

## DISTRICT YOUTH STRATEGY GROUP

**Note:** The Chairman has agreed to admit this item of business as urgent in view of the timescale for decision.

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks two Member nominations to a District Youth Strategy Group being set up for Rochford District by the County Council. This new group will replace the current Local Strategy Group which operates in the District.

### 2 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Across the County, the County Council are proposing to replace the existing Local Strategy Group network with a Youth Strategy Group in each District. The new system will come into operation in the autumn. A copy of the implementation timetable, rationale, main duties, membership, and procedures for the new group are attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The District's current Member representative on the Local Strategy Group, which will be disbanded, is Councillor Keith Gibbs. For the new group, one officer and two Member representatives are being sought by the County Council. The County have requested that they have this District's nominations by early September.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Council resolves to determine who the two Member representatives should be on the Youth Strategy Group. (CE)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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**Background Papers**

Letter from Cllr. Mrs Elizabeth Hart, Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Libraries

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## Implementation Timetable for Youth Strategy Groups

June / July 2003	Final agreement of Terms of Reference Letter to Chairs of existing Locality Strategy Groups (LSG) with new terms of reference Borough and District Councils consulted Letters sent to request names for new Local Youth Strategy Group
May/ June 2003	Last meeting of existing Locality Strategy group Identify Core Group and set first meeting
Sept / Oct 2003	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting Core Group , agree co-options
Autumn 2003	Training event for new YSG members 1 <sup>st</sup> full meeting – whole group
<b>First full cycle:</b>	
Jan/March 2003	Monitor locality plan – targets and actions Agree priorities for 2004 - 2005
May/ June 2004	Monitor plan
Autumn 2004	Monitor and prepare priorities for next year

# **Terms of Reference for Youth Strategy Groups**

The Youth Strategy Groups will provide a multi-agency forum on a District/Borough basis, tying in with the local Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). They will ensure an integrated approach to the development and delivery of quality services for young people aged 13 to 19 supporting national and local strategies and meeting local needs.

## **1 The rationale for Youth Strategy Groups**

- To ensure resources at a local level are allocated to meet local needs, making effective use of all resources and avoiding duplication.
- To contribute and provide cohesion to the work of Connexions, and the Youth Service,
- In respect of the 13 to 19 age range support and add cohesion to the work of the CYPSP and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)
- To support and enable partnership work enabling clear communication channels between agencies working across the 13 to 19 age range.
- To provide the forum to consult and work with young people on a local level to ensure provision is appropriate to their needs.

## **2 The main duties of Youth Strategy Groups will be to:**

- approve and agree the resources to provide the annual Youth Work Locality Plans.
- advise the Essex, Southend and Thurrock Connexions Partnership, through the Essex Connexions Local Management Committee, on local needs.
- work closely with the local CYPSP in securing a coherent range of services to all children and young people in the area.
- advise and contribute to the development of the Local Strategic Partnership on all matters relating to young people (13 to 19) in the area.
- identify local issues and gaps in provision and to develop strategies for addressing areas of need.
- ensure that local resources are deployed effectively through an integrated approach and prepare and take forward, when appropriate, application for external funding.

- provide a local forum through which informed debate in relation to services and support for young people can take place.
- ensure effective partnerships are developed within a range of voluntary, statutory and commercial organisations with a concern for the well being of young people.
- monitor operational issues relating to equality of opportunity, health and safety and quality assurance.
- acknowledge and disseminate good practice.

### **3 Membership – Core Group to be made up of:**

District / Borough Council - elected members	2
District/ Borough Council Officer (ex officio)	1
Essex County Council (ex officio)	1
Essex County Council - elected Member	1
Connexions LMC Representative	1
Essex Youth Service Representative	1
Young people eg UK Youth Parliament member	2
Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services	1

**Total** **10**

The core group can co-opt members ( no voting) as appropriate, including young people. This could include representatives from the police, youth offending team, social services, education welfare service and other local youth work providers

### **4 Procedures (details to be included in articles and instruments)**

- (a) to meet a minimum of three times a year. January, May and October
- (b) at the October meeting the post of Chair and Vice-Chair to be elected from within the membership of the group. These posts will be for a period of two years

The County Council strongly suggest that the Chair should be a representative from the District / Borough Council. It is recommended that the Chairman should not be a county council representative or a youth parliament member.

- (c) The YSG will have a quorum when one third of the membership is in attendance.

The Chair or nominated person to attend meetings of representatives of Youth Strategy Groups, Essex LMC, Connexions Service and the Youth Service as appropriate.