



YOUNG SURREY Strategic Review 2012

Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	3.
Part A:	
Context: Strategic context, and Government policy.	4.
Politics & Finance	4.
Contracting & Commissioning	5.
Technology & Social Media	6.
Workforce Development - training	7.
Quality	7.
Part B:	
Policy issues:	8.
Positive for Youth	8.
Health	8.
Troubled Families	8.
Mental Health	9.
Carers	10.
Exclusion	11.
Employability	12.
Homelessness	12.
Sports – Olympic legacy	14.
Part C:	
Surrey Youth Focus, its members and young people:	15
The Issues facing the sector	15.
Volunteering	16.
Surrey Young Enterprise	16.
Uniformed Organisations	16.
Issues facing Young People	17.
Conclusion	19.

Executive Summary

This is the first Strategic Review from Surrey Youth Focus (SYF). Its purpose is to inform member organisations, and wider stakeholders about what is happening in the sector strategically, so that the sector can adjust to threats, and exploit opportunities.

The Report should also be of value in support of funding bids by increasing awareness of key policies and trends.

The Report is written to be forthright and challenging, but evidence based, with references in footnotes, and with all supporting documents on our website www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk. As this is the first such document, it is longer on this occasion than those that will follow on an annual basis.

The key theme is that this is a time of **great opportunity for those who are fortunate, disciplined and determined**. It is also becoming increasingly **challenging** for those young people who struggle, and **are at risk of being marginalised**. **As the front picture shows – will young people get on, or fall back?**

For the charity sector at large in Surrey it is also a challenging time, and perhaps a time to remodel and reshape, for the past and present will not be our future, such is the pace of change.

The Review is in 3 parts:

Part A: Context: Strategic context, and Government policy.

The point is made that the current pressures on the public expenditure will continue beyond the next General Election, scheduled for May 2015.

Part B: Policy issues:

This identifies mental health and homelessness amongst young people as growing concerns. There are also around 5,000 young people who are unemployed and/or not in training. It is suggested that the voluntary sector might do more to help with apprenticeships.

Part C: Surrey Youth Focus, its members and young people: -

Reports on the concerns of member organisations and young people. As regards young people it is their relationships with family and friends, pressures of studying and bullying that are core issues.

This report of course raises more questions than it answers

- **How can the funded parts of the voluntary youth sector respond to several more years of public sector cutbacks?**
- **Are links to the corporate and business sector the way forward?**
- **What are the implications for young people if current increases in mental health issues, and homelessness were to continue?**
- **Can the sector do more to assist in sponsoring apprenticeships?**
- **How can waiting lists for the uniformed organisations be addressed?**
- **How can we capitalise on the success of the London Games to further encourage young people into sport?**

The theme of this report is one of recognising that current organisational challenges will continue over several more years. For young people in Surrey there are both challenges and opportunities, **BUT** some may be on the cusp of facing a worsening picture that we need to watch closely, especially if there are further reductions in welfare benefits.

Part A – Context -

‘There is no normal we will ever go back to’

A bitter pill- politics and finance

It is important to appreciate the seriousness and longevity of the current national difficulties. The banking crisis that began in the USA in August 2007 triggered a world wide financial crisis that in Europe has been compounded by concern about the viability of the Euro, and the scale of personal and governmental debt. The situation in the USA generated similar issues in the UK- Northern Rock was bailed out in 2007, and the Governor of the Bank of England warned that this was the worst crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. David Cameron further warned we were in the “age of austerity”². The Coalition Government was formed in May 2010 and set about making public expenditure cuts in central and local government spending, which are likely to continue being made beyond the current fixed term Parliament.

However as the costs of welfare (unemployment and housing benefit and an ageing population) increase, it is currently not clear that the target reduction in spending will be met by the next General Election in May 2015. The UK economy is currently flatlining, and the prospects for economic growth in succeeding years have been revised downwards. The cut-backs to public expenditure programmes are likely to continue, with a particular focus on welfare payments, including possible cuts to housing benefits to those aged under 25. The Coalition Government appears to have postponed the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) scheduled for 2013, though cuts will continue, and will impact adversely on local government in 2013/14 and beyond.

Politicians are warning, as did the Governor of the Bank of England, that the need for public expenditure cuts would continue into the next Parliament (ie after 2015). Economic growth seems elusive as governments world-wide pursue the same policies (cutting government and consumer borrowing, and looking to an export led recovery) which are bound to counteract each other. However the cost of Government borrowing, and interbank lending (LIBOR) has remained low, enabling mortgage rates to be kept down, but with commensurately low rates for investors, as charity treasurers will have experienced.

This national context is a perfect storm³ of current jeopardy, and future risk that impacts on charities and young people.

The current jeopardy is reflected in loss of grants, increased use of highly competitive contracts, and their assignment to fewer, larger organisations so that the transaction costs to commissioners are reduced, but the costs are transferred to bidders. For young people the worst manifestation is in the one million unemployed young people, and the under-employment of many more.

The future risk is that the sector will be obliged both nationally and locally to cuts costs and merge, so at national level mergers are under discussion between NAVCA and Community Matters, and NCVO and Volunteering England. It would be surprising if there were not mergers in Surrey. The risk is that the voice of young people is not heard, and that issues go unregarded.

In terms of income sources, local government can no longer be looked to as a prime source of funding, other than through competitive contracts, and whilst low interest rates benefit borrowers, charities will have experienced reductions in income from investment and donations.

¹ NPC Blog quote from Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham, 30 April 2012

² David Cameron speech to Conservative Conference 2009

³ See for example Children England’s report of the same title:

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/Perfect%20Storms%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

The public's propensity to give seems to vary according to the cause- the London Marathon 2012 raised the most funds ever, but smaller charities struggle. Corporates are widely seen as being cash rich, and Surrey is well endowed with top companies, even if their giving varies hugely⁴.

Not such a big society

The Government was formed in May 2010 and initially emphasised decentralisation⁵ and the value of the voluntary sector as part of "The Big Society". It was always difficult to see how localism, variation of service standards, and community involvement would be squared with commissioning and cost cutting. Indeed the term "The Big Society", which was always controversial⁶, has now been dropped from the Government's lexicon.

Contracting/ Commissioning

Commissioning for public services is not new, and was invented in the 1980s when the mantra for government was "enabling, not providing"⁷. However it has grown apace as a way of outsourcing back office operations initially, and subsequently direct services. The health sector launched the concept of "World class commissioning" in November 2007, emphasising the importance of measuring outcomes.

Since then a new holy trinity has been developed:

- **Inputs(Staff time, financial resources)**
- **Outputs (activities)**
- **Outcomes(difference made or impact... consequences)**

The language has become embedded into the sector, being used by commissioners and funders alike, such as the Lottery.

However there are at least three serious critiques of commissioning:

1. The highly questionable ability to demonstrate an irrefutable link between the activities undertaken in a project, and their intended outcomes unless supported by appropriate performance measures, without which "outcomes" only illustrate a spurious and superficial rationality.
2. The "iron law of quality" applies – that Quality is affected by Time (staff resource) and £ Finance. So a reduction in financial investment necessitates an increase in (preparation/delivery) Time, if Quality is not to suffer.
3. The cultural impact on the voluntary sector as public authority funders move from grants to contracts and, arguably, the sector is forced to become a branch of the "voluntary corporate sector", as a member organisation put it.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 might address some of these criticisms by requiring procurement processes to consider:

"... how what is proposed to be procured might improve the **economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area**, and how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement... only matters that are relevant to what is proposed to be procured and, in doing so, must consider the extent to which it is proportionate in all the circumstances to take those matters into account..."

⁴ The Surrey Corporate Social Responsibility Index, Hart Brown, 2011

⁵ Localism Act

⁶ Big society idea 'divides the Cabinet and is loathed by the public' - Third Sector online, 25 January 2011

⁷ "The Local right: enabling, not providing" Nicholas Ridley, Centre for Policy Studies, 1988

It remains to be seen how local authorities apply this in practice when the Act becomes operative from January 2013; it is already being used by some local authorities⁸ to support local charities and social enterprises.

Meanwhile there is a considerable body of reports and material about commissioning for outcomes, impact, and payment by results.

One useful document to support bids is the Young Foundation's report⁹ on devising outcomes in youth work. The report distinguishes between factors that might be **intrinsic** to individual young people (happiness, self-esteem, confidence) and those which are **extrinsic** (education results, jobs, good health). Their interesting finding, which supports youth work, is that in the long run it is the intrinsic, relational outcomes that most affect life chances, not, for example, the achievement of particular exam results.

Similarly NCVYS and the think –tank Social Finance have just published¹⁰ a report on Payment by Results.

Charities including The Youth Consortium are deploying software that enables their work to be automatically “plugged in” to a form of outcome based performance measurement tracker¹¹.

In Surrey the County Council launched the start of its Transformation of Services for Young People¹² in April 2009 that culminated in April 2012 in the awarding of youth work contracts to various contractors including The Youth Consortium. The Council's newly integrated Services for Young People undertook a huge amount of work in a short time, particularly as its total budget was being reduced by 30%.

The Youth Consortium was awarded two contracts that are underway currently. The progress and lessons learnt from these contracts are being monitored closely. Another (Associate) organisation - Working Links has also won significant contracts providing careers advice to schools (the website “You explore”) and a magazine style site for young people called “Surge”.

Oops - “Not more than 300 words”...Technology and social media

It is amazing to think that the Internet was founded in 1989, and the first website was created in 1991, but are now indispensable and ubiquitous. Facebook was launched in 2004 and has reached 1 billion users (October 2012) and is still growing (even if its share price has not!) Twitter was founded in March 2006 and now has 500 million regular users who make 340 million tweets a day. The publication of social contacts on Facebook, Linked in and other sites has enabled brands to use these media to advertise to young people directly. We are in the era of digital and viral marketing, using the power of mobile technology (both phones and tablets).

The potential of this technology and social media is still developing, but is huge¹³ - **“From word of mouth to world of mouth”**¹⁴.

Social media has become an essential place for the voluntary youth sector to have a presence, and Surrey Youth Focus has 1,400 followers on Twitter (ok Lady Gaga has 35 million!). Young people are interested in what is “trending” on you-Tube, Facebook and Twitter and this presents

⁸ “Public Services (Social Value) Act Abrief Guide. Social Enterprise UK, Feb.2012

⁹ “An outcomes framework for young people's services”, The Young Foundation, 2012

¹⁰ http://ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/SF_YOUTH_FINAL%20pdf.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.socialimpacttracker.org/>

¹² “The Transformation of Services for Young people”, SCC Education Select Committee, 28 April 2012.

¹³ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1083-6101.2007.00393.x/full> article on social network sites

¹⁴ Book review on “Socialnomics” by Erik Qualman

http://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=yAqD19i2U0UC&oi=fnd&pg=PT13&dq=future+of+social+media&ots=AvKkU5wS5H&sig=6y7QD7DN_Ubn_Hg_qNFEm2zoQIQ

opportunities for the enterprising. The 22 year old entrepreneur, whose company is developing the Surge website, advises that young people will only read a maximum of 300 words, preferably illustrated with pictures, and videos. You have been warned!

Workforce development (aka –“training”)

Youth work as a career has become a graduate profession, with a distinction between youth support workers and youth work professionals, and consequent differences in pay rates¹⁵. These parameters apply less in the voluntary youth sector where affordability and market rates are a greater consideration.

Nevertheless young people and their parents are entitled to expect professionalism from all workers, and a number of courses are available.

Surrey Youth Focus has been running a highly successful “ Youth Work – the basics” course for volunteer youth workers (contact marie.silvester@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk) which will shortly become an accredited course at Level 1 (entry level)

NCVYS have worked with awarding bodies to deliver a new qualification at Level 2 (GCSE level) on “Working with Young people” which is to be made available by Lifetrain in Surrey.

Guildford FE College are intending to run a “ Understanding Youth Work Principles and Practice “ course at Level 2 (GCSE level) starting early next year. All of these courses are pathways to youth support worker status, or beyond.

Fit for purpose? Quality

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has a “Quality mark”¹⁶ system to demonstrate the value of youth work. Typically it is whole organisations that seek the Mark- West Sussex County Council Youth Service were early adopters. The NYA also have a “Hear by Right” programme which is used by SYF to demonstrate the value of projects.

There are many “whole organisation” quality systems – IIP, ISO 9001 and others. Surrey Youth Focus has PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance for Small Organisations) -an externally validated award from the Charities Evaluation Service.

At entry level SYF may be offering to its current and future Members from January 2013 an “entry level” quality system – “Simple Quality Protects” that will in particular address issues of Safeguarding. It will be particularly relevant to small organisations and youth clubs.

In the more strategic commissioning – contracting sphere, quality is addressed by the tendering process and the sifting undertaken at the Pre- Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ stage).

The point is to be able to demonstrate an organisation’s fitness for purpose, and in particular that Safeguarding issues are dealt with fully.

¹⁵ See : <http://www.nya.org.uk/workforce-and-training/getting-qualified>

¹⁶ <http://www.nya.org.uk/quality/quality-mark>

Part B Policy Issues

The scope of this Part B is on the outworking of policies and trends as they apply in Surrey. The scale is too extensive to go into much detail. However those interested in finding evidence of need to support grant bids are strongly advised to access Surrey-I which is a highly informative public website. It contains superb papers on Family Poverty in Surrey and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment upon which commissioning of health and local government services is based. Much of the data in this section comes from Surrey-I to which credit is due. www.surreyi.gov.uk

Positive for Youth

“Positive for Youth” was published after extensive consultation in December 2011, and conveyed a vision of young people based upon:

Supportive relationships

- *Supporting parents and families*
- *Building strong communities*
- *Providing early help*

Good opportunities

- *Personal and social development*
- *Voice in society*

Strong ambitions

- *Succeed in learning and work*
- *Live safe and healthy lives*
- *Be active in society*

This policy paper was prepared with care and sensitivity - Surrey Youth Focus were early consultees- but there were no particular funding resources attached, and the Minister responsible has since been “reshuffled”. However the paper is useful for its confirmation of the value of relational youth work in a family setting, and the importance of early intervention.

Health

A significant change is being pushed forward in the Health Service with the abolition of Primary Care Trusts and their replacements by GP led Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). These come into operation in April 2013, when public health also becomes the responsibility of local authorities. An independent report¹⁷ into the views of 300 GPs has found that:

- 76% of GPs believed the economic downturn had a negative impact on their patient’s health in the last 4 years
- 64% felt there was an increase in patients drinking more alcohol
- 77% felt there was an increase in new mental health conditions in the last 4 years linked to the economic data

There are currently 6 CCGs in Surrey which go live in March 2013. Details can be found at: www.surreyhealth.nhs.uk/index.php/2011-09-23-13-32-30/clinical-commissioning-groups-ccgs

Troubled families

The Allen Report¹⁸ documented, again, the effectiveness and cost –saving derived from early intervention and has remained influential. The Prime Minister launched the Troubled Families¹⁹

¹⁷ The Austerity Report; Impact of the recession on the UK’s health according to GPs, Insight Research Group, Aug 2012

¹⁸ The Allen Report on Early Intervention, Graham Allan MP , Jan 2011

¹⁹ The Troubled Families initiative at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/troubledfamilies/troubledfamiliesqanda/>

initiative in Dec 2011, asking local authorities to target and support some 120,000 troubled families on a payment by results basis. Troubled families are households who:

- Are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Have children not in school
- Have an adult on out of work benefits
- Cause high costs to the public purse

Surrey was defined as having some 1,050 troubled families. Surrey County Council, like many other councils is checking on this figure. It is currently running a “Supporting Families” pilot in Waverley due to finish in April 2013, after which a decision will be made on next steps. The “outcome based” – payment by results criteria are demanding on local authorities, and it will be interesting to see if these are delivered, if indeed the (part) funding of £4,000 per family is taken up.

The Child Poverty Act 2010 requires local authorities and partner organisations to work together to tackle child poverty and its effects.

- 23,090 children and young people in Surrey aged 0-19 live in low-income households. This equates to 9.9% of the 0-19 population, which is approximately equivalent to the children and young people population of Woking Borough.
- over 16,000 children and young people live in families that receive Job Seekers Allowance.
- poverty in Surrey disproportionately affects children under 10; this group make up 64% of 0-19s in poverty in Surrey.
- most 0-19s in poverty are White British because the majority of Surrey’s population is White British, however, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black African and Gypsy / Roma or Traveller children and young people in Surrey are more likely to experience poverty as it disproportionately affects these groups.
- Estimates indicate that there are between 8,227 and 13,535 disabled children and young people in Surrey.

Mental health - Self harm, drugs and alcohol

A study²⁰ undertaken by the Mental Health Foundation amongst girls aged 10-14 for Girlguiding UK found that:

- Half the girls questioned know someone who has suffered from depression (51 per cent).
- Two-fifths know someone who has self-harmed (42 per cent).
- A third had a friend who has suffered from an eating disorder (32 per cent).
- Almost two in five have a friend who has experienced panic attacks (38 per cent)
- A quarter know someone who has taken illegal drugs (27 per cent).
- Two-fifths have experience of someone drinking too much alcohol (40 per cent).

This study summarises many of the difficulties some young people are experiencing and in particular the link between low self-esteem, self harming and drug and alcohol misuse. An email received in Surrey youth Focus’s office from a 14 year old girl stated:

“I am appalled to see how much people bully each other on social networking sights but nothing can be done because these networking sites are set so it can be anonymous. And did you know 60.1% of teens aged 14-16 self harm. Mostly because of bullying. Then people ditch school because they are scared to come in. I just want people to know bullying is not okay and if people self-harm or want to commit suicide because 9% of teens try. 14.6% plan there suicides and 19.2% think about it. Do you think that bullying is ruining our community? Cause I know I do. We need to act now. Before it is too late.”

²⁰ A Generation under Stress?. Mental Health Foundation/Girlguiding UK, July 2008

Young Surrey Strategic Review 2012

The view of youth workers on the ground is that in the high need wards between 80% and 100% of the young people they work with are using soft drugs. Indeed there is a very clear link between the incidence of mental health issues in the widest sense and the wards having the highest numbers of children in poverty.

Wards with the highest % of children with mental health disorder in children age 5 to 15 yrs			
Borough / District	Ward	Percentage Estimate	National proportion
Reigate and Banstead	Preston	11.5	9.5%
Surrey Heath	Old Dean	11.4	
Woking	Sheerwater	11	
Guildford	Stoke	10.6	
Spelthorne	Stanwell North	10.3	
Reigate and Banstead	Horley West	10.2	
Elmbridge	Walton North	10.1	
Epsom and Ewell	Ruxley	10	
Guildford	Westborough	10	
Mole Valley	Holmwood and Beare Green	9.9	

From: CAHMS Healthcare Needs Assessment, Aug 2009, p.56

Surrey Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAHMS) helps young people up to age 18. Its figures have been increasing sharply, and CAMHS Teams are seeing a greater demand on services across the county. The average caseload for the service increased by nearly 11% from 3,090 in 2010/11, to 3,455 in 2011/12.

The CAHMS priority young people are:

- Young carers (12,000)
- Gypsy roma traveller children (1,500 – 3,000)
- Children from black and minority ethnic groups (around 25,000)
- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or Disability (5533, of which some 238 had behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BSD), and around 580 Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Children at risk of abuse or neglect (3,500 children in need, and 791 children subject to a child protection plan)
- Children in Care or 'Looked After Children' (around 800)
- Young people who use drugs frequently.
- Children and young people not participating in education, training or employment (around 1000)
- Vulnerable children and young people
- Children in poverty (around 22,000).

Anecdotal evidence suggests that demand for service is increasing, and that the bar to service access has been raised, with a risk that young people may endure problems without support. However there is an extensive programme of training in schools (Targeted mental health in Schools) which has involved some 235 schools.

“ I’m not a carer –she’s just my sister”

Surrey has some 3,000 very remarkable young people (671 aged 16-17, and 2403 aged 18-24) who are young carers whose experiences have been documented in an important report ²¹. The

²¹ “Research into Young Adults Aged 16-24 in Surrey”, Surrey Young Carers, Jan.2012.

modesty and kindness of these young people is conveyed throughout the report. These characteristics are also reflected in a short film made by a 16 year old student, and young carer, at Magna Carta school called “Living with Ashley”- his sister who has Downs Syndrome, but attends college and has got on with her life.

However the strains on young carers are also documented – ignoring their own health issues, difficulties in accessing education and so on. A key finding was the need to ensure effective arrangements for the transition period at 18 – moving from being a young carer to an adult carer.

Exclusion

There is a constant media and public concern about the numbers of young people who are Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) aged 16-18, or receiving Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) aged 18-24 for purpose of this report.

“The Cost of Exclusion” has been well documented since at least 2007 when a Prince’s Trust report of that name researched by the LSE was published²². Besides pointing to the cost of benefits and the loss of tax revenue, the report also identifies the link between unemployment and crime, and to depression and mental health issues. The Audit Commission’s “Against the Odds” reiterated the same messages in greater detail, “pricing” the lifetime cost of being NEET as £160,000 in direct and indirect costs²³.

Trends for Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training in Surrey:

Year	No. of NEETs
2008/09	937
2009/10	1,051
2010/11	893
2011/12	917

Source: Surrey CC YSS. The data above is the average number of NEET over a three month period (November to January) for the year shown, based on young people who have completed compulsory education and up to their 19th birthday. (Data is awaited at time of publication on those in the RONI category – Risk of NEET Indicators).

Surrey Connects publishes a regular monthly Economic Progress Report, including data on youth unemployment amongst young people. The number of young people aged 18-24 claiming Job Seekers' Allowance has more than doubled since before the recession, rising from 1,245 in February 2008 to 3,110 in February 2012. A peak was reached in Nov 2010 at just under 4,000, but since then the figures have been declining:

Date	No of JSA claimants aged 24 and under	% of all JSA claimants aged 24 and under	Claiming for 6+ months (% of total claimants aged 24 and under)	Claiming for 12+ months (% of total claimants aged 24 and under)
August 2011	3,255	26.5	590 (18.1)	140 (4.3)
May 2012	2,785	23.3	740 (26.6)	225 (8.1)
June 2012	2,700	22.8	760 (28.1)	245 (9.1)
July 2012	2,720	23.4	715 (26.3)	250 (9.2)
August 2012	2,820	24.4	665 (23.5)	285 (10.1)

Source: Surrey Economic Progress Report, Sept 2012.

Nevertheless the sum of NEETS, those at risk of becoming NEET, and those actually claiming benefit is around 5,000 – a not insignificant and certainly costly figure.

²² “The Cost of Exclusion”, The Prince’s Trust, April 2007

²³ “Against the Odds”, Audit Commission, July 2010, p.16

Surrey CC has developed a Young people's Employability Plan 2012-17 to address the implications (July 2012) to address the implications of this and raising the participation age (see below).

Employability

The Youth Contract is a catch-all term covering a variety of initiatives from the Government that are too extensive to cover here, more information can be found at www.dwp.gov.uk/youth-contract/

Amongst the more important recent developments are:

Raising the Participation Age: launched by the previous Government so that young people will be required to continue in education or training until aged 17 from summer 2013, and to 18 by summer 2015. Young people will have 3 options:

- Full-time education, such as school or college;
- An Apprenticeship; or
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

National Citizenship Scheme: This is the Government programme to provide a 6 week summer volunteering and outdoor challenge experience for 16-17 year olds. In Surrey the programme is being operated by two of our Member organisations- The Challenge Network and Catch 22. Recently the programme is being extended to be run twice a year. Hundreds of young people signed up for the first Surrey programme.

Apprenticeships: The voluntary youth sector in Surrey does not yet seem to have come to grips with apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are work-based training programmes of up to 30 hours a week, including provision for a day a week at College. The cost to the employer of a young person aged 16-18 is £2.65 per hour, which for a 30 hour week amounts to £4,100. However for small employers this cost is then offset by a Government grant to employers of £1,500, **reducing the net cost to around £2,500.**

Employers who take on a 16-18 year old apprentice only pay their salary. The Government will fund their training. This can be at Intermediate (Level 2- GCSE) or Advanced (Level 3 –A level) or Higher (Foundation degree).

The FE Colleges provide a huge variety of apprenticeship related courses and one, Guildford FE College, is looking at providing Level 2 youth work training that could lead to a “grow your own” assistant youth support worker role.

The arguments for recruiting young people are well documented in various recent research²⁴ and Government reports.

Surrey CC 14-19 Strategy: The education changes are extensive in affecting 14-19 year olds and are beyond the scope of this Review. Surrey CC's website is helpful in covering changes and its own initiatives at: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning/14-19-education-and-training>. In particular the “Surrey 14-19 Plan, 2010-15” is a valuable resource for those interested.

'It feels odd to have a bed at last'-Homelessness

Homelessness amongst young people in Surrey is one of the hidden issues. “Hidden” because there is still no readily available data on this subject, and yet the experience of voluntary sector providers is that the issue is one of growing concern. The headline quote above is from an article on the front page of Children and Young People Now about a young 17 yr old woman in Woking who was homeless for a year, and finally found a bed in a new hostel opened by Woking YMCA.

²⁴ “Why businesses should recruit young people”, UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Feb 2012. See also: “Supporting Youth Employment”, HMG ,2011

Part of the problem was recognised in the Southwark judgement²⁵ of 2009 which held that the duty under the Children Act is primary, and the ongoing duty to accommodate and assist young people will normally fall to the (county council) children's services authority, and not the (district/borough council) housing authority.

Data is hard to come by, but some analysis can be found in the CAMHS needs analysis. Following a recent review the responsibility for youth homelessness in Surrey CC has been moved from the Childrens Service, to the Youth Support Service.

However figures from voluntary sector housing providers and housing associations confirm that the need for accommodation from homeless young people (aged up to 25, with most in the 16-21 age range) is ever growing.

Housing provider	Dedicated bed spaces	Comments
Transform	63	Constant pressure on accommodation and concern about those young people being turned away because of behavioural needs incompatible with placements(alcohol, drugs, self-harm)
Guildford YMCA	120 beds (40 for young people) and 13 move – on flats	Cuts in Supporting people funding have been difficult and it is no longer an assigned funding stream. Referrals of young people are from Guildford BC funded through their housing benefits. Developing other services for those with complex and high needs regrettably turned away.
Woking YMCA	24 beds	Most referrals come from Surrey Youth Services, Woking BC, and directly.
Redhill YMCA	42 (15 for young people aged under 18)	Most young people, even those who are working, are receiving housing benefit (because they are on low pay) so there is an obvious issue around the government's desire to prevent under 25's from claiming housing benefit.
Step by Step, based in Aldershot, but also serving Surrey	Step 1 (emergency) x 15 Step 2 (supported move on) x15 Steps 3 and 4 (semi independent flats) x 14, Supported Lodgings (family placements) x 42 Total: 86	Has undertaken a close analysis of County and District/borough plans and strategies, and concluded that the numbers of young people aged 15-19 are overestimated to the tune of 1400 young people, but the population of young people aged 20-24 (ONS data) is underestimated. So, it looks as though demands will grow from the 20-24's but may reduce from the 15-19's.

The collective opinion of all these housing providers is that demand is growing and that they are turning young people away, as one CEO observed:

“We see pressure on places, some where we have waiting lists and 100% occupancy. There are generally far more young people being referred than we can accommodate and has been for quite a while. We do turn down some young people in increasing numbers with drug and alcohol (issues) or

²⁵ “ Responding to youth homelessness after the G.v Southwark Judgement”, Shelter legal briefing, 2009

a history of violence, and simply a total unwillingness to engage. However most of those we are unable to assist because we are full, or have no suitable vacancies.”

Sport- an Olympic success!

The Government launched its sport policy ²⁶in January 2012, with the following strategic aims:

“We are seeking a consistent increase in the proportion of people regularly playing sport. In particular, we want to raise the proportion of 14-25 year olds who play sport and to establish a lasting network of links between schools and sports clubs in local communities so that we keep young people playing sport up to and beyond the age of 25.

We will do this in partnership with Sport England by:

- *Building a lasting legacy of competitive sport in schools Improving links between schools and community sports clubs*
- *Working with the sports governing bodies: focusing on youth*
- *Investing in facilities Communities and the voluntary sector”*

In Surrey the Surrey Sports Board had previously published its own strategy²⁷ in 2011 with the aim of achieving 4 outcomes:

- Everyone has the opportunity to be active for life
- Strong sustainable infrastructure is available in every community
- Sufficient well managed facilities meet Surrey’s needs
- Talented performers are supported

The strategy is being implemented through partnership supported by Active Surrey and the development of specific plans. Issues of governance are also being addressed so that the Board achieves greater independence from Surrey CC. Sport England have surveyed clubs in the south-east as to the impact of the games.

The 2012 Games Impact Survey results for Surrey have just become available through Active Surrey, and show that with 82 responses from Surrey out of 188 from the whole South East region, 33% clubs showed no change, but 50 respondents (61%) reported an increase in new people wanting to join their clubs. Overall Surrey clubs reported over 1000 new members/people on waiting lists (1167) directly or indirectly attributed to increased interest in sport over the Olympic period.

There is extensive and useful research on the Sport England website to demonstrate the cost/benefit of sport, for example in cutting crime, as is confirmed by a recent study²⁸ (“Sport scores – the costs and benefits of sport for crime reduction” Oct 2012) by the Laureus Foundation.

²⁶ “Creating a sporting habit for life”, DCMS, Jan 2012

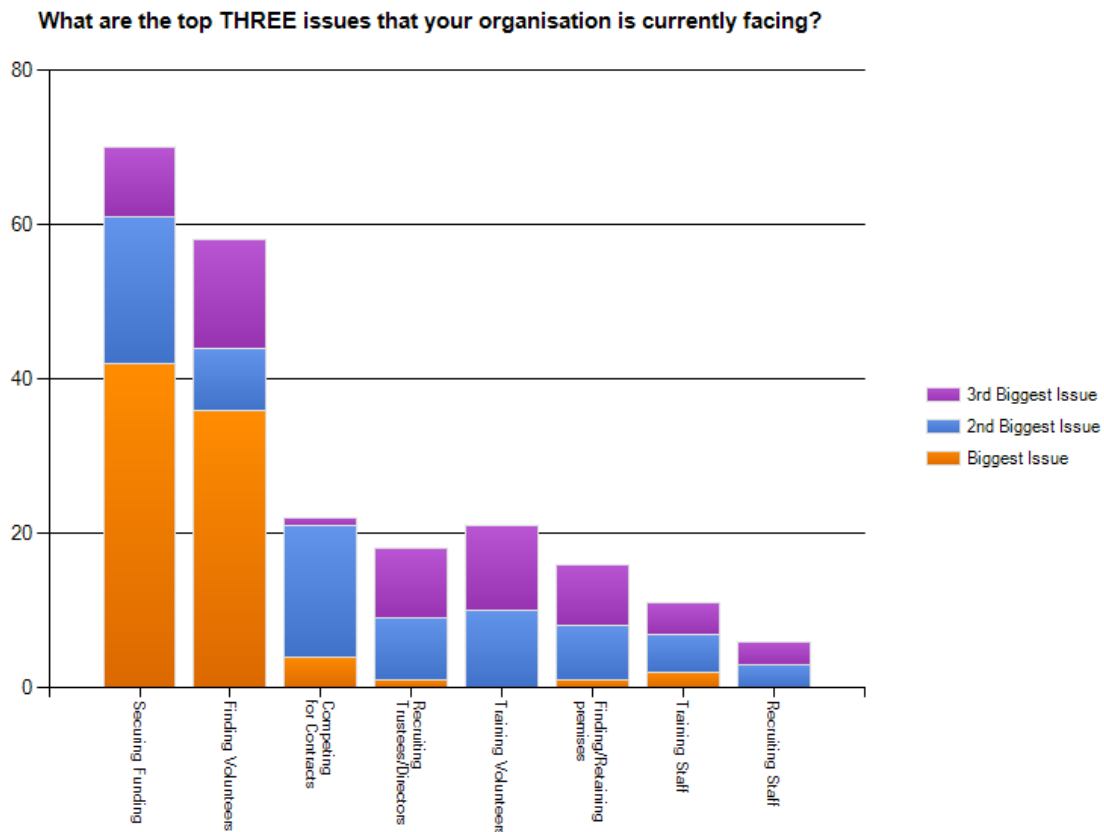
²⁷ “Sporting Surrey” A strategy for 2011-15, Surrey Sports Board, 2011

²⁸ <http://www.laureus.com/publications>

Part C Surrey Youth Focus, its members and young people

Surrey Youth Focus – Improving the lives of young people by supporting its Member organisations

This Review is not about SYF as such, but about the operating context and issues for the voluntary youth sector in Surrey and its young people. SYF currently has nearly 90 fee paying members and is proud to be supporting them. We know that there are some 30,000 young people in uniformed organisations, and that our members work with over 147,000 different children and young people every year.



The Terrible Twins: Funding and Volunteering

“Terrible” because the survey has again shown these are the constant issues for member organisations. An interesting comment from a member organisation was:

... ”my observation is that we have lost our ID and are now The Voluntary Corporate Sector - have we sold our soul....discuss - we don't network together share ideas as we're now in competition”

Funding

The sources of funding remain unchanged – “just giving” from donations and charitable events, grant – making trusts, the Lottery, philanthropy, and business links. There is no prescription as voluntary sector organisations vary so greatly in scale and purpose, and no substitute for perseverance. SYF is now publishing a funding Bulletin to its members. However increasingly there is an emphasis on generating income from trading, and also from social enterprise. Details of an excellent RAISE Conference on Funding held in October are on the SYF website.

Strategically, and for the reasons outlined above, it is highly probable that local authorities such as Surrey County Council will be facing serious and continuing cuts in their expenditure year on year. The sector will find this challenging, as the contribution of local authorities as a source of grants and contracts is re-shaped at best, or diminishes at worst. Member organisations are advised to diversify sources of funding as best they can. The Surrey Youth Focus website Help for Members- Funding

Volunteering

SYF has a Volunteer Manager, herself a volunteer, who has already created forms on the SYF website for those needing volunteers, and those offering to volunteer. Website links are being made to Eagle Radio, Surrey Chamber of Commerce and to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. This work has the prospect of being a “game – changer” for the voluntary youth sector – using website and social media to promote volunteering, and to achieve a match between volunteers and those organisations wanting them. The value of volunteering has been well documented²⁹.

Surrey Youth Enterprise

There has been a huge amount of material promoting social enterprise as they enable trading for a social good. The South East Social Enterprise network³⁰ is a valuable source of information, and so too the various newspaper guides and websites³¹.

Surrey Youth Focus has promoted “**Surrey Youth Enterprise**” to run workshops for NEET young people and others about how to set up in self-employment and social enterprise, supported by business mentors and a web site. A pilot project is to be run in early 2013 supported by funding from the Wates Family Foundation. Surveys and focus groups showed that marginalised young people wanted to get into self-employment but did not know how to get started – hence the proposed workshops – and that they particularly valued the help from prospective business mentors.

Uniformed organisations

This is Surrey’s great success story with some 27,000 young people in Scouts and Guides alone and a further 2,500 in military cadets. The value of military cadets has been documented in research³² demonstrating the leadership skills, team building and other life skills acquired by cadets. Similarly such is the success of Scouts and Guides that they have around 3,000 children and young people waiting to join. Because there are clearly capacity issues typically caused by the lack of volunteer leaders, Surrey Youth Focus has led on supporting nine uniformed organisations in submitting an Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Bid for £93,000 aimed at training up more leaders, both generalists and specialist instructors, marketing the value of this form of activity, and setting up an exchange system whereby uniformed organisations might exchange equipment and specialist instructors. The outcome of the bid to the MoD will be known in December.

²⁹ See for example: “Engaging adults in youth volunteering”, DfE, Jan 2012

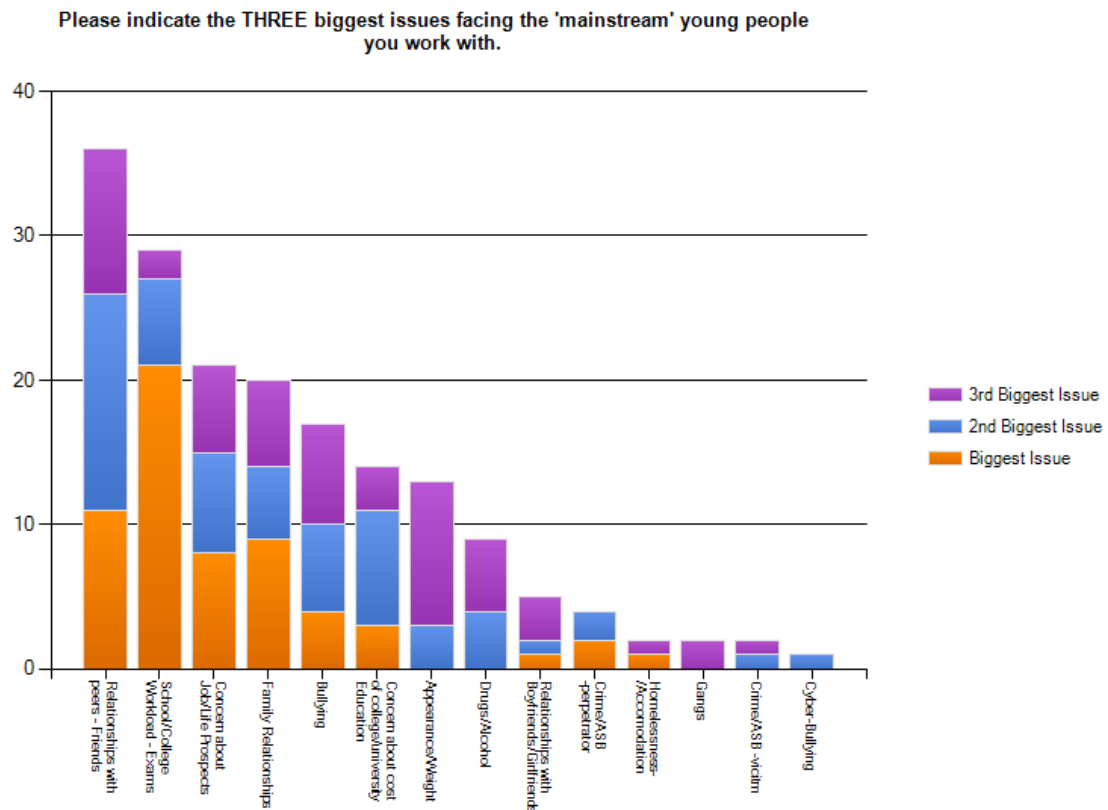
³⁰ www.se2partnership.co.uk/

³¹ Social Enterprise Live [news@socialenterpriselive.com]

³² “The Societal impact of Cadet Forces”, Portsmouth University, Nov.2010

Improving the lives of young people

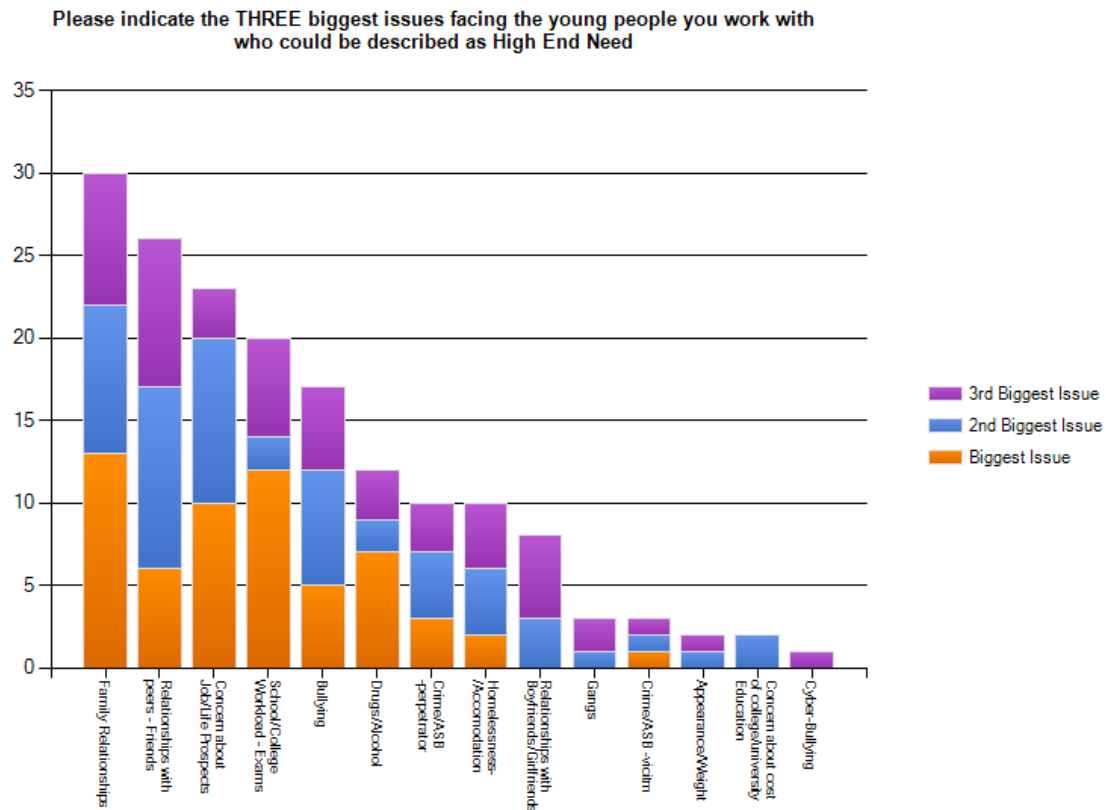
SYF conducted a survey in October about the issues affecting young people, with the following results:



Amongst the comments made about issues affecting mainstream young people were:

- “the pressure not to be serious about education”
- “being forced to grow up too quickly because of the perceptions from the media and older people”
- “the lack of social opportunities because of a caring role”

Amongst more marginalised young people the issues were:



Amongst the issues mentioned in commentary were:

- “Financial problems at home, and lack of educational attainment”
- “Health of family members and financial concerns”

Students at Magna Carta School have made another film - “Teenage discrimination- does it exist?” This can be found on our website....there are no prizes for the answer.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that these are difficult times, and that they will continue for some years yet. The voluntary youth sector does have a huge reach to young people in Surrey, and should be proud of its achievements in improving the lives of young people.

The theme of this report is a warning that even in a county as prosperous as Surrey, and with such high achieving young people, there are indications of serious difficulties emerging for some young people. This is particularly true in the areas of:

- Homelessness- where the need for accommodation for young people already constantly exceeds supply
- Mental health – where there has been an 11% increase in referrals in one year
- NEET and Unemployment – where some 5,000 young people (16-24) are not engaged in work or training , with attendant risks to themselves, and costs to society

It is suggested in this Strategic Review 2012 that these trends are already worrying, and by next year's Review in October 2013 may become serious.

Organisationally the voluntary sector faces constant difficulties in recruiting volunteers and in securing funding. This is not new, but as public authorities are under such constant, and continuing pressures their contribution in the form of grants and even in contracts is likely to diminish. The sector should plan for this (unwelcome) reality and, courageously, see it as an opportunity to embrace organisational change.

One area of possible development for the sector at large would be to become more closely involved with apprenticeships, which, particularly for 16-18 year olds can offer real benefits at small cost (£2,500) to the employer.

Moreover the fundamentals of growing up do not change, and the need for relational youth work continues.

Finally it is also important to promote a sense of hope, and opportunity for young people:-

"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished."

-- [Kofi Annan](#)

This Strategic Review is a first for Surrey Youth Focus, and we would welcome feedback as to whether it has been useful. Please email to: mike.abbott@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk