

# Overview and Scrutiny Review – Facilities for Older Children

---

## Equality Impact Assessment – screening.

---

**Name of Strategy/Policy:** Overview and Scrutiny Review: To investigate the facilities and activities (recreational, social and cultural) available for 13-19 year olds, including those with special education needs and those with disabilities up to the age of 25 and to evaluate whether such facilities and activities are on a paid for or free of charge basis.

Date of Assessment: **10 March 2009, updated on 23 April 2009**

Is this a new or updated Policy? New  Updated

How is the Strategy/Policy finalised/adopted: Cabinet/Board  Delegated

Lead Officer conducting the assessment: **Tracy Tiff** Job Title: **Overview and Scrutiny Officer**

**Service area: Overview and Scrutiny** **Contact details: 01604 837408** **ttiff@northampton.gov.uk**

**Others involved in the assessment** (*this could include service users, front line officers, people with specialist knowledge or interest*):

Silvina Katz – Policy Team Leader

**Identify what the activity is trying to achieve – why is the Policy/activity<sup>1</sup> required** (*is there a statutory duty, how was the issue identified, who was the originator of the activity, etc*).

At the Balloon Festival held in August 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee asked the public to suggest items for inclusion onto its work programme. Around twenty issues were suggested and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee produced a ballot of the top ten issues. A vote was taken at the local democracy week event held at the Guildhall in October 2008. Twenty-five people took part in the vote and the item with the most votes was Facilities available for Older Children, which attracted thirteen votes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Policy/activity in this context includes policies, services, strategies, functions, projects, plans, restructures, major events, etc

The expected outcomes of the Review are: -

- To evaluate and report any financial, physical or social barriers to access to facilities available for 13-19 year olds including those with special education needs and those with disabilities up to the age of 25.
- To produce a GAP analysis of facilities available.
- To produce and publish a database of available existing facilities.
- To make recommendations for further facilities, as appropriate.

**Purpose of the Policy/activity.** *(What does the activity entail? Consider how the activity relates to the council's equality and diversity duties and strategic priorities, etc).*

The purpose of the Review was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as: -

- To investigate the facilities and activities (recreational, social and cultural) available for 13-19 year olds, including those with special education needs and those with disabilities up to the age of 25.
- To evaluate whether such facilities and activities are on a paid for or free of charge basis.

**Identify the main beneficiaries or people affected by the issue** *(who benefits or is affected - local residents and users of area, community at large, visitors to the town, contractors working in the area, people delivering the service etc).*

An evidence-gathering meeting was held on 16 March 2009, which was widely publicised. Local residents and those within this age bracket have been encouraged to attend and provide details of the types of facilities available and the types of additional facilities/activities required.

Information has been gathering from the following organisations and groups to ascertain the types of facilities/activities currently being provided: -

- Northampton Volunteer Youth Association
- Northamptonshire County Council's Children and Young People's Services Directory
- Youth Forum's Spare Time Survey
- [www.Yipkids.co.uk](http://www.Yipkids.co.uk)
- Northampton Borough Council's Leisure Centres
- Sport for Youth
- Northampton Town Football Club (Gavin and Russell Lewis)
- County Music / Performing Arts

- Sports Clubs / Leagues
- Secondary Schools Survey / School Council/home educated children
- Roadmender
- Lowdown / Service Six
- Northampton Voluntary Youth Association
- Community Groups – Caspar / Neighbourhood Partnerships/Neighbourhood Managements
- Kingsthorpe Youth Forum
- Church Groups
- Boards Mapping Database
- Scouts / Girl Guides
- Sea / Army / Air / Cadets
- School Clubs / Saturday Morning
- Parish Councils
- MENCAP
- Connexions
- Fish Market
- Equality Forum members
- Residents Associations
- Patel Samaj
- Performing Arts – theatres
- Play Rangers

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee consulted the Youth Forum in respect of the above list and took its advice on who should be consulted. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee added its suggestions to the list.

Co-opted members to the Review are the Children and Young People's Services Officer, Northamptonshire County Council, Director, National Association of Youth Clubs and the Chief Executive, Connexions.

Councillor Ifty Choudary, member of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, offered to attend the local secondary schools and colleges. Contact was made with all of these, initially by telephone and then with a follow up email. To date no schools or colleges have responded to Councillor Choudary's request. The purpose of his short visits was to apprise the young people of the purpose of this Review and to ask them what facilities/activities they felt were lacking in the borough.

### **What information exists already?**

The Northampton Youth Forum has previously conducted a Survey regarding 'What do you do in your spare time?' Young people were consulted. This data will be used to assist inform the Review. The Northampton Youth Forum was also consulted on how to spend Money 4 Youth funding – suggesting ideas. Again, this data has been used to inform the Review. Copies of both documents are attached.

A questionnaire has been devised and sent to the organisations detailed in an earlier section of this document asking what facilities/activities are provided and whether these are on a paid for/free of charge basis and if they have capacity to provide further activities. The questionnaire was sent by email or post to over two hundred organisations and groups, to date around fifty-five responses have been received, approximately 27%.

The Director, National Association of Youth Clubs, provided a spreadsheet of clubs and organisations that hold facilities and activities for young people. This information has also informed the Review. Copy attached.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee received further evidence from a variety of sources: -

- Chief Executive, Connexions
- Young Persons Ambassador
- Director, National Association of Youth Clubs
- Neighbourhood Management Co-Ordinator, Northampton Borough Council,
- Senior Sports Development Officer, Northampton Borough Council

A copy of the minutes of the meeting that received this evidence can be located:

<http://fsmemservw2k3:8080/ieListDocuments.asp?CId=580&MId=6014&Ver=4&J=4>

#### **Has any consultation been undertaken on this or related issue?**

Not by Overview and Scrutiny. However, the Northampton Youth Forum has carried out consultations, copies of which are attached as detailed in the above section.

#### **Are any reports or other relevant documents available from our organisation or from partners or other sources?**

Forms suggesting items for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Balloon Festival 2008)

Ballot – Local Democracy Week event (October 2008)

The report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will be finalised towards the end of May 2009, after which a copy will be posted on the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny WebPages and will be able to be located:

[http://www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=464&pageNumber=11](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=464&pageNumber=11)

**Which parts of the activity have the potential for adverse impact or to discriminate unlawfully?** *(Factors or issues that could contribute to inequality, consider risks and opportunities).*

This activity was generated because there it was felt that there was a lack of activities and facilities available for the age bracket that the Review is looking at, with a potential adverse impact on young people. If it is found that other gaps exist, details will be given in the final report. From the evidence received it appears that there is a lack of activities for girls and a lack of provision of arts and crafts facilities.

This Overview and Scrutiny Review is being undertaken to identify the evidence that will help to make recommendations for improvement. The evidence should also help to identify whether certain diverse sectors are not included.

**Could a particular sector of the community be disadvantaged by the strategy/policy.**

Yes  No  *(give details of any evidence you may have)*

Those young people, with multiple characteristics, outside this age bracket may feel disadvantaged. The actual age bracket was suggested by the Northampton Youth Forum. This was the age bracket that the Overview and Scrutiny Review therefore concentrated upon.

**If no**, then have this confirmed by the Corporate Equalities Steering Group representative for your area and signed off by your Service Head / Corporate Director/ Board. In the event of any queries, check with a member of the Policy team.

**Action points** *(please make this SMART-state what/who/how/when See action plan below)*

**See Action Plan**

1. The data gathered will be reviewed and a GAP analysis of the known activities and facilities available will be produced. This document will be appended to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's final report.
2. If it is found that it is difficult to obtain evidence due to a lack of data, it may be necessary to consider monitoring to improve data intelligence. If required this will be undertaken using the principles set out in the EIA Toolkit.
3. It is possible that a recommendation contained in the final report could be to refer the findings of this Review to the Northamptonshire Countywide Scrutiny Committee to undertake further work. The Northamptonshire Countywide Scrutiny Committee comprises

members from Northamptonshire County Council and the Northants borough and district councils.

4. It is possible that some groups may still be disadvantaged from some of the recommendations contained in the final report.
- 5 The Review is investigating the facilities and activities (recreational, social and cultural) available for 13-19 year olds, including those with special education needs and those with disabilities up to the age of 25 and to evaluate whether such facilities and activities are on a paid for or free of charge basis. It is possible that those outside this age group could feel left out. The Northampton Youth Forum was asked to suggest a relevant age for *Older Children* and the young people's advice was taken on this age bracket.

**I agree that this policy/activity should not proceed to a full Impact Assessment** (If appropriate, date equality impact assessment will commence)

**Confirmed by:**

**Signed by:**

**Please attach a copy of this screening to the document it relates**

✓

Copy to be sent to Policy Team Leader at [policy@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:policy@northampton.gov.uk)

✓