



## Cabinet decision on the future of Camden Youth Services

### Questions and answers – April 2016

#### **How much money do you have to save? From when?**

We need to save £1.6 million from our current budget of £6 million from April 2016.

#### **How have your proposals changed as a result of the consultation?**

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We will now make our savings over three years - a considerably longer period than originally proposed. This will mean:

- None of our five main centres will close at present.
- Somers Town Youth Centre, Fresh Youth Academy in Highgate and Kilburn Youth Station will become our three main centres, providing a range of services.
- The South Camden Youth and Connexions Access Point (SCYAP) and Maitland Park, in Gospel Oak, will also remain open.
- The three lead centres will be open every day from 11am.
- In addition all our centres will be open every evening.
- We are keeping two posts to help combat gang and youth violence.
- The Seven O'Clock Club will move from the Pirate Castle but will keep working with young people with disabilities from its new base at one of the three lead youth centres, a move supported by users and their parents.

#### **What will happen to the Under 25s Advice Centre?**

As originally proposed, we will be closing the centre. However, we will continue to support users of the centre through our voluntary and community sector partners, including the Citizens Advice Bureau. We will also continue to provide welfare rights support through the Connexions services at our lead centres. We also now offer a range of health and wellbeing advice to young people aged 16 to 24 at the Hive, in Harben Parade, Finchley Road NW3.

#### **What will happen to Connexions?**

The Connexions budget will be reduced overall but Connexions services will continue to be available to young people via our three main centres. In addition, all Camden schools now pay for bespoke Connexions services that meet the needs of their pupils, and we will continue to offer Connexions support to our most vulnerable young people through our youth offending, looked-after children and special educational needs teams. Taken together, this means that all young people in Camden will continue to be able to access Connexions support.

#### **Why have you not kept Gospel Oak open?**

We have had to make some tough decisions in order to deliver the savings required. The drop-in services we currently provide at Gospel Oak will continue to be provided at nearby Maitland Park. We will also be able to offer additional services in partnership with voluntary

sector organisations in the area, such as Queen's Crescent Community Association, which delivers youth services at Weedington Road.

### **What will happen to SYCAP in the longer term?**

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We are looking at how we can best protect Council-run services like SYCAP, which is now funded until 31 March 2018, in the long-term. These options could include developing a staff mutual, outsourcing or a traded services model. Any options will be brought to Cabinet for a decision.

### **What is the role of the proposed Camden Young People's Foundation? How would this work?**

A young people's foundation is a charitable trust. We anticipate this will involve the Council and all interested voluntary and community sector partners. A foundation allows us to harness our collective strengths and to access more funding sources than are currently open to the Council for young people's services.

### **How much will opening hours reduce at youth centres?**

We plan to provide 65 hours per week of youth provision for all young people across our five Council-run youth centres. This is fewer hours than our youth centres are currently open for - but far more than originally proposed in the consultation.

### **What will happen to the Youth Action Groups?**

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We want the Youth Action Groups to continue working with our three lead centres, the Youth Council and the Youth MP, playing a key role in youth service development.

### **What will happen to the COO-L project?**

As originally proposed, we will no longer be funding [the COO-L project](#). Evidence shows 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. We will signpost young people to these activities in future.

**For more details visit [camden.gov.uk/youthservices](http://camden.gov.uk/youthservices)**

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