



September 2009

This monthly update lets you know what is happening at a strategic (planning) level that may affect you in the future.

If you want to find out more about any of the items, or if you have any concerns or suggestions that you would like fed into this process, please contact:-

YOW on 01902 71163



The YOW Strategic Update

Young People at the Centre & Peer Support

Previous Updates (e.g. May 09—see [YOW website](#)) have highlighted the role of the 'Young People at the Centre' project (YPAC) and a review of what it is to include and how it operates.

One significant change is that YPAC will be responsible for developing and co-ordinating peer support activity across the city. This will include existing peer mentoring and peer education initiatives such as the SWIPE sexual health peer education project (see [swipe.uk.com](#)), as well as peer mentoring and education projects within schools and youth groups. It will also identify other opportunities to link peer support to youth initiatives such as Healthy School's new Sex and Relationships Spiral Curriculum initiative and the forthcoming Personal Development Curriculum.

To manage this increased scope of the project the post of YPAC Programme Co-ordinator will be created which will be employed by Wolverhampton College and responsible to the city's Learning Partnership.

**To find out more about YPAC and Peer Support
call Rod Sheppard at the Learning Partnership on 01902 821937.**

Sex and Relationships Education

A new 'Spiral' curriculum is being developed to improve sex and relationships education in the city at Key Stages 3 and 4 (years 7–11) following a recent Health Scrutiny Panel and Central government visit looking at the rate of teenage pregnancies here in Wolverhampton. The need for improvement in Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) was also highlighted by a Youth Council Report on the matter and by the 'Young People At the Centre' project.

A 'Spiral' curriculum re-visits the same topics each year as children and young people move through the school system. Each time they are re-visited there is re-enforcement of earlier learning and the introduction of new material, with activities and discussions being appropriate to the age of the students in each year.

The new curriculum for Key Stage 3 (years 7, 8 and 9) is being piloted in 4 schools across the city and will consist of six 50 –60 minute lessons for each year group. It is expected that most of the delivery in KS3 will be done by teachers apart from some specialist lessons e.g. on contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STI) which would be delivered by sexual health services. Schools are also encouraged to deliver some of this through Peer Education Projects. A pilot of this approach will take place this term to train students in years 10, 11 and/or sixth form students to deliver elements of this to students in year 7 in their own school.

Parenting courses such as Speakeasy will also be made available to parents to help them talk openly with their children about sex and relationships.

To find out more contact Louise Sharrod, Healthy Schools Team Leader on 01902 555931.



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The YOW Strategic Update

Preventing Violent Extremism

This initiative is part of the Government’s Counter Terrorist Strategy known as “Contest 2”. The Police lead on three of the four themes: Pursue, Prepare, and Protect. The Local Authority leads on the multi-agency Prevent agenda. Violent extremism includes any ideology which promotes violence as a tool to achieve its ends whether this be far right nationalism, animal rights extremism, or Al-Qaida-influenced terrorism. The Dept for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) has produced a toolkit for schools called ‘Learning together to be safe’ which gives background information on the threat from violent extremist groups of various kinds, what might make young people vulnerable, and practical advice for building resilience and managing risks. Schools in Wolverhampton are being trained in how to use this pack between Nov 09 and Feb 2010. A multi-agency group is overseeing the way in which the local action plan is being delivered.

To find out more about the PVE action plan contact Clare Gough (the Prevent lead for Children and Young People’s Services) on 01902 555230

Connexions

In April 2008, Local Authorities were given the responsibility for over-seeing the Connexions Service in their area. An open competitive tendering process has recently seen a number of organisations put in a proposal to run Connexions in Wolverhampton which, to date, has been delivered by Black Country Connexions Ltd. and Prospects Services Ltd. The final part of the selection process is being undertaken later this month.

Last year, Connexions Personal Advisers completed 36,457 interventions with young people including many with young people not in education, employment or training - NEET - (exceeding the target set, by reducing the percentage of y. people in this category to 8.2%), teenage mothers, young offenders, young people involved in substance misuse and care leavers.

Voluntary Sector Representation

Following our recent advertisement for applications for the post of voluntary sector representative on the Strategy and Development Board of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership, two people have expressed an interest in taking on this responsibility. We will let you know the outcome of this interest in the next YOW newsletter.

The current vacancy is being created by the retirement of Margaret Thompson from Re-Entry in October. Margaret will also be standing down as a Director of YOW. Margaret has been a dedicated champion of the voluntary sector, and all at YOW would like to thank her for the commitment and time she has given to supporting both the voluntary sector in Wolverhampton, and YOW over the years. We wish Margaret a very happy retirement.

Current reps are:- Raj Bansal (Trinity Training), Sally Perks (YMCA), Nicola Salt (YWCA)

To find out more about anything mentioned in the YOW Strategic Update contact Stephen at YOW on 01902 771163 or email: steve@yow.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about how to get your views, comments of concerns voiced at a strategic level then contact Stephen, Sharon or Sangeta at YOW on 01902 771163