

Questions for County Cllr Mrs T Chapman

- 1 Whilst we appreciate that some of the Youth bodies controlled by Essex County Council are statutory bodies, do you feel that the number of different bodies causes confusion to the public as to who does what?

Essex County Council controls the Essex County Youth Service, the many other voluntary youth groups are independent of the county council. These Voluntary bodies are supported by Essex Council Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) which receives some support, but is not controlled by ECC

- 2 Are there any plans to rationalise the number of Youth bodies controlled by Essex County Council?

This is not within the remit of ECC

- 3 With regard to funding, do you feel that the many agencies approach leads to a dilution of the funding effort for young people?

There are a large amount of organisations across Rochford and Castlepoint both statutory and voluntary. Enabling them to work effectively and efficiently together has been and is still a real challenge, but one that many are committed to and which is providing some good outcomes. Contrary to diluting funding the joined up working is leading to greater efficiencies, avoiding duplication and a sharing of resources. Examples of this would include young people's consultations, crime reduction programmes such as Prison No Way, Crucial Crew and Infology

- 4 Can you provide details of the overall Essex CC funding for the Young peoples services for the last 3 years (including staff costs).

2003/04 £7,939,983

2004/05 8,543,835

2005/06 £9,881,722

- 5 What agencies with a mandate of dealing with young people specifically are funded and controlled by Essex County Council?

In the answer to question 1 I have tried to establish that the scope of these answers has been the services delivered by Essex County Youth Service.

- 6 What funding does each agency receive from Essex County Council and can you provide a percentage for how much of this is allocated to the Rochford District Council area?

See answer to question 11

- 7 What new initiatives are planned by ECC for 2007 to try to alleviate Anti Social Behaviour by young people?

ECC Youth Service will be receiving a new fleet of Mobile units that will benefit the Rochford area in particular, due to its geographical nature and several pockets of semi rural communities. Also the formulation of TASCC (Teams Around the School Child and Communities) teams which will bring service areas and professionals within a single team to meet the needs of young people locally, this will include preventative work with young people locally.

8. To what extent are the policies put forward by Essex County Council for Children and Families, influenced by the ideas of young people themselves?

Young Essex Assembly plays a key role in informing policies and services for children and young people both at a county and local level. New elections have just taken place and 4 new young people have recently been elected as representatives for Rochford. The count was held in December and attended by Cllr Mavis Webster. This is also supported by local young people's forums and conferences both for and facilitated by young people. Rochford has contributed to 3 significant events where the views and opinions of children and young people have been gathered over the past two years. This includes the UP2U consultation held at the Mill Hall, facilitated by young people supported by the youth service and attended by almost every secondary school across Rochford and Castlepoint. UP2U enabled young people to articulate their views on the Every Child Matters agenda and identify their priorities for action. UP2U2 continued this process with children at Junior and Primary schools. Most recently young people from Rochford joined with young people from Castlepoint and Basildon in hosting a Thames Gateway conference exploring barriers to learning, academic achievement and employment. A conference report is available from the youth service at the South Division Office, 01268 546408

9. Which initiative that has been funded by ECC for Young People has achieved the most results?

The youth service carry out observations of youth work practice using the Ofsted inspection framework for youth work. This shows that over 90% of the work results in satisfactory or above achievement by the young people involved. This is of a level that if Ofsted were to inspect the service we could be considered to be a very good youth service.

10. Which initiative that has been funded by ECC has failed to generate the results that you expected and why?

Where our quality assurance system identifies provision that is not meeting satisfactory levels we support the work to ensure that the quality improves.

11. Why was there a disparity between the Essex County Council Youth Service Annual Report 2004/05 indicating an expenditure of £8,543,835 and the amount advised by your officer Mark Hughes of £4,712,706?

My officer informed you previously of the budget allocation to the four youth service divisions across Essex and the subsequent allocation to localities. This allocation is to meet 60% of the ECC target for contact with young people and the associated outcomes such as accreditation. The figure quoted in the annual report includes the additional £3,831,129 which is used to deliver county wide programmes that achieve the other 40% of contact with young people and the associated outcomes. This funding supports projects such as Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Princes Trust Team, Alternative Education, Essex outdoors and our support for the voluntary sector. The figure includes external income and additional government funding such as Transforming Youth Work Fund. Many of these county funded programmes benefit young people who live in the Rochford area.

12. Why are youth clubs not open every day and certainly all evening?

In each locality there is an assessment of need across the whole District/Borough.

If any one centre were to operate 5 evenings a week then there would be a knock on effect somewhere else within the locality. There are constant demands on services and time and it is important to get a balanced delivery that best meet the needs of young people across the particular locality. Given the target age range for the service is 13-19 the majority of young people are at school, college or employment during the day. Targeted programmes such as Alternative Education, Complimentary Education, Princes Trust Teams and work with schools are delivered during the day, as is holiday provision such as U Projects and other Positive Activities for Young People.

13. Why are youth clubs just peopled with those that have been encouraged to go there by your youth workers? It appears that the ne'er do wells get the perks and the good youths get left out.

Our Youth Centres are Open Centres and therefore accessible to all young people within their respective locality. A wide range of programmes are put in place that appeal to a broad range of young people, such as Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Youth Forums, differentiated age groupings, sports, arts/crafts and focussed courses such as IT, driving and single gender work. Our work has become more targeted over recent years as government policy has directed and in order to compliment the work of the voluntary sector who provide a range of recreational and social provision

through uniformed groups and faith groups, all of which have access to support from the youth service

14. Why are the presence of youth clubs not advertised?

Whilst more can be done in advertising opportunities such as youth centres for young people there is already advertising taking place. Each locality has its own local publicity material, which is taken into schools and to events where young people, parents and professionals meet. The youth service constantly tries, with some success to get local papers to produce good news articles concerning young people's achievements and in turn promote further the opportunities and provision

15. How many youth clubs are there in the Rochford District?

There are 5 youth service youth centres/clubs in Rochford, these being, Rayleigh, Hockley, Rochford, Canewdon and Hullbridge

In addition to this there are several other voluntary sector clubs which include Footprints in Rochford, Stambridge and Hawkwell, these are complimented by a number of uniformed organisations such as Guides, Scouts, Boys and Girls Brigades as well as a number of sports clubs

16. Are the Youth Clubs situated in places that are easily accessed by public transport or some other means of transport, especially in the more rural areas?

Finding the right location for provision is difficult and many factors need to be considered, not least the actual availability of premises from which to operate. Some provision is specifically located in rural areas, such as Canewdon and Hullbridge because transport out of the communities is difficult, especially in the evenings. Other provisions such as Rayleigh, Hockley and Rochford are served by good rail and or bus links.

17. What is the full compliment of staff number and when will this be achieved so the local youths have somewhere to go?

The staffing is set according to the local needs, budget allocation and provision set out within the localities youth work plan. This may vary year to year as new areas of work develop and possibly change during the year as the service is required to respond to different needs. For the period 2006-2007 66% of the localities budget has been allocated to staffing. Staffing is made up of both full time and Sessional staff as required to meet local needs and deliver against the plan. The staffing allocation for the Rochford locality is the equivalent of 6.5 full time youth workers. Following the recent appointment of a full time youth worker, the recruitment of additional staff and with the immanent return of a member of staff from maternity leave the locality has the equivalent of 1 full time youth work vacancy.

18. Can we have a breakdown between staff with youth contact duties and those that are backroom staff without direct contact with young people?

All Youth Workers have direct contact with young people including the Locality Manager and the areas Divisional Manager. The only staff who do not have direct youth work contact with young people are the administrative staff of which there are 2 who work part time (half time) and a part time handy person (half time).

19. What will the additional cost be (including pension provision) to bring the areas staff numbers up to their full compliment?

The cost of the current vacancies is £17,328

20. Will there be an additional cost to Rochford District Council to bring the staff numbers up to their full compliment and if so how much will this be?

No this is within the localities budget

Additional Questions for County Cllr Mrs T Chapman

The following questions all relate to the brochure U Matter (Children and young people's plan 2006-2009.)

1. Can you provide details of how many children it was seen by?

We have distributed over 4,000 copies of this brochure and I am sure many more children have seen it.

2. Was it designed to appeal to young people and what research was undertaken to confirm its appeal?

Young people helped to prepare U Matter through workshops and by giving their views on the format and layout at each stage. We thought the competition would interest young people.

3. How was the brochure promoted to ensure that it reached the widest possible audience?

We have sent to all secondary schools, it has been distributed through libraries, the Youth Service, borough and district councils. We are about to remind schools of its existence to be used in Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship activities.