

Consultation



Reshaping youth support services



Consultation on proposed changes to the Council's youth support services

By 2017 our funding from government will have been cut in half. We have already made £93 million in efficiency savings across the Council between 2011 and 2015, while continuing to deliver quality services to local people, build new homes and get young people into work.

Now further cuts to government funding alongside other social pressures – including an ageing population and continual increases in the cost of living – have left us with a budget gap of £73 million to plug by 2018. With more cuts almost certainly around the corner, we have a savings programme of £75 million in place.

We have to make tough choices about local services and, to help us meet our savings targets, we are proposing to make changes to the youth support services we provide.

The Camden Plan sets out the Council's ambitions to continue to support Camden residents and bring partners together to think of new ways to deliver public services: camden.gov.uk/camdenplan

The changes we are proposing to our youth support services are based on the priorities set out in the Camden Plan. The proposals aim to ensure that the services we provide are focused on those most in need.

We want your views on our proposed changes to our youth support services. We will use your responses to inform the changes we make to services.

What youth support services does the Council currently provide?

We currently provide four youth support services to young people aged eight to 25:

- **Youth Offending Service (YOS) – works with young people aged 10 to 18 who have committed an offence or are in danger of doing so**
- **Youth services and projects – offer a range of programmes and activities to develop young people's skills and confidence**
- **Connexions services – provide careers advice for young people and support them to avoid becoming unemployed or not in education or training (NEET)**
- **Forward (FWD), a substance misuse service.**

We have a legal duty to provide youth services that encourage young people to participate in activities that have positive outcomes, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. We are required to make sure young people are participating in education, employment or training until they are 18. We also have to provide a youth offending team which works to prevent children and young people from offending and entering the youth justice system for the first time.

Increasing the number of young people in education, employment or training in Camden is an important priority for us, so we also work with other organisations to offer activities which we do not have a legal duty to provide – for example, Camden Summer University, which offers free courses to young people across the borough during the summer holidays.

We work closely with the voluntary and community sector to offer young people in Camden the best youth support services.

Over the last four years our youth support services have worked with partner organisations to help:

- **more young people to gain awards and qualifications, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award**
- **more young people to enter education, employment and training via our Connexions service.**

We currently have six Council-run youth centres, while voluntary and community sector organisations are funded by us to run 15 youth centres and projects in Camden. These centres offer support to all young people in the borough.

On average, we invest approximately £5 million in youth support services, which provide positive activities and work to reduce levels of crime in the borough as well as increase the number of young people in education, employment and training. These continue to be priority areas for us and therefore we have decided to continue to invest £3.4 million in providing youth support services.

About this consultation

This consultation is on proposed changes to our youth support services which would deliver savings of £1.6 million. However, the changes we are proposing aren't just about making savings. We have spoken to frontline staff, young people and youth support experts who have told us that we can do more to improve the way we support young people who have additional needs* at an early stage.

So our proposals aim to support those young people who need help as early as possible to prevent their problems from escalating and having a negative impact on their lives.

* When we refer to additional needs, we mean young people who live in an area of high deprivation, regularly miss school, have special educational needs and disabilities, are teenage parents, looked after by the Council, not in education, employment or training or at risk of becoming homeless or being involved in crime and antisocial behaviour.

What are we consulting on?

Given the scale of our financial challenge, we are proposing to focus our youth support services on young people with the greatest need. Evidence shows that working with young people with the greatest need at an early stage prevents issues from escalating and reduces the cost of support services. This would mean that there would be fewer Council-run youth services available to all young people, and many services would be open less often. However, we would work with the voluntary and community sector to provide youth support services for all young people. We currently fund 15 youth projects provided by the voluntary and community sector.

We are proposing to **redevelop three of our Council-run youth centres** so that young people with additional needs* can receive a broader range of support in one location. These three centres would be:

- **Somers Town Youth Centre, in Somers Town**
- **Fresh Youth Academy, in Highgate**
- **Kilburn Youth Station, in Kilburn.**

Each of the three centres would offer youth support services targeted at young people with additional needs*. These youth support services would include Connexions services, substance misuse support and youth activities and programmes.

The development of the three youth sites would have the following impacts on other Council-run youth services:

- a) The South Camden Youth & Connexions Access Point** in King's Cross would close. Youth support services here would relocate to Somers Town Youth Centre in Somers Town.
- b) The Gospel Oak Youth Access Point** in Queen's Crescent would close. Youth support services here would relocate to Maitland Park Gym and Fresh Youth Academy, in Highgate.
- c) The Seven O'Clock Club** for disabled young people aged 13 to 25 would move from Pirate Castle to one of the three redeveloped youth centres.

* When we refer to additional needs, we mean young people who live in an area of high deprivation, regularly miss school, have special educational needs and disabilities, are teenage parents, looked after by the Council, not in education, employment or training or at risk of becoming homeless or being involved in crime and antisocial behaviour.

The COO-L project

We are proposing to stop funding the COO-L project, but make it easier for young people to find out about low-cost activities in Camden that are already partially funded by us. The COO-L project gives young people money to participate in activities if they are in school years nine to 11 (typically aged 13 to 16), and are eligible for free school meals. We are proposing to stop funding COO-L, as evidence tells us that most of the activities booked through the COO-L project are already low-cost because they are partially-funded by other areas of the Council.

Youth Action Group

We are proposing to make changes to the Youth Action Group (YAG) but continue to work with members of the group to improve youth support services. The YAG is a group of young people who give out small grants to youth-led projects and represent the views of young people about youth support services in their local areas. We are proposing that the group continues to be consulted on and involved in the development of young people's services, but would no longer be responsible for giving out small grants to their local projects and services. We would support YAG members to work with Camden's Youth Council and Youth MP to identify other funding opportunities.

Connexions

We are proposing to reduce the Connexions service but it would still run in our three main youth centres and would also be provided directly by Camden schools, which are required to offer their students careers, education, information, advice and guidance. Connexions services focus on young people most at risk of becoming unemployed, or not in education and training, include those with learning difficulties or disabilities, looked-after young people and young offenders.

Under 25s Advice Centre

We are proposing to stop funding the Under 25s Advice Centre, which offers confidential advice and information on welfare benefits, housing and employment. We would work with the voluntary and community sector to continue to support the young people who currently use the Under 25s Advice Centre. We would also continue to provide welfare rights support to young people through the Connexions services in the three centres.

When we developed these proposals, we considered and rejected the following alternative proposals:

We considered delivering both targeted youth support services and those open to all young people via voluntary and private sector providers. However, evidence suggests that we can have the greatest impact on young people's lives by focusing on those with the greatest need. Our targeted work in youth support services has reduced the number of young people

entering the criminal justice system for the first time and has supported the most vulnerable young people to achieve positive outcomes.

We considered charging for youth support services. However, introducing charges would mean that young people from families on the lowest incomes may not be able to access programmes that provide the opportunity to achieve accreditations or open doors to further support.

Consultation questions – please give us your views

Please answer the consultation questions in this document to give your views on our proposals. We will use your responses to inform the changes we make to services.

This consultation will run for eight weeks, starting on **Monday, 2 November 2015** and closing on **Friday, 8 January 2016**.

We are holding a series of events for young people, parents, Council staff such as social workers, voluntary and community sector organisations and other organisations, such as the police and schools. We will hold local meetings with residents likely to be affected by the proposed changes. We will also use online web tools and other creative methods to get the views of young people.

Council staff will be consulted on any changes to job roles after this consultation closes and once a final Cabinet decision has been made on the future of the services.

A final decision on changes to these services is expected to be made by Camden Council's Cabinet on 6 April 2016.

Find out more and have your say

For more information about the proposals, local meetings or to take part in the consultation online visit **camden.gov.uk/youthservices**



Reshaping youth support services: Consultation questions

Q1. Have you or your children used the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Connexions services, or Forward (FWD) over the last 12 months?

Yes No

If so, please say which of these three services below:

Q2. Have you used any other youth centres, projects or services over the last 12 months? If so, please list them below:

Q3. We are proposing to focus our youth support services on those with the greatest need. Evidence shows that working with young people with additional needs at an early stage prevents issues from escalating and reduces the cost of support services. This will mean that there will be fewer Council-run youth services available to everyone. However, we would work with the voluntary and community sector to deliver youth support services for all young people in Camden.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

Q4. The changes we are proposing would mean that Council-run youth centres would be open less often to all young people, but we would work with the voluntary and community sector to provide youth support services for all young people. We currently fund 15 voluntary and community youth projects in Camden that offer youth support services for all young people in the borough.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

Q5. We are proposing to offer youth support services from three youth centres: Fresh Youth Academy, in Highgate; Kilburn Youth Station, in Kilburn, and Somers Town Youth Centre, in St Pancras and Somers Town. This would mean the closure of two youth centres and the relocation of the Seven O’Clock Club for disabled young people to one of the three Council-run youth centres.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with proposals a, b and c.

a. The closure of the South Camden Youth & Connexions Access Point, in King’s Cross, and relocation of the youth support services based there to Somers Town Youth Centre.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

b. We are proposing to close the Gospel Oak Youth Access Point, in Queen's Crescent, and relocate the youth support services to Maitland Park Gym, and Fresh Youth Academy, in Highgate.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

c. We are proposing to relocate the Seven O'Clock Club for disabled young people aged 13 to 25 from Pirate Castle to one of the three youth sites (Fresh Youth Academy, Kilburn Youth Station, Somers Town Youth Centre).

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

Q6. We are proposing to stop funding the COO-L project, but make it easier for young people to find out about low-cost activities in Camden that are already partially-funded by us. The COO-L project gives young people money to participate in activities if they are in school years nine to 11 (typically aged 13 to 16), and are eligible for free school meals. We are proposing to stop funding COO-L as evidence tells us that most of the activities booked through the COO-L project are already low-cost because they are partially-funded by other areas of the Council.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

A large rectangular area with a dotted orange border, intended for users to provide comments.



Q7. We are proposing to make changes to the Youth Action Group. This would mean that the Youth Action Group would no longer be responsible for giving out small grants to their local projects and services, but would continue to be consulted on and involved in the development of young people's services. We would support Youth Action Group members to work with Camden's Youth Council and Youth MP to identify other funding opportunities.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

Q8. We are proposing to reduce the Connexions service but it would still run in our three main youth centres and would also be provided directly by Camden schools, which are required to offer their students careers, education, information, advice and guidance. Connexions services focus on young people most at risk of becoming unemployed, or not in education and training, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities, looked-after young people and young offenders.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

Q9. We are proposing to stop funding the Under 25s Advice Centre, which offers confidential advice and information on welfare benefits, housing and employment. To continue to support the young people who use the service, we would work with the voluntary and community sector. We would also continue to provide welfare rights support to young people through the Connexions services in the three centres.

Do you agree with this proposal?

Do you disagree with this proposal?

Do you have any comments?

Empty dotted-line box for comments.



Q10. Are there any comments that you would like to make? Or do you have any alternative ideas for how we can make savings?

A large, empty rectangular area with a dotted orange border, intended for handwritten responses to the question above.



About You

Q1a) Are you responding to this survey as a:

- Young person
- Parent / carer
- Partner of Camden Council
- Voluntary sector
- Resident
- Other

If other please specify

Q1b) If you selected young person are you?

- A young carer
- A looked-after child
- Not in employment, education or training
- None of the above

Q2) We would be grateful if you could provide us with your postcode. We will only use it to analyse the responses to this survey and will not use it for any other purposes.

Q3) Gender

- Male
- Female

Q4) What is your age?

Q5) What is your ethnic group?

(Please tick one box)

White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gipsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background

(Please tick and write in box)

Mixed / multiple ethnic

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background

(Please tick and write in box)

Black or Black British

- Black or Black British
- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background

(Please tick and write in box)

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

(Please tick and write in box)

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

- Prefer not to say

Q6) Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

(By this we mean a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day tasks).

Q7) Where did you hear about this consultation?

- Camden Website
- Youth club or project
- Workshop
- Public meeting
- Other

If other please specify

If you would like to be kept informed about the outcome of this consultation please provide an email or postal address:

Please post your responses back to:

**Strategy and Change - Floor 5, 5PS
Freepost RSLT-RJBR-TXAA
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
London WC1H 9JE**

**For more information about this consultation
email: keith.morgan@camden.gov.uk**

If you would like a copy of this document in another format such as large print, easy read, Braille or audio tape, or in another language, please call **020 7974 4444**.

Creative services 1821.8 October 2015. 020 7974 1985