

The Policy Context for the Delivery of Young People's Service in Lancashire

Government Strategy for Young People

The publication of the Youth Matters Strategy in 2005, followed by Youth Matters: Next Steps in 2006 set out the government 'Vision' and expectations for the delivery of services for young people.

A key aspect of the Youth Matters agenda was to relocate the responsibility for the delivery of the Connexions Service from Connexions Partnerships to the Local Children's Trust Partnership arrangements led by local authorities.

Statutory Framework

Youth Matters specifies a new role and duty for the local authority to deliver the Youth Offer that was included in the Education and Inspection Act 2006, which received Royal assent in November 2006.

Implementing such arrangements is intended to:

- secure young people's access to educational and recreational leisure time activities and facilities;
- develop significant facilities for educational leisure time activities which are for the improvement of the personal and social development of qualifying young people;
- consult young people about positive activities and other decisions affecting their lives;
- publicise information on what positive activities are available in the county and local areas.

The Statutory duties and functions of the Lancashire Young People's Service include:

Focus of provision	Statute	Description of Statutory function
Places to go and things to do (positive activities) and opportunities which promote personal development and learning	Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 6	<p>Section 507B – Securing Positive Activities Local Authorities (LA's) must, as far as reasonably practicable, secure for young persons access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient educational leisure-time activities for improvement of their well-being* and sufficient facilities for such activities; and • Sufficient recreational leisure-time activities for improvement of their well-being* and sufficient facilities for such activities. <p>*Reflects the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes. Educational Leisure Time Activities: include homework or special interest clubs, out of school hours coaching in artistic, sporting or other physical activities etc.</p>

		<p>Recreational Leisure Time Activities: include sports / informal physical activities, range of cultural activities etc. It will be for the authority to decide what constitutes “<i>sufficient</i>” taking into account the needs of the young people in its area.</p>
	<p>Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 6</p>	<p>Section 507B – Publicising Positive Activities LA's are required to publicise information on positive activities in their area and keep this information up-to-date. They should expand the content of their existing websites to provide a one-stop-shop for young people seeking information on positive activities and related facilities. Other media such as leaflets, text-message alerts and email updates should also be available. Involving young people in the design and production of information products will help ensure relevance, appeal and accessibility of the information provided.</p> <p>The local authority must provide information to young people and communities on the progress it is making towards its plans for the local offer. Young people will be encouraged to access activities that have quality standards accreditation. Advertising such accreditation will help drive up standards by raising expectations that providers will meet quality standards.</p>
	<p>Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 75</p>	<p>With regard to education and training to satisfy entitlements; Local authorities will need to consider the siting of leisure facilities so as to focus investment on areas where a need for a better fit with local transport routes has been identified.</p> <p>In regard to school-based positive activities, through Section 75 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, local authorities are required to publish an <i>annual sustainable school transport strategy</i> and will be under a duty to promote sustainable modes of transport. Direct actions that authorities can take to address transport issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning or subsidising young people's transport. • Supporting providers of positive activities by allowing them to use LA-owned buses/mini-buses or allocating funds specifically for transport costs. • Providing mobile provision of positive activities. • Facilitating discussion between young people and local transport providers about potential improvements / changes to services. • Reviewing the resource they dedicate to cycle training and supporting cycling where they think this may help increase participation in positive activities. • Ensuring that young people can access information on transport. • Considering promoting the implementation of travel plans by positive activity providers. • Enables the provision of financial assistance to

		<p>facilitate access for young people. Subsidy is likely to be an extremely effective means of increasing participation in activities that currently make a charge. Local authorities are specifically encouraged to provide young people in care with free access to positive activities (ref: Care Matters).</p>
	<p>Childcare Act 2006 Section 12</p>	<p>LA's have an obligation to provide parents and carers with information on services that may benefit young people in their area. Therefore LAs will need to provide information on positive activity provision. This could be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascading information to professionals already working with parents. • Encouraging schools to provide adequate information to parents regarding the positive activities available under the school's extended offer and within the wider local offer.
<p>Confidential and impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG) Specialist careers guidance on jobs, skills and the labour market</p>	<p>Education and Skills Act 2008 (replaces Section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000)</p>	<p>Statutory duty to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "provide an information and guidance (IAG) service to young people attending schools and colleges which equips them to enter suitable employments". <p>(LAs have a duty to provide Connexions support services to young people aged 13-19 and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities upto 25. In particular Connexions services should be used to encourage and assist young people in engaging and remaining in education and training).</p>
<p>Careers Education</p>	<p>Education and Skills Act 2008</p>	<p>Statutory duty;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For schools to deliver a programme of careers education from Year 7 to 11 which will provide impartial information and advice which promotes the best interests of pupils and which does not seek to promote the interests of the school over other options. Also for schools to give careers advisers, (Young People's Service IAG workers), access to students to provide careers guidance, and to provide them with information about those students. • For FE Colleges to provide comprehensive, up-to-date information on learning and career opportunities in a location that all young people can access and make available impartial advice and guidance for young people, differentiated to meet their individual needs – this may be provided by a range of people from inside and outside a college. • For Work Based Learning Providers to support young people's personal and career development.
<p>Reduce the numbers of young people aged 13-19yrs who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)</p>	<p>Education and Skills Act 2008</p>	<p>Statutory duty;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "to provide services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of 13-19 year old young people in education & training".

Support for young people with LDD	Education and Skills Act 2008 (Ref: replacing Learning & Skills Act 2000 Section 140)	Statutory duty to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "provide assessments to "statemented" young people leaving Year 11 (to be extended to encompass "statemented" young people leaving Year 12) to facilitate their successful transition to preferred post 16 education/training/work options. This assessment is known as the 139A/140 assessment after the relevant sections in the Learning and Skills Act 2000. There is also a power to provide such assessments as considered appropriate to all other young people with learning difficulties or disabilities.
Support for young people in Youth Offender Institutions	Apprenticeship, Skills Children and Learning Bill	In addition the Apprenticeship, Skills Children and Learning Bill – Includes measures to make children's trusts statutory, give all young people the legal right to an apprenticeship, and force schools to promote pupils wellbeing and provide impartial information, advice and guidance. - Part 2 LA functions – under core and additional entitlements states "The home authority must, both during the period of detention and upon the person's release from detention, take steps as they consider appropriate to promote the person's fulfilment of his or her learning potential" As illustrated above it is important that when planning an IAG service for Hindley that we remember that young offenders in custody have the same entitlements to impartial advice and guidance as all young people in educational establishments.

The above-mentioned legislation was developed into action plan form in July 2007, through the Every Child Matters: Change for Children agenda, and by the publication of Aiming High for Young People. This ten year strategy includes promoting activities that provide an informed and balanced view of young people in communities addressing the negative perceptions of young people and also celebrating their achievements. In particular, the strategy refers to:

- removing barriers to access and support for all young people, particularly those facing challenging behaviours;
- contributing to the implementation of the 14-19 reforms;
- targeted support to the most vulnerable individuals to prevent negative outcomes.

Lancashire's Response

In response to 'Youth Matters' and the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006', Lancashire County Council took the decision to:

- transfer (under TUPE) the 'Connexions' function held formerly by Connexions Lancashire Ltd into the local authority.
- amalgamate the Youth and Community Service and (former) Connexions to form the Lancashire Young People's Service from April 2007.

A vision for the new Service was produced and wide-ranging consultation was undertaken with stakeholders, including young people. The Lancashire Young People's Service was officially launched in June 2008, at an event attended by over 200 invited guests.

The vision for the Lancashire Young People's Service enables young people aged 11 to 25 to:

- take opportunities;
- make positive choices;
- see positive futures;
- be engaged in communities.

A delivery model has been implemented, which deploys services to young people through three strands of delivery:

- Open Access Provision;
- Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG); and
- Prevention and Inclusion Services.

The combination of the Open Access and IAG strands provide for 'universal access' opportunities for young people with the Prevention and Inclusion strand focused on those young people with more challenging behaviour or complex needs.

Open Access Provision

This will be:

- developed in consultation with young people and a wide range of partners.
- delivered from places and spaces 'owned by young people' or seen as young people friendly and include the Lancashire Young People's Service being co-located as appropriate;
- reflective of a range of methodologies, including group based and larger scale events, to meet the wide and varied needs of young people;
- Programmes with a balance of leisure and educational outcomes that contribute to a young person's personal development and progression;
- fun and engaging.

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

We will:

- create a balance between generic IAG and the more personalised and in depth guidance, on education, employment, training matters, job skills and the labour market;
- provide an assessment of individual need that is critical to achieving the right balance of service provision for young people;
- work with schools as important partners in the process and in devising mechanisms for the delivery of the IAG strand. There will be a wholesale offer to age cohorts in:
 - schools and colleges;
 - service venues;
 - detached/outreach;

- interactive services.

Prevention and Inclusion

This strand will focus on groups and individuals who, for whatever reason, require a targeted effort or support and the strand will offer:

- a focus on groups and individuals through:
 - prevention;
 - early intervention;
 - complex needs;
 - intensive support.
- tailored and personalised programmes to meet specific needs;
- a gateway to wider services under the 'Youth Offer' for those harder to reach.

These arrangements go some way to provide a framework for the development of an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) and a Targeted Youth Support Strategy (TYS) in Lancashire, reliant in addition, on the co-operation and joint working support of a range of other key agencies working with young people.

Working in Partnership

The Lancashire Young People's Service is expected to achieve on a number of key target areas relating to improving outcomes for young people. It is recognised that the Lancashire Young People's Service is not resourced to address the totality of all young people's agenda. In order to achieve success in the key target areas the Service will build upon existing council relationships and work in collaboration with other agencies.

Through such partnership work, the Lancashire Young People's Service plays an important part in contributing to a range of cross-cutting targets in three key areas:

- Children and Young People's Plan;
- Local Area Agreement;
- PSA targets and National Indicators.

The broad provision available through the Lancashire Young People's Service in each locality is supported by commissioned services from other agencies including the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations.

The Lancashire Young People's Service also commissions a range of services from CXL Ltd (a company owned by Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council) including Vacancy Matching, Careers Education and Guidance Curriculum Development, Information Service, work with young offenders at Hindley, and Workforce Development.