

**New Strategic Direction**

# **Are you interested in running a youth club?**

**What happens next?**

**15 February – 31 March 2011**

# Help shape the future of Suffolk's youth clubs

Due to reductions in government funding, Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Service needs to cut its budget by at least 28% within three years. This means that we have to change the way in which some current services are delivered. The status quo is not an option.

In 2010, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a proposal to invite other organisations and groups in Suffolk to run youth clubs. Communities would be able to take over the running of existing Suffolk County Council youth clubs or start up a new type of club.

This booklet provides more information about this proposal, and is an invitation for community groups who are interested in running youth clubs in Suffolk to express an interest and to put their ideas forward. It aims to encourage community and voluntary groups, businesses, local town or parish councils and individuals across Suffolk to determine how open access youth provision will be delivered in future at no cost to the county council.

To express an interest, please complete and return the questionnaire with this form (see pages 8 and 9) or online at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011)

Please note that all questionnaires have to be received by Thursday 31st March 2011.

## **Cllr Graham Newman**

Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder  
for Children and Young People

Front cover image:  
Boxford Dance Group, June 2010



Wikifest in Ipswich, October 2010

# Services to be delivered differently in the future

With major changes affecting the country's economy, and the government's aim to cut the national budget deficit over coming years, Suffolk County Council needs to cut its budget for youth services.

This presents an opportunity as well as a challenge to find new ways of providing services that help young people overcome personal and social issues, become engaged in their local communities, and to explore their talents in a supportive environment.

There are many services in Suffolk for young people in terms of schools, community youth groups and youth clubs, and targeted provision offered by voluntary sector agencies. Suffolk County Council will now have to target its limited resources and cease to provide youth clubs.

Many local authorities have already taken the step in recent years to divest youth centres/services for all young people, concentrating instead on targeted work and other forms of partnership working.

It is envisaged that Suffolk Youth and Connexions will no longer exist in its current form. Instead Suffolk County Council is proposing to create a new frontline Youth Support Service, which will provide more help for the most vulnerable and at risk young people. The age range of the new service will be 11-19 (25 for young people with additional needs), which represents a shift to supporting younger children at the earliest opportunity to prevent more significant problems at a later stage.

## Suffolk's youth clubs today

- Suffolk has 32 youth clubs for 13-19 year olds across the county.
- Youth clubs meet between one and four evenings per week in term time.
- Some youth clubs have attracted considerable numbers of young people. However many youth clubs particularly in rural areas tend to have a smaller membership.
- Youth clubs are open predominantly in the evening with occasional specialist activities at weekends and during school holidays.



Murrayside music suite launch in Ipswich, October 2009

# An opportunity to have your say

Suffolk County Council's New Strategic Direction is about enabling communities to take greater responsibility for providing their local services. As part of this strategy, the council does not propose to provide services directly but rather to divest them to other organisations.

The county council is inviting communities and businesses, youth leaders and staff, and district, borough, town and parish councils to express an interest in providing this service.

Although a decision has been made that Suffolk County Council will be unable to continue the funding of youth clubs, the council is keen to support local communities to develop services that meet local need. This is in line with the concept of 'Big Society' in Suffolk.

We propose to hold a series of open meetings in each of the three areas of youth work in Suffolk (West, South and North) to enable any groups or organisations interested in exploring ideas to come together to gain information, discuss ideas and agree a way forward.



Felixstowe Graffiti Project

## The aim of the sessions will be to:

- Gather information on the New Strategic Direction and the changes that are proposed for work with young people.
- Consider how services for young people could be offered by local groups within the community to meet their needs.
- Gain some understanding about the possible future use of current Suffolk County Council youth centres and the financial implications.
- Consider how to involve young people in the decision-making process.
- Agree a way forward.

Any representatives of local voluntary organisations, community groups or other interested parties are welcome to attend. The meetings will be organised by staff from Suffolk County Council Youth Service with support from colleagues of Young Suffolk, the umbrella organisations representing voluntary and local groups working with young people.

Every group or individual who has completed a questionnaire to express an interest in running a youth club, will be invited to attend a meeting. Please note that you will have to attend the meeting specifically relating to your local area. Details of the exact locations and timings of the open meetings will be published on our website: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011) and through Young Suffolk's electronic alert system.

Over the coming weeks information sharing meetings will be established in key areas throughout the county. Please check the website on a regular basis for updates on dates, times and venues for these meetings.

# The cost of open access youth provision in Suffolk

We have prepared some background information which will give interested parties an indication of the current costs incurred by Suffolk County Council in the running of open access youth facilities.

You can download this on our website [www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011) or please call 01473 260176 if you would like a copy of the publication. Please note that these costs are indicative only. In many cases buildings are shared with other users and it is difficult to break down the exact costs associated with youth work. Also, some staff are based at the centre but could be involved in outreach work in the town, rather than in running the youth club. If you would like more information about how the figures were gathered, please contact Keith Jennings, tel: 01473 260176 or email: [keith.jennings@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:keith.jennings@suffolk.gov.uk)

1. Beccles Youth Centre
2. Boston Lodge Youth Club Lowestoft
3. Brandon Flowerpot Drop-in Club
4. Bungay Youth Centre
5. Castle Hill Community Centre Ipswich
6. Clare Youth Club
7. Colville House Youth Club Lowestoft
8. Debenham High Suffolk Centre
9. Eye CYP Centre
10. Felixstowe Youth & Community Centre
11. Foley House Youth Centre Newmarket
12. Framlingham Youth Club Shalom Centre
13. Great Cornard Wells Hall Old School
14. Halesworth Apollo Youth Club
15. Haverhill Hangar Youth Club (Burton Centre)
16. Mildenhall Jubilee Centre
17. Kesgrave Youth Centre
18. Leiston Youth Centre
19. Metro IS Centre Lowestoft
20. Morton Road Youth Club Lowestoft
21. Murrayside Ipswich
22. Needham Market Youth Club
23. No 46 Information Bar Bury St Edmunds
24. Pemberton House
25. Reydon Youth & Community Centre
26. Saxmundham Youth Club
27. Stradbroke Youth Club
28. Stone Lodge Youth & Community Centre
29. Stowmarket Youth & Community Centre



# What happens next?

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011)

The following timescales are envisaged for the process

## **November 2010**

In principle Cabinet approval of proposal for divestment of youth services. Consultation period commences.

## **December 2010 – February 2011**

Consultation with staff.

## **February 2011 – 31 March 2011**

Expression of interest invited from community groups, organisations, councils, individuals and businesses. Discussions underway to determine how services may be run locally within the community.

## **31 March 2011**

Last day to receive expressions of interest.

## **April 2011 – June 2011**

Negotiation and consultation with groups and individuals who have expressed an interest. The future arrangement for each centre will be determined by local communities.

Divestment plans for each individual facility drawn up.

## **Contact us**

For an informal discussion about the consultation, or for further information:

Telephone: 01473 260176

Email: [keith.jennings@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:keith.jennings@suffolk.gov.uk)



Wikifest held in Ipswich in October 2010

# Frequently asked questions

## What is meant by “universal open access youth provision”?

Suffolk County Council open access youth club sessions are run from Suffolk County Council owned youth clubs or leased premises. Youth Clubs provide young people with access to activities including sports, music, art and craft, cooking, pool table, advice and guidance, etc. for sessions of a few hours at a time. These sessions are regularly held and can be attended by any young person aged 13-19 years (or 25 for those with additional needs), and a small membership or entrance fee may be charged.

Although the sessions are not necessarily educational in a formal sense, they are aimed at equipping young people with life skills, encouraging them to form friendships, achieve personal growth, and engage in positive activities in a safe environment.

## How can young people, parents or residents of Suffolk have their say about what is happening to youth services in Suffolk?

### Young people

The *thesource* Facebook page (Suffolk Youth and Connexions Service - [www.facebook.com/suffolkyouthconnexions](http://www.facebook.com/suffolkyouthconnexions)) which is a forum to:

- Gather young people’s views
- Provide updates on the progress of the consultation and its outcomes
- Advertise/promote opportunities for young people to become more involved.

### The public in general

If you would you like to express your views about Suffolk County Council’s New Strategic Direction, please visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/NSD](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NSD)

## What funding will be available for local and voluntary groups to run the youth club?

Suffolk County Council’s cabinet has agreed that a small divestment fund will be established to support

some interested parties within the community. The divestment fund will assist some communities to make a choice about continuing to provide services for young people, or start up something different, more suited to local need. This is a transitional arrangement and is therefore time limited. The amount that would be available through the divestment fund would be considerably less than the current staffing and running costs, and organisations and groups should not expect a grant for the value of the current running costs of a facility. Small awards from the divestment fund will be aimed at helping groups set up open access provision. This will help the transition process, and is not a way of ‘contracting out’ or ‘privatising’ the existing service.

## Will faith groups be considered?

The county council will consider any local groups who provide or are already providing positive activities for young people, as long as the facility is accessible to all young people, and there is no discrimination (e.g. on the basis of race or religion).

## We would like to take over the premises which Suffolk County Council currently owns or leases. How do we go about it?

Future providers may feel there are benefits from delivering a service from existing or different premises, or by other means. The premises from which services are currently delivered may be subject to wider divestment consultation and will not necessarily pass to a new service provider. Suffolk County Council would, however, welcome the opportunity to discuss possible transfer of assets with interested parties. Likewise where premises are held on a leasehold basis we would be happy to open discussions with landlords over possible future arrangements.

In all property dealings Suffolk County Council has to comply with legal and financial constraints and treat all interested parties fairly and responsibly.

If you or the group your represent are interested in taking over the premises from which open access youth facilities are currently provided, please state this intention clearly on the questionnaire (see pages 8 and 9).

# Your ideas for running a youth club in your local area

We want to know your ideas about innovative ways to provide activities for young people. Please tell us what opportunities could be provided for young people to engage them in recreational, leisure and other activities, whilst reducing the council's budget considerably.

Please complete the following questions stating your idea for or interest in running youth clubs. Write in the space provided and continue on a separate sheet if necessary. Please do not exceed 800 words for each answer.

**The deadline for your ideas is 31 March 2011.**

Further information about each youth club, and how much it is currently costing the council, is available from our website: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/YouthClub2011) or on request by calling us on 01473 260176.

.....  
: We are inviting community groups, businesses,  
: individuals, staff, district, borough, town and parish  
: councils to:  
: 1. Propose how youth club activities could continue  
: in a particular area with the county council making  
: a much reduced (or no) financial contribution  
: 2. Tell us of their interest in providing this service.  
: .....

## Section One

### Your idea / interest

1. Which youth club or town/village does your idea or interest relate to?

2. Please explain your idea or interest in running a youth club or providing activities for young people.

Please include in your answer:

- Whether you can personally contribute, or if your suggestion is made on behalf of a local organisation, company or individual(s)
- Who might provide the service and how?

3. Please explain what activities and how often you or your organisation would be providing them?

4. What support would you be looking for from Suffolk County Council?

5. How do you envisage funding the youth club or activities for young people?

6. When would you be able to start?

## Section Two – About you

**Individuals** - Complete this part if you are an individual and are offering your idea or a specific area of expertise

Name:

Email:

Telephone / other contact:

May we contact you to discuss your idea in more detail?

Yes  No

**Organisations** - Complete this part if you are an organisation, group, business, council or other body and have an idea for or interest in running a youth club.

Name of your organisation, company or group:

Email:

Telephone:

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call **08456 066 067**

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.

Portuguese

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.

Polish

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন

Bengali

بەم زانیاری هەشێنی یە ب ت گەیی هێی هە یارمەر ب وی سێتیت بەگەیی بەگەویی غوارم ژمارەندی بەیوو بەزمان گەیی تەرنگەیی

Kurdish

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。

Chinese

اگر شما نیاز دارید که این اطلاعات را به زبان دیگری دریافت کنید لطفاً به شماره زیر تلفن کنید.

Farsi

If you would like this information in another format, including audio tape or large print, please call **08456 066 067**.



## Thank you for your response

Please return the completed form to:

The future of Suffolk's youth clubs  
Suffolk Youth and Connexions Service  
Suffolk County Council  
Block 1, Floor 3  
Endeavour House  
8 Russell Street  
Ipswich  
IP1 2BB

**Publication of responses** - please note that your responses, excluding personal data, may be made publicly available.