



Terms of Reference

Approved 10 Sept 2008

Children and Young People/ Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Forum

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Title: Children and Young People Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Forum (C&YP/ VCFS Forum)

2. Focus: The forum will focus on issues relating to **Young People**, and by this is meant young people aged between around 10 to 19/25 years, and most especially those from 13- 19/25.

3. Purpose of Forum: The purpose of the Forum is to:

- Discuss issues relating to young people in an analytical, evidence based way
- Identify improvements in processes, joint working, and service delivery that would benefit young people, drawing on collective experience, and evidence of best practice elsewhere
- Identify possible need for resources or changes in C&YP priorities in an evidence based way, and make recommendations to the C&YP Commissioning Partnership accordingly

4. Out of scope: We will **not** cover issues to do with early years, child care or families as such, **except** to the extent that it is necessary to do so in relation to the theme of prevention and early intervention, or unless there are issues like safeguarding, common core skills and volunteering that cut across cross all age ranges.

5. In scope: Issues relating to young people and how they interact with:

Relevant Bodies

Connexions
Supporting people &
Borough Housing,
LSC
DAAT
Police, & Youth Justice Service,
Youth Development Service
CAMHS & PCT

Issues

Connexions objectives, and contracts
Homelessness
14-19 Agenda, training, and employment
Drug and alcohol issues
Anti social behaviour/ criminal justice
Youth offer, and Targeted youth support
Mental health and depression, teenage pregnancy

6. Policy Context: In its deliberations the Forum will have regard to relevant Government policy documents relating to young people, notably at present “Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities”, and the statutory Guidance on s 507 B of the Education Act 1996 relating to the “youth offer”.

7. Performance Indicators - National: The Forum will be mindful of the performance requirements set nationally, principally:

- **Every Child Matters** ; the five outcomes
- **Connexions Objectives** and Key service delivery outcomes
- **PSA 14** “to increase the number of children and young people on the path to success,” and associated National Indicators relating to:
 - Reducing the %of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)
 - Increasing participation in Positive Activities
 - Reducing the proportion of young people using illicit substances
 - Reducing the under -18 conception rate
 - Reducing the number of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System aged 10-17

8. Policy and performance – Surrey: The Forum will work towards the achievement of policy objectives and indicators set out in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-12, currently being developed, and forming part of the Surrey Community Strategy, and Local Area Agreement.

9. Values: The Forum comprises statutory and voluntary sector bodies that are autonomous, and cannot be bound to action unless expressly agreed by their respective decision making bodies. However the Forum is committed to :

- a. Making a difference to young people.
- b. Being action focussed
- c. Learning from each other,
- d. Gathering best practice from Surrey and beyond
- e. Encouraging the independence of young people

10. Reporting: The Forum will from time to time report on its findings and recommendations to the Surrey Children and Young People Commissioning Partnership (C&YPCP) and / or to other relevant bodies, so that the Forum’s views and recommendations are heard.

11. Proceedings: Agendas, reports and notes will be prepared by Surrey CVYS as a secretariat, although all individual members are welcome to seek agenda items, and to make contributions. Papers will be posted on Surrey CVYS web site to be available more generally especially within the VCFS. Meetings will normally take place at Astolat, Guildford.

12. Chairman: A Chairman, and Vice – Chairman, will be elected annually.

13. Frequency: The Forum will meet on a quarterly basis, or more frequently if required by participants.

14. Forum Members : The following are invited as “core members” of the Forum, although it will be desirable to involve other specialists from time to time depending on the topic for discussion:

Public authorities:

Surrey CC: Children and Young People (schools and 14-19), Connexions, Youth Development Service
Surrey Police
Surrey PCT
CAMHS
Surrey Youth Justice Service
Supporting People
Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)
Learning and Skills Council

Community/voluntary sector:

Surrey Community Action

Faith sector:

Guildford Diocese
Surrey Churches Together
Representatives of the BME community

Voluntary sector:

Surrey CVYS
Surrey Care Trust
Surrey Clubs for Young people
East 2West
Matrix
Eikon
40 Degreez
Bourne Children and Youth Initiative
Rainer Surrey
Prince's Trust
YMCAs at Guildford, Woking and Redhill
The Studio ADHD Centre
Hope UK