Draft

Make a Positive Contribution Summary

The following needs have been identified:

Young people's engagement in positive activities

- According to the Tellus 4 survey, 62.4% of Greenwich young people had participated in positive activities in the last 4 weeks (NI110); this is in line with our statistical neighbours but lower than London (66.3%) and England (65.8%).
- We need to overcome barriers to youth engagement. Young people have told us that they want more activities at the times and places that suit their needs, and that these need to be more actively promoted. Parental worries and peer relationships are a particular concern.

Targeted youth work and young offenders

- The overall rate of proven re-offending has continued to decline and is better than London and national YOS comparators. This has occurred alongside a sustained improvement in the rate of first time entrants into the youth justice system compared with 2008/09 and the 2007/08 baseline.
- The Support Through Early Intervention Panel (STEIP) has successfully diverted young people into positive activities and integrated support.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) remains a challenge in specific areas of Greenwich, particularly the most deprived neighbourhoods. There is a need for diversionary activities in Charlton and Peninsula, where ASB has significantly increased.

Disabled children and young people and their families

- In 2009/10, 464 children and young people received one or more short breaks, this is significantly below a challenging target of just over 700 disabled children and young people and their families by 2012. Additional services and support is needed for families with children on the autistic spectrum and/or with behavioural problems; BME groups, and those living in Thamesmead area.
- Through local consultation we know that disabled children want to be included in social activities, and for short breaks to be more enjoyable.

Parents and carers of disabled children want clearer information about what services are available, how to access them and the ability to get more involved in the way services are planned, commissioned and delivered.

Looked after children and care leavers

- Among children looked after as at 31 March 2010, 51 took part in local youth services, centres and clubs during 2009/10 (624 sessions). Nearly half (45%), participated in activities four or more times during the year.
- Looked After Children have said that professionals do not use jargon which they cannot understand, and that they feel they are being listened to.
- A Children in Care Council has been created to give young looked after people the opportunity to be more involved in decision making.