

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor David Kirk
Date:	7 June 2010
Title:	Genesis Youth Centre Executive Committee
Reference:	1690
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Stuart Ashley

Tel: 07808 390751

Email: stuart.ashley@hants.gov.uk

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the appointment by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, of two Elected Members to represent Hampshire County Council on the Genesis Youth Centre Executive Committee.
- 1.2. The Genesis Youth Centre is a purpose built Youth Centre, owned by Fareham Borough Council and based in Locks Heath. The facility was developed jointly between Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire Children's Services.
- 1.3. Whilst the Genesis Youth Centre is owned by Fareham Borough Council it is made available for use as a recreation centre through a management agreement between Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council dated 11 June 2007 ("the Agreement").
- 1.4. The Agreement requires that an Executive Committee be established to oversee the use of the Centre. The constitution of the committee requires the inclusion of two Hampshire County Council representatives.
- 1.5. It is recommended that two suitably experienced Hampshire County Council Elected Members are appointed to the Genesis Centre Executive Committee, to ensure the committee is properly constituted to oversee the delivery of youth provision. It is proposed that Councillor P. Edgar and Councillor M Tucker be appointed to this role.
- 1.6. In accordance with the Agreement, the County Council may determine the term of office of the two representatives (with the proviso that any Elected Member appointed shall cease to be the County Council's representative on ceasing to be a member of the County Council). It is recommended that the

nominated representatives are appointed to the Executive Committee for a period of two years in the first instance.

2 Background to Genesis Youth Centre

- 2.1. This paper seeks to provide background information in relation to the Genesis Youth Centre and to provide an overview of its usage as a Youth Centre. Further, this paper seeks to summarise the purpose of the Executive Committee to assist in the Decision Making process.
- 2.2. The Genesis Youth Centre, is a purpose built facility owned by Fareham Borough Council to meet the needs of young people locally within the priority age range of 13-19 years. The building was funded through Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and various donations from local organisations.
- 2.3. The facility was built in the mid 1990's, and fully involved local young people in its design and focus. Young people have a wide range of needs in the Locks Heath area which include poor access to services due to transport networks, substance and alcohol misuse, as well as increasing levels of pressure from families in relation to educational attainment and achievement.
- 2.4. The Youth Centre has an up to date recording studio, arts room, with potter's wheel and kiln, a media suite and open hall space for various youth work activities. The Youth Centre currently delivers targeted youth work, open access and support work to a number of agencies locally with a request to deliver a partnership project with a local community group and an opportunity to link further with the local secondary school.
- 2.5. There has been a view from a range of professionals that the Genesis Youth Centre was being under utilised in relation to the delivery of Youth Services. As a result of this, in January 2010, the Fareham Youth Team Manager appointed a new centre manager together with a newly formed staff team of part time workers. The current team of Hampshire County Council Youth Workers consists of a full time worker, one 18 hour post, one 12 hour post, one 9 hour post and two 6.8 hour posts. This range of staffing ensures that day time and evening provision is available to meet the needs locally.

3 Youth Provision

- 3.1. The current programmes offered by the Fareham Youth Team include four evening sessions per week delivered by youth workers. One focuses on Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme to increase accreditation opportunities for young people and to support a reduction in the number of young people not in employment, education or training, (NEET). Three of the evening sessions focus on different age ranges and curriculum needs, for example year 11 groups are currently working on drugs and alcohol work and leaving school
- 3.2. Programmes of work linked to giving opportunities for young people to use the newly acquired resources of the recording studio are also underway.

This resource will be used by young people from Gosport, Fareham, Eastleigh, Havant and surrounding areas. Targeted work with other partners from child and adolescent mental health services, (CAMHS), Schools, 'You Trust' and other organisations will also enhance the opportunities locally for young people with complex needs.

- 3.3. Opportunities to develop targeted work with those leaving care and children looked after are currently being planned.
- 3.4. The centre is used by a strongly supported Special Needs voluntary youth club which uses the building at a very low rental. The club is staffed by parents and volunteers and meets on a Friday evening. The average attendance is between 25-30 young people on a regular basis.
- 3.5. The buildings use during the day is currently taken up with the Parent Network (mother and toddler group) and Kumon Maths, (after school maths club). The centre also books one off events such as conferences and multiagency meetings. Recently this has been extended with the CAMHS service utilising the space for meetings with partner agencies and a conference with young people from the local secondary schools.
- 3.6. A new initiative called 'the juice bar' is currently being developed and will be opened in September 2010. This piece of work is a partnership initiative which will be externally funded and will develop open access provision two afternoons per week. This project is in response to local young peoples requests and supports the development of the voluntary sector. It will contribute to the positive activities for young people agenda. It is anticipated that this specific project will harness local volunteers who will be trained and mentored by the Youth Team.
- 3.7. The youth workers are currently actively promoting the Fareham Youth Council and encouraging participation of young people from the western wards in the membership and development of this area of work. This has been welcomed by the head teacher of the local secondary school who has offered youth workers the opportunity to talk in school assemblies and provide relevant literature to the pupils.

4 Finance

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications related to the proposed appointments, other than expenses incurred. However, the Genesis Youth Centre Executive Committee will ensure that maximum added value and cost benefit is achieved from within available Youth Team resources.

5 Performance

- 5.1. Work undertaken within the Genesis Youth Centre and with partners, has a clear focus on meeting the outcomes of Every Child Matters, as well as supporting Hampshire's Children and Young People Plan.

5.2. Specifically the Youth Work relates to the following key Performance Indicators / targets;

- NI187 – secondary school persistent absence rate
- NI111 – first time entrance into the youth justice system. Young people aged 10-17 who receive their first substantive outcome from their criminal behaviour
- NI112 – Under 18's conception rate
- NI113 – Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds
- NI114 – Rate of permanent exclusions from school
- NI115 – Substance misuse by young people
- NI110 – Positive activities for young people.

The methods of delivering these outcomes involve a range of open access provision as well as work within local secondary schools

5.3. The Centre Manager, a youth worker who reports to the Youth Team Manager, is required to report to the Executive Committee, on an annual plan, at least three times a year. The annual plan will, by agreement, identify the objectives for the use of the Genesis Centre.

6 The Genesis Youth Centre Executive Committee

6.1. The Agreement provides for the Genesis Centre to be used by Fareham Youth service for the delivery of youth work. The Agreement requires an Executive Committee to be established which shall be responsible for the development of the Centre, support of management staff and to make recommendations in respect of the operation and use of the Centre to the parties of the Agreement.

6.2. The Executive Committee shall consist of;

- Two representatives of the Borough Council.
- Two representatives of the County Council.
- Two representatives of the Users Sub-Committee.
- One neighbourhood. representative.

6.3. The seven representatives constitute the voting members of the Centre Executive Committee. In addition the County Council may appoint up to six non-voting co-opted members with specific skills and interests in young people and the arts.

6.4. The Executive Committee is required to meet three times a year and more regularly at the request of any two members, upon the giving of two weeks written notice to the Chairperson.

- 6.5 The Executive Committee will receive progress reports on the delivery of the Annual Plan (see Section Five, Performance), at least three times each year and two weeks prior to each meeting.

7 Authority

- 7.1 To ensure the Executive Committee can be properly constituted, two Hampshire County Council elected members are required to be appointed to the committee
- 7.2 The County Council's Constitution requires the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, in making appointments to outside bodies (not on a proportional basis), to consult with the minority parties. Accordingly, Councillor B Dash has been consulted and has confirmed his support to the proposal that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services appoint Councillor P Edgar and Councillor M Tucker as the County Council's representatives on the Genesis Youth Centre Executive Committee.

8 Future direction

- 8.1. In light of the developments of integrated Services For Young People alongside the emerging Local Children's Partnerships, Youth Provision is a key element of achieving improved outcomes for young people
- 8.2. The management oversight of the Genesis Youth Centre will play a pivotal role in improving services for young people in the Fareham / Locks Heath area.

9 Recommendation

- 9.1. That Councillor P. Edgar and Councillor M Tucker be appointed as the Hampshire County Council representatives on the Genesis Youth Centre Executive Committee for a period of two years from the date of decision.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1 Equalities Impact Assessment

1.1. The Genesis Youth Centre is a fully inclusive youth centre.

2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The management and oversight of Youth Work in the Locks Heath area makes a positive local contribution to reducing Crime and Disorder.

3 Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No Impact