



Summary of Research Project, SCVYS, November 2013

In mid October 2013, Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) was asked by the County Council to complete a research and mapping project to identify as many of the youth related services on offer in Staffordshire as possible. The aim was to have up-to-date intelligence about what is on offer for young people aged 11-19 (up to 25 for LDD) across the County, to inform the decision making process which is underway around achieving excellent outcomes for young people and the services that will need to be commissioned to ensure this in future.

It was agreed that the County Council was better positioned to collect information from Families First, Staffordshire Youth and Community Service and Entrust, the joint venture with Capita which has taken on Information, Advice and Guidance services from the former provider, Connexions.

So, the remit was established as voluntary sector provision, the full range of health related services, school out-of-hours provision, sports clubs, leisure centres, participation forums, private providers, physical assets such as buildings, play areas, etc. It covered both universal and targeted services too.

The timescales were set at three weeks, and a spreadsheet of over 1700 entries was submitted on time in early November. Some of the results can also be viewed as a map utilising eSpatial software, allowing more visual interpretation of the data collected. The link to this website has been shared with the County Council and a limited example of how eSpatial works can be seen on the SCVYS website at <http://www.staffscvys.org.uk/membership%20map.html> if you require access to the full data map please contact SCVYS on the number above.

Methodology

Our first step was to interrogate our own data, including where our members groups are based and how any units are distributed. These make up nearly 800 points on the eSpatial district maps provided as an appendix to this summary. We then set about, from a young person's perspective, identifying where else 11-19 year olds could engage in their local areas.

Having spent many hours trawling the internet and making contact with local organisations the list was starting to grow. We also endeavoured to make contact with Sports Across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and with district Clinical Commissioning Groups as well as making use of existing databases such as Communities Together. Where possible this data has also been included.

This is not a definitive list but a snapshot of the available services that we were able to identify during the three week period.



Results

We have submitted, electronically, a list of organisations, clubs and groups that we came across during the research project. It highlights a number of key findings from the research when analysed and put into the eSpatial mapping software:

- Online access to information for young people is very limited. Whilst undertaking this research we spent a great deal of time trawling internet sites to identify opportunities in local areas. Other than YOUTHBOX which details a wide array of available activities there is little else available. Putting in a number of search terms for activities and/or groups and clubs into the major search engine providers does not always return the information that young people require to be able to participate in their chosen activity. Websites are also very hit and miss, with statutory and voluntary websites providing little or no information or details that were out of date, wrong or incomplete. In some cases sports clubs and leisure facilities did not specify where activities took place but directed you to further regional or national websites.
- Many of the groups and organisations identified in the research operate from major towns within Staffordshire. Many rural locations (Moorlands, Needwood, West Newcastle and South Staffordshire) provide limited or no opportunities for young people to participate in clubs or groups and it is difficult to identify which town based facilities/services provider covers a particular area. The main groups identified in our research that covered these areas are sports clubs, uniformed groups and young farmers, usually based in local schools or purpose built venues. In South Staffordshire the uniformed organisation are not represented in our research as they are provided by West Mercia Division of the Scouts and Guides.
- Having looked at the data provided by the research and the data mapped by local area it is a picture that SCVYS would expect to see. Most of the services, activities and participation with/for young people take place around the major towns and villages of Staffordshire. As many of the rural towns border other areas such as Cheshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands it is not unrealistic to expect that there would be opportunities for young people in rural locations to access as an alternative to local provision, dependent on travel links and parent/carer movements.

On the final two pages of this summary we have provided a table and chart for your review highlighting the number of providers per district under a specialist heading. As explained before, this is not a definitive list but a quick summary of the groups/providers that we came across during our research period.

Additional mapping data can be provided for each area should it be required.



Number of units in district	Newcastle	Moorlands	Chase	Tamworth	East Staffordshire	Lichfield	South Staffordshire	Stafford and Stone	Countywide
Asset Only	2	6	6	2	6	3	7	16	1
GP Surgery	24	13	35	13	23	4	11	14	0
IAG	8	4	5	1	4	0	5	4	0
Leisure Centre	0	2	2	0	3	0	4	3	0
Open Access	17	23	26	13	8	19	47	34	5
Outdoor education	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private	0	0	18	2	3	1	4	6	2
SCVYS Member Units	77	68	73	53	102	50	14	117	0
SCVYS Members	14	9	11	4	8	7	11	26	9
Sports Club	46	50	48	10	36	39	60	47	2
Statutory provision	7	14	20	1	19	9	15	13	0
Targeted	17	9	3	1	0	5	6	17	8



Type of Provision Available by District

