

Surrey Council For Voluntary Youth Services

Supporting the Voluntary Youth Organisations of Surrey

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Ian Beever,
NAVCA

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Dear Ian,

Routes to Partnership Response

I just wanted to convey a formal response from Surrey CVYS to you in response to the proposals in the Routes to Partnership report. This follows a discussion in our Management and Finance sub-committee of our Trustees. As you know I have completed the questionnaire response and also attended the consultation workshop at the Holiday Inn at Guildford, making our views known then.

We welcome the report and the conclusion that there should be an electoral college from which representatives are elected to serve on the various formal bodies constituted under the Surrey Strategic Partnership.

We also consider that the representatives will need support as you indicate, but that the secretariat supporting the representatives absolutely must be located within the VCFS itself. The practical location is within SCA.

I would add that following on from a Children and Young people's Partnership awayday on Wednesday, it is increasingly clear that the Children and Young Peoples' Trust will be accompanied by four, or possibly three **Area Trusts** who will have substantive Area commissioning and providing roles and decentralised funding.

In the light of this development I think that there is a case for any supporting officers to these Areas to be located with Surrey CVYS specifically. However this is a detail that can be sorted out in due course.

The suggestion of a Diversity reference group will also be enormously helpful.

Just on a point of detail, the Surrey CVYS/ Connexions Youth Forum (your page 16) is I think an incorrect eliding together of two meetings. We used to have a Surrey CVYS / Connexions Forum, but this has now morphed into a C&YP/ VCFS forum (see ToR attached).

Differently and separately Surrey CC Connexions Service now runs a Youth Forum (check with Chris Bussicott) that does involve young people, and is becoming a general sounding board for young people's issues.

This brings me to my final point; there seems to be a view in some quarters that “users and carers” should be involved in every area of work, and be given some special status.

I concede that this might be true in the case of older people, and indeed there are some 300 young carers in the county ,and Surrey Young Carers are members of ours. But I would strongly resist any suggestion that “Users and Carers” should be a separate constituency in relation to young people, because it is the very essence of youth work that young people are involved, listened to, and empowered (see for example Hear by Right).

I hope this is helpful,

Best wishes,

Mike

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