

YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION REVIEW WORKING PARTY DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Question:

How can TDC work more effectively for young people to help them thrive in Thanet?

or

What can TDC do to improve the lives of young people in Thanet?

Aim:

- To improve how the council engages with, and provides for, young people in Thanet:
 - Identify what we're doing and what we've done in the past that's worked well
 - Learn from feedback from local young people to establish what can be improved
 - Consider how other comparable authorities work for young people
 - Produce case studies and make recommendations to Council
 - Communicate more effectively with young people

Proposed Terms of Reference:

- This review focuses on the lives of 'young people', specifically 13-19 year olds (and those with learning difficulties, up to 24 years old)
- It is concerned with the services TDC delivers for young people (this is distinct from KCC's statutory duty to provide youth services and activities)
- It will investigate how TDC departments specifically engage with, and serve young people, as residents of Thanet.
- It will prioritise the voices and experiences of local young people to determine where improvements to service provision can be made.
- It will identify, as far as possible, all the different kinds of youth provision that exists in Thanet and build an up-to-date list of youth worker contacts. This will help TDC to reach more of the district's young people and improve communications with them.
- It will set out recommendations to council which will hopefully lead to more effective and efficient service provision across departments to allow more young people to thrive.

Proposed Methodology:

- 1) Survey/interview senior TDC officers from each department to establish how they are already serving young people – Louise, Penny, Jo-Anna, Hannah, Ingrid, Tony, Mike, Bob, Matt, Adrian (Google Meet/google forms?)
- 2) Consult with Thanet Youth Council, Pie Factory, Pavilion Youth Cafe, Northdown Road Family Hub, Inspiration Creative (as a start) to ask for case studies/personal experiences from 13-19 year olds, to paint a picture of what it's like to be a young person living in Thanet and what improvements they'd like to see. This can be presented as creatively as they wish.
- 3) Email all TDC and Town/Parish councillors to help collate a list of all youth groups, clubs, services, in each ward.
- 4) Use the list to reach out to as many youth workers as possible to determine what the challenges and barriers are for young people accessing their clubs/service and what they believe would improve the lives of young people in Thanet (google form?)
- 5) Undertake desk research comparing different Councils' approaches (Working Group members)
- 6) Put together a presentation to include TDC officer responses, the views and experiences of young people, the views and ideas of youth workers, and comparisons with other councils (Working Group members)
- 7) Compile report & recommendations (Working Group members with Charles)

Suggested Timetable

- Nov 2024: Initial meeting with officers from the Neighbourhoods/community team
- Nov 2024: Send google form/email to all senior officers to find out how they engage with and provide for young people.
- Dec 2024: Meet with youth council to get their opinions about the review's aim and how we can obtain young people's experiences/suggestions.
- Dec 2024: Present terms of reference to the O&S panel for approval.
- Dec 2024: Meet with parish forum to ask for assistance with compiling list of local clubs, community groups, services for young people. Email all councillors to tap into their local knowledge, too.
- Dec/Jan 2024: Contact youth groups to ask 13-19yr olds to submit examples of their experiences of being a young person in Thanet. These can be in any format. The idea is to create a picture and to consider areas for improvement.
- Jan 2025: Review of information and drafting the working party report;
- Feb 2025: Review of draft report by the working party;
- Feb 2025: Draft report reviewed by CMT;
- Mar 2025: Presentation of Final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Ways in which district councils could engage with and provide for young people:

- Providing apprenticeships/work experience opportunities/training
- Facilitating access to open spaces, services and information
- Funding & promoting youth groups/activities/events
- Celebrating achievements through award schemes
- Building strong, collaborative relationships with youth organisations, schools etc
- Employing youth workers, people with experience/qualifications working with young people (esp on community team and communications team)
- Encouraging democratic engagement, citizenship, youth voice (youth council/forums)
- Promoting youth safety (knife crime, county lines, dangerous driving, substance misuse, online safety, VAWG etc)
- Supporting mental health and well-being
- Addressing youth homelessness (providing temporary accommodation and more council homes)
- Providing play areas and recreational space.
- Involving young people in the design and planning of facilities of interest
- Consulting with young people through surveys/questionnaires to inform decision making.
- Attending job fairs to encourage youth employment