

Young people's services in Kent

Kent Youth Service is proposing to make some major changes to the way it delivers youth work activities in Kent. The full information is available at www.kent.gov.uk/youth but the main points are:

We have always run a lot of different youth centres and projects ourselves and managed to do that very well for a number of years but now we're suggesting that we do a lot less ourselves and buy in more services for young people from voluntary and community groups in local areas.

Why are we suggesting making these changes?

Because the Government wants to see more services being delivered by local groups and managed and supported within local communities and also because it will save money in the long term whilst making sure there are still things to do for young people in a range of places around Kent.

What will be different?

The main suggestion is that we will only directly run one large youth centre (a 'hub') in each district or borough – this hub will be supported by a 'street-based' youth work project which meets young people in a variety of locations.

We will also continue to employ at least one Community Youth Tutor (a youth worker linked to a school) in each district/ borough. Any other youth work activities in each district or borough we will buy in, hopefully from local groups, depending on what best meets your needs as local young people.

What will be the same?

We'll also continue to offer Kent Youth County Council (KYCC), Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), and Outdoor Education.

We are still committed to offering a great range of services which are open to all young people.

What does it mean for YOU?

It may mean that a youth centre or project near you would no longer be run and managed by Kent Youth Service - that doesn't mean we expect you to travel miles to the centre we still run ourselves - your local project could be taken over by another group who want to deliver activities for young people and we could buy some of those services, or other local voluntary and community groups could deliver activities from another place nearby which means the existing centre isn't needed any more.

It's really important to hear your views on what you think of this a way of delivering youth work activities in Kent as well as what is important to you in your local area. Please fill in the questionnaire at www.kent.gov.uk/youth to tell us what you think.

What will this mean in my area?

We have started by suggesting what we think would be the best centre in each area to be the youth hub. This means that we'd want to buy in other youth work services in areas where we don't have a hub. Our suggestions for hubs are:

ashford

ashford north youth centre

canterbury

riverside youth centre

dartford

thames gateway ymca

dover

archers court youth centre

gravesham

northfleet youth centre

maidstone

info-zone

sevenoaks

the junction

shepway

c@fe-it

swale

new house youth centre

thanet

quarterdeck youth centre

tonbridge & malling

averbury avenue adult ed centre (which we want to transform into a hub)

tunbridge wells

to be decided (we're looking at options which could be turned into a hub)

What now?

Please tell us if you think we've got these changes right - have we got the right youth hubs and what kind of services do you think we should try and buy in the places where we aren't running projects ourselves?

There's loads more info in the main document but if you have any questions do talk to a youth worker and let us know what you think.

**Kent
County
Council**

