



# BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

## Youth Service - Involving the community

### The challenge we face

**Like all services at Buckinghamshire County Council, the Youth Service is facing serious reductions in its budget and needs to make radical changes to be able to deliver savings.**

The service needs to reduce costs by £1.6m over 3 years. Unfortunately this means we cannot continue to do everything we do now.

Through our regular surveys of residents, we know that activities for young people are one of the highest priorities for local communities. From your feedback to the Bucks Debate, we also know that youth clubs and

activities are one of the top five things that responders thought that the community could help with.

### Our ideas

We currently provide a universal, one-size-fits-all youth service, providing support and activities for any young person who wants to use them, whatever their background, needs or location. The service is delivered through a network of youth clubs and activities operating from centres across Buckinghamshire. The Council provides a combination of premises, staffing and/or grant funding to different centres.

Helping young people most in need, such as those at risk of failing education, or with home care issues, may reduce problems such as poor performance in schools, drug and alcohol related crime, anti-social behaviour,

lack of respect, and will be of benefit to the wider community. By focusing our reduced budget on vulnerable young people and their families, we want to reduce dependence on other services in the longer term.

We have therefore been restructuring youth services so that we provide for those most in need. When this is completed in April 2011, we will have a flexible service which offers:

- Young people's information and counselling services
- A detached youth work team i.e. youth workers working with young people wherever they happen to be. The use of a mobile youth bus allows the team to have a flexible approach to where services are delivered
- Activity programmes and informal learning opportunities – including outdoor and adventure activity and music technology
- Opportunities for targeted groups of young people to gain recognition and accreditation for their achievements, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award, Arts Award and others
- Participation work to ensure young people's voices are heard, and to give them an active role in the design and delivery of the services that affect them
- Young people's centres in Aylesbury and High Wycombe

In order to be able to provide this targeted service, **we will no longer be able to maintain the staffing or funding for our network of universal youth centres** (identified overleaf). We would like to find community solutions for these if possible.

## Involving the Community

Many of the youth centre buildings are very well used – not just by young people but also by other parts of the community. For these reasons we would like to hear from communities and voluntary groups who may be interested in taking on the management of youth facilities and the provision of universal youth activities in a way that meets local needs.

We already have a large number of volunteers who are involved with youth activities, either through the Youth Service or with voluntary and community groups. We would like to hear your ideas about how this could be developed further.

We recognise that the Council would need to provide some support to communities who wish to take on the management and delivery of youth services in order to make sure that arrangements are safe, sustainable and in the best interests of young people. This support would need to be individual to each community according to the local solution. It could include:

- access to buildings and equipment
- support for existing management committees and other interested parties to take over the running of youth centres and provide youth activities
- training for volunteers covering a number of areas including health and safety, safeguarding, working with young people and others.

You may be aware that we are also consulting communities about the savings we need to find in relation to libraries and day care services. We know that one size does not fit all, so welcome suggestions that are individual to each community rather than a simple replacement of the current service.

We also propose to establish a Community Youth Fund to provide a small amount of grant funding for those communities that wish to develop youth work activities. This will involve developing new processes for allocating grant funding to existing youth organisations, as well as any new voluntary and community groups.

If community solutions cannot be developed, individual youth clubs will need to close.

## Existing Facilities

Our existing network of universal youth centres includes:

- Amersham 61 Club
- Ashley Green Youth Club
- Buckingham Youth Centre
- Burnham Youth Centre
- Castlefield Youth Centre
- Chalfont St Giles Youth Club
- Chalfont St Peter (Voluntary youth centre)
- Chesham Youth Centre
- Chiltern Youth Centre (Amersham)
- Curzon Youth Centre
- East Side Youth Centre
- Evreham Youth Centre (Iver)
- Gerrards Cross Youth Centre
- Haddenham Youth Centre
- Hazlemere Youth Centre
- Holmer Green Youth Centre
- Lane End Youth Club
- Marlow Youth Centre
- Multi Cultural Centre (Aylesbury)
- Prebendal Farm Youth Club, Aylesbury
- Prestwood Youth Centre
- Princes Risborough Youth Centre
- Quarrendon Youth Centre
- Stokenchurch Youth Centre
- Wendover Youth Centre
- Wing Youth Centre
- Winslow Youth Centre

## Tell us what you think

Your feedback is crucial to us in developing the future shape of youth services in Buckinghamshire.

1. Do you agree that the County Council should focus its resources on those young people in greatest need?

Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know [ ]

1b. If you disagree, can you tell us what we can do differently?

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2. Do you agree with our proposals for supporting youth work delivery in Buckinghamshire?

Yes [ ] No [ ] Don't know [ ]

2b. Do you have any other ideas?

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3. Would you be interested in getting involved in your local area, for example in taking over the running of a youth centre building?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If you would like to be involved, please provide us with your name and contact details (email or telephone)?

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### Closing date for consultation March 31st 2011

Return your completed questionnaire to:

Buckinghamshire County Council, Policy, Performance & Communications, FREEPOST SCE 12447, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1BR

Alternatively help us to save money by replying online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/budget](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/budget)

For any further queries, please e-mail [consultation@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@buckscc.gov.uk) or telephone: **0845 370 8090**