

Positive Activity 'Youth Offer'

'A road to success for all young people in Bury'





Introduction



1.1 Background

There are many diverse opportunities for young people to be involved in leisure time activities that enrich their lives. Many organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors provide services to ensure that young people are able to access things to do, places to go, information, advice and guidance, and people to talk to... in their spare time.

Research has shown however that young people's participation in 'positive activities' is highly variable. Too many young people are unable to overcome barriers to participation such as cost and a lack of transport, too much provision is of poor quality and is unappealing to young people. The resulting lack of engagement constitutes a failure to reap health, learning and personal and social development opportunities.

To address these problems the government passed a new act, Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 - introduced through section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This act ensures that a single body, working within the context of the children's trust, holds lead responsibility for securing young people's access to 'Positive Activities'.

The legislation also creates new legal requirements that place young people at the heart of decision making regarding the positive activity provision available to them, and which require local authorities to build in contestability when securing provision.

1.2 The new duty

Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 requires that 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. ('Educational leisure-time activities' include provision such as homework or special interest clubs, out of school hours coaching in artistic, sporting or other physical activities and learning opportunities available through facilities such as field centres and outdoors activity centres that provide residential, weekend and holiday-time learning opportunities. Volunteering activity will also fall within this category of activity, where young people gain valuable non-formal educational benefits including accredited outcomes from the experience.)
- b) Sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. ('Recreational leisure-time activities' include sports and informal physical activities, as well as a wide range of cultural activities including music, performing and visual arts)



The emphasis of this act is on improving the social and personal development opportunities for young people leading to their improved wellbeing. The 'Every Child Matters' Outcomes, Be Healthy, Stay safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic wellbeing are used to monitor this. Activities which do not result in an improvement in well-being and which do not help meet these outcomes are not within the scope of the new duty.

The duty therefore requires that so far as is reasonably practicable, access is secured to the two forms of positive activity (and to sufficient facilities for them) set out above. The two forms of activity are not mutually exclusive, as some activities will fall into both categories, however the local authority must ensure that it secures access for young people to sufficient forms of, and facilities for, both types of positive activity.

1.3 Qualifying young persons

The duty applies to the 13 – 19 age range, which is commonly understood to represent for most young people a transition period in which participation in positive activities can offer significant benefits. However, some young people begin that transition before 13 and end it after 19, requiring ongoing engagement and support from services that provide activities falling under section 507B. One specific body of young people within this category are those with learning difficulties or disabilities to which the application of the duty is extended up to 24.

1.4 Strategy

This document has been designed to form the strategy for implementing this duty in Bury. It has been designed through consultation with young people who will form part of the ongoing evaluation and review process. The final document has been presented to the Children's Trust for acceptance to adopt and implement.



The 'local offer' in bury

2.1 The Youth Charter

This local offer is set in the context of strong partnership commitment and good practice in working together to respond to the needs and wishes of young people in Bury. Bury Council reaffirmed its adoption of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child in 2009 and this offer is underpinned by this ethos and political commitment.

Young people came together to discuss their hopes for life in Bury through the development of a Children and Young People's Charter. Their wish is that this charter will be supported by all adults working with and for children and young people across the borough. This Charter was agreed by the Children's Trust and Local Strategic Partnership in 2009. The Youth Offer responds to the Charter and consolidates the local authority commitments to young people.

Bury Children and Young People's Charter

Bury is a place where we expect to be:

- Respected and valued for our opinions.
 - Treated fairly and free to be unique.
- Listened to, supported, safe and happy.
- Encouraged to achieve our full potential.
 - Involved in decisions that affects us.

Bury is a place where we expect to have:

- Safe, accessible places for young people to gather.
 - Accessible and affordable leisure opportunities.
- Good information and advice about a range of issues.
 - A good education that includes life skills.
 - Affordable and reliable public transport.

2.2 Priorities

The Bury 'offer' to young people is implemented through 9 key priorities that will be reviewed and revised annually. These are designed with the involvement of young people, and are aimed at achieving ongoing social and personal development and wellbeing for individuals and groups during their transition to them becoming valued adults within their communities.

- 1) Joint working across all sectors:** it is expected that public, private and voluntary sector agencies working with young people aged 13-19 (vulnerable groups to 25) will come together to plan, implement, and review 'Positive Activities' across the borough.
- 2) Raise the profile of young people:** give young people a voice and empower them to participate at all levels of their involvement.
- 3) To be young person centred:** identify the needs and wants of young people and provide a needs led approach to the provision of 'Positive Activities'.
- 4) Inclusive and accessible to all:** actively seek to ensure all provision is inclusive and accessible while striving to overcome disadvantage.
- 5) Adequate facilities:** endeavour to ensure there are adequate facilities that provide safe, secure, warm and inviting environments. Venues should be appropriate to the activities and should meet the identified needs of young people.
- 6) Advice and guidance:** provide current information on appropriate provision for 13-19's, publicised through a variety of relevant delivery channels
- 7) Diverse opportunities:** seek to ensure that diverse opportunities are offered supported by trusted adults both in the private, public and voluntary sector who will encourage young people's participation in 'FUN' experiences.
- 8) Trusted adult:** seek to ensure that adults working with young people are suitable to their needs, are offered training opportunities and are suitably skilled and qualified in the roles they undertake both as paid and voluntary workers.
- 9) Safeguarding:** seek to ensure that as far as is practical, organisations comply with their legal duty to undertake adequate checks of all staff and volunteers working with young people, and to follow safeguarding procedures. That all staff working with young people are adequately checked and aware of safeguarding policies.



Meeting the priorities

3.1 Implementation

These priorities will be implemented through a variety of methods and will be measured for success through a number of indicators.

- 1) **Integrated youth support:** In Bury the vision is that children, young people and their families will experience their needs being met earlier and more effectively through improved access to support, effective assessment which covers all their needs, and a personal approach to the delivery and coordination of services.
- 2) **Improved profile of young people:** This aims to give young people a voice and the opportunity to be heard both across the Children's Trust but also through the media. There is much to be done to raise the profile of young people and address the frequently negative view of young people that exists, particularly in the press. Participation by young people and opportunities for them to comment on matters that concern them is a key priority for the Children's Trust. This strategic commitment is identified in the *Participation Strategy* which includes good practice guidance and resources. Opportunities for young people's participation and involvement include School Councils, Area Youth Action Groups, Youth Councils and Youth Cabinet which includes elected member representation.

Involvement at Regional and National level is offered through participation in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament with annual elections to elect representatives. Young people will be actively encouraged to participate in all aspects of this structure to ensure the voice of young people in Bury is heard and is listened to.

Volunteering is recognised by Bury Council as an essential resource in helping to achieve its objectives and promote active citizenship and social inclusion. As such it seeks to encourage both adults and young people to volunteer in all sectors. Volunteering opportunities for young people will be actively sought and offered through a variety of avenues linking all sectors.

- 3) **Consultation:** Young people will be consulted with across the borough on issues that affect them. They will be integral to a planning cycle that links their priorities and needs with required action and service delivery.

Consultation will take many forms such as questionnaires, Connexions champions, circles of influence and other events, focus groups and review groups etc. Young people will also be encouraged to be involved in evaluation and review of their own learning as well as service plans and service delivery. This would involve completion of relevant monitoring forms and work plans, establishment of a review group for evaluation and impact of service delivery and inclusion in planning and review seminars.

Feedback to young people on consultation outcomes and the impact of their voice will be acknowledged and actioned throughout the process. Consultation with young people is not a one off event. This will be implicit in all aspects of work that has an impact on the wellbeing of young people across all services, agencies and organisations within the borough.

- 4) Universal and targeted services:** The overall Positive Activity provision will offer, as far as is practical, open access opportunities for all young people within the 13-19 age group based on needs and wants. Any barriers to access these opportunities will be identified and targeted to overcome. These barriers might include disability, cost, transport, unique activities, time, childcare issues, caring issues, clothing etc.

Agencies from the public, private and voluntary sector will offer a brokerage service to meet the more specialised needs for individuals, families or groups.

- 5) Facilities:** As far as is practical, sufficient premises that are adequate and acceptable will be secured. These will be of good quality, suitable for delivery of the activity, safe and secure, DDA compliant and easily accessible. A variety of venues will be sought, linked again to the needs and wants of young people. These can include facilities that offer opportunities for sports, arts, drama, dance, cultural exchange, 'chill out', music both in performance and recording, media and video etc.

It is acknowledged that not all activities require to be building based therefore parks and open spaces should also be included as adequate places for positive activity to take place. These spaces should be available both during daytime and evening sessions and include a variety of appropriate equipment that offers opportunities for FUN and challenge through teenage play. They should also offer a safe environment for evening provision through appropriate lighting and Health and Safety resources.

Activity sessions at these facilities should be complimented by skilled staff that can enhance the young person's participation, progression and achievement in the chosen activity

- 6) Publicity:** Positive Activities are required to be publicised in a variety of ways to ensure young people are aware of the opportunities available to them. At present the coordination of this is done through a partnership between the Youth Service and Children and Young People's Information Service.

A database, 'Find it 4 Me', has been designed following a mapping exercise of organisations offering Positive Activities within the borough, this is constantly updated and reviewed. The 'Why Don't You?' book, a directory of what's on where, is produced biannually and circulated to all young people aged 13-19 through schools. Copies are also made available through all public buildings including leisure centres, libraries and medical centres.

Websites publicising youth activities have been established and are constantly updated. Free internet access is available to young people in youth centres, Connexions centres, schools and libraries.

Posters and leaflets are distributed at local level with information on activities available in their locality. At the request of young people notice boards have been erected in school refectories and are frequently updated with youth provision in the locality.

Information access points are established in all youth centres and Connexions centres offering quality and up to date advice and information on many youth issues. These are staffed by qualified staff offering support as required.

Whilst it is important to maintain systems in place that we know work, it is also recognised that we must include modern methods of communicating that are relevant to young people. Texting, Social Networking Sites, and any other relevant communication system must be explored if the duty to publicise activities is to be achieved. A digital youth work policy has been drawn up and is currently under review. Young people must be at the heart of deciding how when and where they receive information.

7) Activity programmes: A variety of activity programmes will be offered by the public, private and voluntary sector to cater for the needs and wants of young people. These will form the base for both Educational and Recreational leisure with young people voluntarily participating.

Activities will be relevant to young people and include challenge and fun to encourage continued engagement. They will also be developmental to aid positive steps towards future goals. Appropriate accreditation will be offered to celebrate achievement and further support this development. Awards can be vocational or non-vocational at national or local level. These may include, Community Sports Leadership, AQA, Duke of Edinburgh Award, First Aid, Vinolved, Basic Food Hygiene, Uniformed Organisation awards etc.

Programmes will be delivered through a variety of settings and providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors these could include, youth centres, sports clubs, uniformed organisations, training providers, religious organisations, schools, residential organisations etc. They will be available relevant to young people's needs including daytime, evening, weekend and holiday provision.

8) Staff: Individuals delivering service to young people automatically assume the role of a 'trusted adult'. To ensure individuals understand and implement this role it will be expected that all paid and voluntary staff would be appropriately trained and qualified and supported and supervised in their practice. Organisations accessing public funding to deliver must adhere to this standard.

Children's Services workforce development plans will include training and staff development to support this. The Integrated Youth Support Structure will monitor and coordinate this by making available advice and information for individuals and organisations wishing to work towards this standard.

9) Duty of care: The Council takes its responsibilities towards young people seriously and will ensure as far as is possible adherence to its safeguarding and health and safety policies.

Through joint working across all sectors the Council will seek to influence the practise of partners in meeting these requirements. These include CRB checks and ISA requirements for ALL face to face delivery staff, Educational Visits (EV) requirements, risk assessments for buildings, activities and transportation, implementation of the CAF, data collection and information sharing, confidentiality.

Expected outcomes/impact

Indicators for achieving the successful implementation of the Youth Offer in Bury will include:

- Local authority ambitions
- Every Child Matters outcomes
- Priorities in Children's Services plan and other 'Offers' aimed at young people including: Aiming High for Young People including priority for disability, Extended services, 5 hour offer, Libraries Offer, reducing those not in Education Employment or Training (NEETS), Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

The diagram on pages 12 and 13 illustrates how this will be monitored.



What will be the impact?

Enable all children and young people in Bury to be the best they can be

How do we know?

There will be a positive impact on the 5 ECM outcomes for young people in Bury

Be Healthy

- Physically healthy
- Mentally and emotionally healthy
- Sexually healthy
- Healthy lifestyles
- Choose not to take illegal drugs

Enjoy & Achieve

- Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school
- Ready for school
- Attend and enjoy school
- Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation
- Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

- Engage in further education, employment or training after school
- Ready for employment
- Access to transport & material goods
- Live in decent homes and sustainable communities
- Live in households free from low income

Stay Safe

- Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- Safe from accidental injury and death
- Safe from bullying and discrimination
- Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
- Have security, stability and are cared for

Positive Contribution

- Develop enterprising behaviour
- Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges
- Engage in decision making & support the community and environment
- Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school
- Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully and discriminate

How will it be measured and monitored?

The Children and Young People's Plan has ambitions, priorities and targets for all partners of the Children's Trust to work towards

Children's Trust Children & Young People's Plan

Police

Health

Colleges

Youth Cabinet

Private organisations

Voluntary organisations

EDS

Reviewed
Annually

Children's Services

Prevention & partnerships

Social care

Learning

Reviewed
Annually

Divisional Plans

Services Plans

Reviewed
Annually

Monitored
Quarterly

Targets

National & Local

Priority Strategies

NEETS

LDD

LAC

Teenage pregnancy

Other Offers

Libraries

Extended services

5 Hour offer

PAYP

Useful Contacts

Aiming High for Young People:

publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=PU214

AQA:

www.aqa.org.uk

Children and Young Peoples Information Service:

http://buryces.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=113

Children's Services plan:

www.bury.gov.uk/cmstemplates_net/imagefinders/eLibrary.aspx?DocumentId=106

Connexions:

www.connexions-bury.org.uk

CRB:

www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk

Duke of Edinburgh Award:

www.dofe.org

Every Child Matters, UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and Integrated Youth Support:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters

Find it 4 Me:

www.bury.gov.uk/ChildrenandYoungPeople/default.htm

Leisure Centres, Extended services, Libraries, Medical centres, Community Sports Leadership, Parks and open spaces:

www.bury.gov.uk

Libraries Offer:

www.bury.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/Libraries/BuryLearningLibraries.htm

Recruitment and Selection of Staff:

www.bury.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7871DC27-B0BA-433F-BE56-9F2549EF700C/0/BurySaferecruitmentguidancefinalendorsedguidance.pdf

Safe Guarding:

www.bury.gov.uk/HealthAndSocialCare/SocialServices/ChildrenAndFamilyCare/ChildProtection/BurySafeguardingChildrenProcedures.htm

Section 507B of the Education Act 1996:

www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1996

Targeted youth support:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/targetedyouth/targetedyouthsupport/

Volunteering and Vinvolved:

www.bury.myinvolved.com

Why Don't You?:

www.buryouth.co.uk/HelpAndAdvice/WhyDontYou.htm

Workforce development:

www.nya.org.uk

Youth Service:

www.buryouth.co.uk/default.htm





Bury Council, Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury Lancashire BL9 0SW
Telephone: 0161 253 5000 www.bury.gov.uk

