



**Agenda item: 9**

**Summary**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday 23 November 2016</b>
<b>Part:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Youth Connexions Dacorum</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	Karen Haswell, Team Manager, Youth Connexions Dacorum
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	As requested by the Committee
<b>Recommendations</b>	Members note the report
<b>Corporate objectives:</b>	
<b>Implications:</b>	
<b>'Value for money' implications</b>	
<b>Risk implications</b>	n/a.
<b>Community Impact Assessment</b>	n/a
<b>Health and safety Implications</b>	
<b>Consultees:</b>	
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>Historical background</b> <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	This Committee has requested a report from Youth Connexions regarding the work that they deliver to young people within this Borough. The previous post holder was absent for some time and the new post holder has recently started in the role and has produced this report.
<b>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</b>	

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Youth Connexions provides information, advice, guidance, support and youth work for young people aged 13 – 19 (up to 25 for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities).

## **2. Information Advice and Guidance Team**

### **2.1 Team Leader Lynne Redpath**

2.1.1 The Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team work with young people in schools as part of the Traded Service and in the community with those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). In 2016/17 we will be delivering 549 traded days to senior schools. I am currently promoting the traded service of Rocket into the Future to Primary Schools. In addition to this we have been and will continue to deliver statutory work. We also deliver IAG to Children Looked After in Dacorum. We offer a drop in service every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon at the XC Centre in Jarman Park. For the non-traded work young people are on adviser caseloads and they are contacted and supported on a fortnightly basis, more often if appropriate.

2.1.2 As well as offering the above services we have also introduced some new initiatives and are planning others for the next few months these include:

- Employment Excellence Programme – we continue to offer intensive 1-1 information advice and guidance to all young people who have been identified as Children Looked After in years 7 – 11. This is in addition to the support they would have received as part of the Traded Service in schools. This additional support should enhance their opportunities/options which should result in a fall in the numbers becoming NEET.
- As part of the NCS programme for summer 2016, two of my advisers delivered IAG to the students as part of the programme
- In partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership Youth Connexions are delivering the new Department for Business, Innovation and Science funded, Careers Enterprise Company programme to schools in Hertfordshire. All of the Dacorum schools are involved in the project and work is well underway. The schools have been reviewed to assess their needs and we are now in the process of recruiting local employers to match to the various schools

2.13 With some similarities to Careers Inspiration it will broker relationships between employers, schools and colleges. The programme is for all Hertfordshire Schools and aims to identify an Enterprise Adviser, an employer to work with each one.

2.1.4 The need for a focus in this area has emerged following extensive discussions with teacher representatives, employers and business organisations involved in careers advice and inspiration. CIPD and CBI surveys have shown that 55% of employers think school leavers lack the right experience and attributes, such as problem solving and attitude to work. Therefore it has never been more important for young people to have the opportunity to meet employers, learn about the world of work directly and engage in programmes that develop these skills.

- Together with the IAG Team Leader in St Albans we set up a double district steering group to work with young people leaving care. The group consists of representatives from Youth Connexions, Targeted Youth Support, Virtual School and the Dacorum Care Leavers Hub. This is invaluable for sharing information and working together to offer the best possible service to each and every young person who has recently left the care system.
- We are also working in collaboration with Jobcentreplus and the Dacorum Targeted Youth Support team on the Employment Guarantee project to support young people leaving care, helping them with careers guidance and sourcing opportunities as well as offering work experience placements
- A Traineeship Programme has just ended which was run in the XC Centre. We recruited young people from the area to attend, gain a qualification and also experience the world of work through extended work experience. We had 12 young people on the course and through the traineeship programme two of them are now in full time apprenticeships
- We will be delivering from mid-November a NEET project in the XC where we will offer a complete programme of support in helping young people move forward into education, employment or training. This will consist of workshops, groupworks, one to one support and work experience
- Plus One programme is a course for young parents and parents to be. We will be delivering this course from the XC from January 2017. Young parents will be able to complete units of the City and Guilds 5546 qualification Level 1 in Employability Skills which will be made up of Managing Personal Finances, Healthy Living, Self-Assessment and Development and Parenting Awareness

2.1.5 At the end of September the NEET figure for Dacorum was 3.69% which represents 106 young people out of a cohort of 46922. Of the 106 young people who are NEET, 77 are available to be involved in Education, Employment or Training and 29 are not available for various reasons such as pregnancy, caring for child or illness. The figure is always higher at this time of year, due to college leavers but we expect this figure to fall over the next few weeks as we introduce our new project as well as the normal follow up work and support that continues throughout the year

2.1.6 The cost to hire rooms at the XC is currently as follows

ROOM	CAPACITY	REGISTERED CHARITIES	PRIVATE /COMMERCIAL USE	WEEKEND HIRE
Interview rooms	4	£5 per hour	£10 per hour	£15 per hour
Meeting room 1	10	£10 per hour	£20 per hour	£35 per hour
X room	12	£15 per hour	£25 per hour	£35 per hour
Group room	25	£25 per hour	£35 per hour	£40 per hour

### 3. Youth Service - Dacorum

#### 3.1 The Youth Work Team

3.1.2 The Youth Work Team offer informal Education opportunities for young people aged 13-19 (up to 25 with learning difficulties. This is done through centre based work in youth centres in the community, the XC Centre and detached/outreach work targeting areas of higher deprivation and vulnerable young people and in schools. We also deliver the National Citizenship project; a national government initiative for 16/17 year olds aimed at improving confidence and self- esteem through trying new things and making new friends facilitating transition to adulthood and aiming ultimately to a more cohesive society.

#### 3.2. Breakdown of Projects

3.2.1 Detached/ Outreach work. Has been a big focus over the last few months focusing on the Grovehill area, Adeyfield, Chaulden, Gadebridge, and the town centre. Youth Workers have set up a gazebo and bought along games, quizzes and engaged in discussions with young people around curriculum areas e.g. drugs and alcohol, relationships and sexual health, personal safety. Numbers have been most consistent in the Grovehill area where staff regularly see 20 – 35 young people. Adeyfield is more sporadic but can see up to 25 young people. Detached on Saturdays also varies, usually we engage with around 8 – 16 young people.

T3.2.2 This is set to change with the dark nights as we move into buildings.

- Grovehill; still in negotiation but from 13<sup>th</sup> October we will be working with young people in the large hall at the Community Centre.
- Adeyfield; We are meeting young people Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October at DARC to look at programme. We will open 31<sup>st</sup> October with a charge of 50p: 6.00 pm – 8.30

- Gadebridge; Project at the community centre Tuesdays 6.30-9.00, 50p charge.

3.2.3 **Bennetts End** (currently out of operation due to health and safety issue) – This is being dealt with by pest control

- Mondays – Open access provision; young people engage in informal activities with young people including cooking, arts and crafts along with curriculum based activities and discussion. 6.30 – 9.00. (Currently up to 20 yp but hope to further promote and build upon this.
- Thursdays – new project; “Fusion” – celebrating culture and diversity through music, food and art 6.30 – 9.00
- Friday – Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 5.30 – 8.30. Currently 8 qualifying, a new group starting tomorrow night of around 14 young people.

3.2.4 The centre is also currently being used by The Jarman Centre; adults with learning difficulties whilst work is being undertaken on their building.

3.2.5 **The XC Centre**

- Tuesdays –NEW #intoTheFrame - photography based project addressing different curriculum areas through this medium. Currently just 7/8 attendees but hope to double these numbers through promotion.
- **Wednesday** – Creative Spark 7-9.30 – working with LD young people – has been on Thursdays but moving after half term.
- NCS Hub meeting 6.00-8.00, currently preparing for forthcoming NCS project starting October 24<sup>th</sup> with a residential in Ashford Kent.
- **Thursday** - Jam Jar; recording and rehearsals project developing new local talent and a music development group organising weekend events in the Dacorum area.
- Young Parents group – fortnightly
- LGBTQ 4.00 –7.00pm. A really popular vibrant group with a membership of 50 young people. Young people report they like having a safe place to meet where they can just be themselves.
- **Friday** – Multi Track; accredited by Arts Award exploring the arts with a focus upon music and music technology.
- **Saturday** – Recording and rehearsals at the XC 12.00- 6.00; booking in advance.

3.2.6 Every afternoon there is the opportunity for young people to sign up to C Card so they can get condoms and for smoking cessation.

3.2.7 The XC Centre will be undergoing some building work soon which will help improve our offer to young people. There will be a working kitchen so that

Lifestyle projects can be run looking at healthy eating and cooking on a budget.

- 3.2.8 We are also looking to set up a group for young people who are home schooled and for young carers.
- 3.2.9 Also a group for young people with issues around low self-esteem; early discussions being held this may be at the XC centre or Darc.
- 3.2.10 NCS Summer; very successful project taking 73 young people away on residential, 71 of whom completed the whole project. They did outdoor activity challenges week one, week two included first aid, air ambulance, yoga, communication through music, mindfulness through meditation and careers. The young people then organised and undertook their social action projects which included A decorating project, gardening, fun run for charity, collecting shoes for vulnerable people, making a film around mental health issues and a day in Hemel "Smile Hemel" where young people performed on the stage, face painted and did henna tattoos and hair braiding.
- 3.2.11 Currently preparing for the Autumn NCS, we take a group on residential October half term, numbers looking to be up to 60 young people.
- 3.2.12 Work in schools includes healthy relationships, smoking cessation and Child Sexual Exploitation which we are planning to roll out further.

**Date: October 2016**