

- Awards Development Project (4 workers and externally funded) Ashton
- Working with disaffected Pupils Project (2 workers and externally funded) Droylsden, Mossley and NE Stalybridge
- Black Young People's Project (5 workers) Dukinfield and Stalybridge
- Youth Offending Team Worker (1 worker) These are managed by 5 Area Youth Managers
- Health Development Project (8 workers and externally funded)
- Administration (2 workers)

2 (b) Sports Trust Monitoring and Sports Development are also the responsibility of the Service Unit Manager for the Sports and Youth Service Unit.

2 (c) The service works with young people aged between 12 and 19 years of age.

2 (d) "Sport and Youth Service Unit is to promote the personal, physical, social and educational development of young people, to ensure quality and equality of opportunities and to provide support during their transition to adulthood and reaching their full potential" (Service Charter)

2 (e) The service is run by full time employees, part time employees, casual employees and volunteers.

2 (f) The human resource allocation is:

- i. FTE staff = 7 x managers & 12 x youth workers
- ii. P/T staff = 104x youth worker posts(30 FTE posts) 9 x clerical/administrative posts (6 FTE)
 Note a) this includes 26 temporary posts
 b) There are 18 vacant part time youth worker posts
- iii. Casual staff = 0

2 (g) Staff are paid on a sessions basis each session is 3hours and 36 minutes. 10 sessions = FTE post.

2 (h) FTE posted staff can be made up of different sessions across the whole of Tameside. Staff can be allocated to more than one area.

2 (i) As a consequence of Connexions work the service is short of the equivalent of one senior management post.

2 (j) All part time staff joining the service are qualified via Tameside MBC with a nationally accredited qualification.

2(k) Tameside MBC provides training to volunteers from the voluntary youth organisations.

2 (l) A contact with a young person is defined as the single attendance of the young person at any one time to one session of youth provision. Nightly quality assurance forms are completed to indicate number of contacts.

2 (m) There is not a set staffing ratio to young people. Generally 1 staff to 10 young people is allocated per building. Dependent on the needs of young people this can increase or decrease.

The Council Policy is found in the report to the **Cabinet (15th September 1999) 'Youth Strategy'** This report replaces the previous 'Youth Strategy for Tameside' produced in 1996.

Aims	Outcomes
1. To maintain and develop Duke Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completely refurbished Duke Street. ● New projects have been added.
2. To set up outdoor activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employed a full time Outdoor Education Development Worker. ● Set up a store of outdoor equipment.
3. To build on the POD experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developed an exit strategy. ● POD's now operate in all areas throughout the year. ● All POD's have been changed to provide larger and improved facilities.
4. To encourage the voluntary sector to provide most traditional youth activities (note traditional tends to mean recreational activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tameside Association of Voluntary Youth Organisations has been set up. ● There is increased collaboration between the Youth Services and Voluntary organisations ● An audit has taken place of all voluntary organisations providing youth services.
5. To set up advice centres in all District Assembly areas (note this means health advice).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up health advice provision in all District Assembly areas. ● Jointly funded with West Pennine Health Authority.

2 (n) The budget allocated to the Youth Service for 2001/2 is £1,330,000. Of this, £1,164,000 relates to operational budgets and £166,000 relates to overheads.

2 (o) The funding for staff for the Borough Wide Service is £250,000 and a further £120,000 is also provided.

2 (p) In addition to the above, further finding is available through SRB monies and neighbourhood renewal.

3. CURRENT PROVISION

3 (1) The Panel was informed of youth provision made by the Council with details of facilities in each of the nine towns.

3 (2) Members especially noted that, for often historical reasons, the level of provision varied greatly between the nine towns. There had also been a considerable reduction of provision, especially in Droylsden which had previously had three centers.

3 (3) Many buildings are small and cold and the young people who are in them are the very people we should be reaching, but making better provision. The young people interviewed were glad to get under cover from the weather and socialise with friends, but they could not even take their coats off due to the cold.

The staff in these locations, however, related well to the young people.

3 (4) Members of the Panel also visited a number of youth facilities and their observations are detailed below:-

(a) Ashton-under-Lyne

1. West End Community Centre

- ★ The venue is a safe, warm, well equipped meeting place, and the youth activities are of a wide diversity.
- ★ There was not a diverse mix of young people from different backgrounds.
- ★ There could be more outdoor activities taking place.

2. Indian Community Centre

- ★ An excellent example of how a community working together can achieve great things. It is a credit to the volunteers and the general community. "Absolutely terrific". Note this was formed with the assistance of the youth service
- ★ The building is two years old and was built with the aid of lottery funding. The facilities are wonderful.
- ★ There is a part time Youth Worker attached.
- ★ Training is provided for volunteers.
- ★ Many activities such as sporting, educational and luncheon club are offered at the centre.
- ★ Young people seem more involved.
- ★ Both indoor and outdoor activities encouraged.

3. Broadoak Youth Centre

- ★ This centre is to close and Broadoak Junior School building refurbished to form a new community centre.
- ★ Currently the surroundings and facilities are very poor and money needs to be spent on the centre.
- ★ Despite the poor facilities the youth workers were very helpful and are doing a "great job".
- ★ Important that in the new community centre responsibility for maintaining the centre is seen as a joint responsibility between local residents, parents, young people and agencies. It should be emphasised that community centres are the responsibility of all the community and not just the Council.

(b) Denton and Audenshaw

The Duke Street Youth Centre is a great facility, but inaccessible to many young people in Tameside. There are many creative activities that take place especially creative and performing arts, but many of the young people who need a focus for activity will not or cannot attend.

Panel members who visited Duke Street noted the excellent balance between indoor and outdoor activities. There was however some concern about potential conflict relating to health advice matters.

Haughton Green Youth Centre has a good building which should be better funded and could be better managed.

It needs to be marketed better and made more attractive by for example improved lighting.

(c) Droylsden

Youth provision in Droylsden is a cause for concern. Although there is an initiative taking place in Sunnybank Park, with the remodeling of a building in the park, young people when asked, indicated that they would be happy to have somewhere safe and warm to meet. They felt that they had no real space to call their own.

(d) Dukinfield – Blocksages

This provided a warm safe environment. A clinic with a nurse in attendance was held on Mondays between 3-5pm. A snack bar was being developed, youth achievement encouraged with activities such as a Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Millennium volunteers.

There were links to SRB 5 and a partnership with Groundwork Trust to undertake work around the premises. The young people involved were encouraged not to smoke and participate in sports activity. There were more boys than girls in attendance and youth workers felt that it might benefit from more administration facilities.

(e) Hyde – Bennett Street Project

This was described by members as a safe warm environment, where children are encouraged to achieve awards, develop skills, gain confidence to give them access to sports facilities. It was extremely well run. The staff were very keen, but concerned about lack of resources.

(f) Mossley – The Rowans

A safe warm provision with evidence of outdoor pursuits, which the young people involved thoroughly enjoyed. The outside area had been designed and developed by the young people themselves. An initiative called Threads helped connect the past to the present and breakdown barriers between young and old.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4 (a) The Panel would like to see a policy which allows all the young people of Tameside to have equal access to Council provided youth facilities throughout the Borough.

4 (b) There has been little investment in young people outside the education system and with approximately 30,000 young people in Tameside, many of the problems now being experienced are because of a lack of facilities.

4 (c) Many young people want a safe and warm environment in which to relax or pursue leisure activities, a recent survey of young people in Droylsden indicated that the majority preferred these activities to project work.

4 (d) The quality and nature of facility provision differs in each town and there is a need for consistency of provision.

4 (e) Recruitment and retention of staff is a cause for concern and youth workers have experienced a lot of changes in recent times and feel vulnerable. This is a national problem, in 1999 there were 10,000 youth workers throughout the country, this is now half that number with only 5,000 workers nationally. There need to be better ways of managing youth workers, the current system of payment by session is not working efficiently.

4 (f) There is difficulty measuring performance within the youth service, especially in relation to outreach workers who play a vital role in the service which is seldom recognised.

4 (g) Funding between areas varies and some areas have access to additional money through SRB, renewal etc. This reduces the opportunities that some young people have in the Borough.

4 (h) PODs do not attempt to supply the answer to the lack of youth provision in some areas. There is scope in considering combining two POD's with complementary facilities in a permanent location. They currently cost District Assemblies £14,000 each per year and a double size facility would provide a far better service.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5 (a) There needs to be a co-ordinated policy which ensures equal access for the young people of every part of Tameside, to Council provided youth facilities throughout the Borough.

5 (b) A minimum standard of youth provision requires to be agreed for the young people of Tameside which includes the provision in each town of warm, safe premises that young people can use.

5 (c) There should be more equitable funding between towns, which should be delegated to District Assemblies and allocated per head of youth population in each town.

5 (d) Performance measures for the youth service need to be developed.

5 (e) Greater partnership working should be developed within the youth service.

5 (f) Youth service workers need to be reassured about their importance to the Council and as to their future.

5 (g) Staff recruitment needs to resume otherwise Tameside will lose excellent youth workers as the Connexions Service is developed.