie, and two staff):
  - concerns limited to the provision of services at the centre rather than the effect of the proposals on other centres and the service as a whole.

**Table 1: Analysis of Consultation Responses**

Category	Support for Proposal	Against Proposal	Undecided/ No View	Total
+Young People	08	77	28	113
Local Resident	02	03	01	06
Schools/Pre-Schools/School Governors	04	01	02	07
Safer Neighbourhood Panel	-	01	-	01
*Other	04	03	02	09
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>136</b>
Young People	08	77	28	113
All Other Categories Combined	10	08	05	23
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>136</b>

+ 90 responses from young people who use youth centres, 23 from young people who do not. If they use a youth centre they are more likely to respond against the proposal; if they do not attend they are more likely to respond undecided/no view.

\* Orpington Constituency Labour Party, Bromley Fire Service, Hayes Village Community Association, SGS Spectrum Community Interest Company (interest in Duke), Play Place - Community Interest Company (Interest in Spitfire), Personal Trainer (interest in M2), Bromley MyTime , Bromley Youth Council, and an anonymous response.

**Note:** Bromley Fire Service would rather that the LA continue to directly provide services at the Duke rather than the Link Youth Centre.

**Table 2: Public Consultation Meetings**

Date	Venue	Duration	Attendance
8/6/11	Streetwise	7-8 pm	5 (4 public, 1 staff)
10/6/11	Castlecombe	7-8 pm	16 (12 public, 4 staff)
14/6/11	Duke	7-8 pm	13 (7 public, 6 staff)
21/6/11	Spitfire	7-8 pm	9 (2 staff, 7 others)