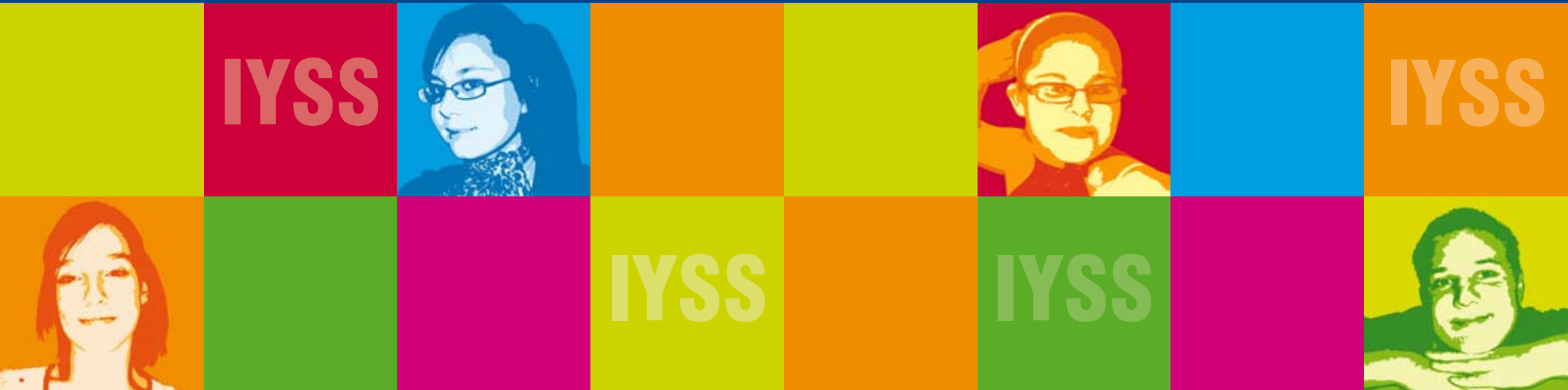


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DEVELOPING **INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES** IN TORBAY

Executive Summary



Introduction

All local authorities in England and Wales are required to create an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) by April 2008. The need to reshape existing services has been precipitated by a series of Government Policies over the last three years, including the Youth Matters Green Paper (2005), Next Steps document (2006) and the recent 10 year strategy for Positive Activities. The rationale behind this re-structuring is to ensure that all young people enjoy happy, healthy and safe teenage years that prepare them well for adult life and enable them to fulfil their full potential.

Integrated Youth Support – what is it?

Essentially Integrated Youth Support is about providing co-ordinated services to all young people according to their needs - in locations and at times that suit them, with more flexible provision, shaped by their interests, wishes and aspirations. There are four key elements, which include:

- Universal access to improved information, guidance and advice on education, employment and health issues
- Providing increased opportunities for positive activities and personal development – more places to go and things to do
- Intensive targeted support for vulnerable young people with complex needs
- Encouraging more young people to volunteer and become involved in their communities

Overall, IYSS should be driven by the same principles of the Every Child Matters reform - inter-agency governance, integrated strategy, integrated process and integrated frontline delivery – with the same focus on outcomes and service users.

Who will be involved in the delivery of Integrated Youth Support?

Within Torbay, a broad range of statutory, voluntary and private organisations currently support young people in transition from adolescence to adulthood. A key challenge for the local authority is to develop an integrated youth support service that is able to meet the needs of all young people by better co-ordination and targeting of the total youth resources available across the Bay.

As a first step towards this it is proposed to build upon the newly developed multi-agency Cluster Teams, involving much closer collaborative working between the Youth Service, Connexions and the Youth Offending Service.

Initially, services will be delivered primarily through a combination of some provision delivered directly in house via the four new Cluster Teams, whilst other services will be provided/commissioned through the most appropriate partners, eg the Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service, the Youth Offending Team, LINK Youth Support, Extended Services and the voluntary sector, essentially Checkpoint and the YMCA. The Fire and Rescue Service are also keen to play a key role in contributing to this new service.

What young people want

Over the last couple of years a number of key consultation events have been undertaken with children and young people in Torbay to find out what they think needs to be done to improve services to them. Here are the priorities they identified:

- Improvement in freely available activities within their local neighbourhood
- Reduced cost of transport
- An increase in the range of information available and the ways in which it can be accessed
- Commitment to young people's involvement in shaping services – providing feedback from consultations and demonstrating what impact their ideas have had
- Improved feeling of safety – allowing them to feel safe when they go out
- Confidential access to services when and where they want them
- Places to meet up with friends
- Activities in the evenings and at weekends

How will things be different?

Firstly, young people's needs and aspirations will be at the heart of the local youth offer. The new integrated service will focus primarily on the 10 to 19 years old age group, with a view to aligning much more closely with the four Cluster Teams, Sure Start Children's Centres and Extended Schools services, to ensure a seamless Early Intervention provision to 0-19's (up to 25 for those with additional needs).

Services should be more flexible, easier to access and widely publicised. There will be a greater range of recreational and educational leisure activities available to young people. There will be an increase in the number of suitable places and venues for young people to meet up and feel safe. Information and guidance regarding career opportunities, personal advice and support should be greatly improved. Better and more personalised intensive support will be available for each young person who has serious problems or gets into trouble.

Priorities for 2008 – 11

The following priorities have been identified, taking into account the views of young people, the Youth Matters agenda, new Public Service Agreement (PSA) indicators and recommendations from the Joint Area Review

1. Ensuring that young people are able to directly influence the design and delivery of local services
2. Delivering early intervention – ensuring a multi-agency approach to meeting the PSA targets
3. Increase the range and publicity of activities available to young people
4. Reducing teenage conceptions
5. Increase access to information and advice through the creation of an Information Advice and Guidance Network
6. Improving attendance
7. Develop an anti-bullying strategy that is used and monitored across all settings
8. Increase the feeling of safety amongst young people
9. Reduce the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system