

Non-Executive Report of the: Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee Tuesday, 17 December 2019	
Report of: Corporate Director, Children and Culture	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Youth Service - Provision for Girls and Young Women	

Originating Officer(s)	Ronke Martins-Taylor, Divisional Director Youth and Commissioning
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report outlines the current offer from the Tower Hamlets Youth Service, including information on the Commissioned youth services. It sets out key activities and programmes for girls and young women.

Recommendations:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the content of the report and consider the offer in relation to girls and young women.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This report is for information, as such there are no decisions to note

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 N/A see above.

3. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Youth Service works with 11 to 19 year olds – up to 25 if they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) – providing free universal activities to young people who live, work or study in the borough.
- 3.2 Tower Hamlets hopes to achieve the following outcomes with its youth offer:
- Young People will have an increased sense of agency in their lives and communities
 - Young People feel more optimistic about their futures
 - Young People are better able to access holistic and supportive opportunities across the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
 - Young People increase their critical thinking skills
- 3.3 The Youth Service promotes young people’s social development using informal education and leisure time positive activities. The Youth Service plays a leading role in promoting and facilitating young people’s participation in civic society and promoting the voice and influence of young people through the young mayor and youth council. The elected young mayor and five deputies meet with the youth council every Wednesday evening in the Town Hall.
- 3.4 There are currently 18 youth hubs operating in the borough, eight are managed directly by the Youth Service, and ten are commissioned. These are set out below:

In-house Youth Hubs

Ward	Youth Hub
1. Bethnal Green	Columbia Road Youth Hub
2. Weavers	Collingwood Youth Hub
3. Stepney Green	Haileybury Youth
4. Bethnal Green	Tramshed Youth Hub
5. Wapping	Wapping Youth Hub
6. Whitechapel	Christian Street Youth Hub
7. Limehouse	Limehouse Youth Hub
8. Isle of Dogs	St Andrews Wharf Youth Hub

Commissioned Youth Hubs

Ward	Youth Hub
1. Spitalfields & Banglatown	Osmani Youth Hub (Osmani Turst)
2. Stepney Green	Exmouth Youth Hub (Newark Youth)
3. Shadwell	St Marys Youth Hub (Society Links)
4. Bow East	Eastside Youth Hub (Poplar Harca)
5. Bromley North	Linc Youth Hub (Poplar Harca - PH)
6. Bromley South	Ian Mikardo Youth Hub (PH)
7. Mile End	St Paul’s Way Youth Hub (PH)

8. Bow West	Street & Detached Provision (PH)
9. Lansbury	Spotlight Youth Hub (PH)
10. Poplar	The Workhouse Hub (PH)

Access to services by gender and ethnicity

3.5 The tables below give an outline of access to both in house and commissioned hubs across the borough

Gender split of young people accessing youth services in Tower Hamlets	
Male	70.10 %
Female	28.99 %
Not specified	0.92 %
	100 %

(Source- Youth Service data of 5670 young people currently using services as accessed on VIEWS, December 2019)

3.6

Ethnicity of young people accessing youth services in Tower Hamlets	
Bangladeshi	42.94%
White British	8.73%
Black African	15.40%
Black Caribbean	4.66%
Not Specified	11.29%
Other	16.98%
	100.00%

(Source- Youth Service data of 5670 young people currently using services as accessed on VIEWS, December 2019)

3.7 In comparison, the ONS 2018 mid-year estimates for Tower Hamlets gives the gender split as almost exactly 50% with 15,100 females and 15,800 males aged 11-19 living in Tower Hamlets (rounded up to the nearest hundred).

Gender split of young people accessing youth services in Tower Hamlets	
Male	51.1
Female	48.9
Total	100 %

3.8 The eighteen hubs above offer an extensive timetable of spaces and sporting activities as well as opportunities to volunteer and gain additional skills and qualifications. Games, sports, cookery, and opportunities to just chill-out are all on offer, in addition to the opportunity to take part in healthy lifestyle

programmes, for example, around healthy eating and, and sessions on sexual health.

Specialist Contracts

3.9 In addition to the above, there are also a number of specifically commissioned programmes, across four providers, known as specialist contracts, which meet the needs of specific groups of young people who may otherwise be unable to access youth provision. These are set out below:

3.10 **Step Forward (LGBTQi)**

Supplies youth activities for Lesbian Gay Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning (LGBTQ) young people aged 12 to 19, and up to age 25 if they have a learning difficulty or disability enabling them to have access to free positive activities and informal educational courses in the form of a regular programme of activities.

3.11 **Tower Project (SEND)**

Supplies youth activities for Special Education Needs and Disabilities young people aged 12 to 25 enabling them to have access to free positive activities and informal educational courses in the form of a regular programme (the "programme") of activities. The activities offered are intended to be stimulating, interesting and fun; and include a range of opportunities to enable young people to develop socially, physically and intellectually in addition to catering for young people's self-esteem self-worth and overall wellbeing. The offer includes elements of counselling, wellbeing support, personal development; and support tailored to the young person's needs.

3.12 **Half Moon Theatre**

A pilot for junior youth activity programme for children in their 11th year (from the first day of their 11th birthday up to the last day of their 11th year). The programme will be delivered across the whole borough and includes:

a) **A term-time only targeted programme:** This is aimed at eleven (11) year old children (at the end of year 6 and in year 7 but who are not yet aged 12) who have been referred to the targeted programme for additional support. by, for example, primary schools, secondary schools, or children's centres. The targeted programme is delivered afterschool, on 1 day of the week from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.; over a rolling 10 week period during term-time. It offers children opportunities to play and to participate in short topic led sessions which could include, for example, sessions on "what makes me angry"; "the most difficult people in my life

b) **A universal access holiday programme:** All children who attend the term-time targeted programme will also attend the universal holiday programme; and in addition a wider group of 11 year olds will also be offered the opportunity to attend a free day-time holiday programme which will run 2 days a week during the holiday period.

3.13 **A Team Arts**

A Team Arts offer a range of arts programmes and activities including performing arts, music and textiles. Recent key art events included:

- a) **House of Talent: Nemesis – The Game Changer:** Local young people took a look behind the media headlines as part of 'A'- Team's 'House of Talent' and explored the concept of terrorism and gang culture and how young people are groomed. Through drama games, role plays and physical theatre they devised an incredible hip hop, drama and film production which has debuted already at The Brady Arts Centre and is now going to be performed as part of The Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer! The 'A'-Team's House Of Talent performed at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival from 2nd to 9th August 2019.
The show was also performed on 1st November at The Brady Arts Centre on the opening night of 'A Season Of Bangla Drama' Festival.
- b) **House of Talent – music production and artist development:** This ran every Thursday from 20 September to 29 November. It culminates in a Raw Talent event on 1 December. A music production and artist development programme provided a great environment to explore music and develop youth art. Young people had an opportunity to achieve a nationally accredited bronze and/or silver arts award.

3.14 **Holiday activities**

In addition to the term time activities delivered by the youth provision, there are dedicated holiday programmes, in particular over the summer holidays. These include residential trips for young people, sports activities and arts and creative courses. Some of these are specifically for young women.

Youth Participation

- 3.15 There are around 35 members of the Youth Council, with 20 to 25 regular attendees. The gender split is roughly 60% female, 40% male.
- 3.16 The Youth Council operates on a rolling programme. Any young person can join. Members have the opportunity to take part in debates and forums about the community and young people. They also plan and deliver their own programmes raising awareness of issues that concern young people. The Chair of the Youth Council is a young woman. Members of the Youth Council build relationships with school councils, with a programme of visits to each secondary school in the borough where they share information on the decision making process in the borough and how to become involved in participation and the Youth Council.
- 3.17 The Young Mayor's scheme invites the young people of Tower Hamlets to take part in and run for Young Mayor. Young people receive training and support to prepare their campaigns and learn how local democratic process work. The Young Mayor's Team consist of the Young Mayor for Tower Hamlets and five deputy Young Mayors. Of these, two are young women.

- 3.18 The team also deliver the Leadership Programme and this year a group of young women and girls completed the ASDAN Leadership Course and have delivered a community event in Limehouse Youth Hub where well over 100 young people attended. The theme of the event was mental health and well-being delivered in partnership with 'Don't suffer in Silence'. The Youth Council also contributes to the No Place for Hate campaign
- 3.19 The Youth Council planned and delivered the recent Tower Hamlets Young Achievement Awards which took place on 22nd November 2019; including sourcing the venue and catering which were donated for free by businesses in Canary Wharf.

Specific Provision for Girls and Young Women

- 3.20 In addition to the open access projects and activities provided for young people, Tower Hamlets offers a number of female-only term time and holiday opportunities for girls and young women to access. These are offered through both its in-house and commissioned services. The information below offers a snapshot of that provision:
- a) **Haileybury Youth Hub:** This hub operates a weekly Girls only session from 3.30-6.30 every Tuesday:
- During this time girls can access a range of activities such as games, cooking, art, sport in their own space, as well as take part in discussions around identity.
 - They can also undertake an ASDAN accredited leadership course. This includes the opportunity to meet local leaders in the community and business professionals and speak to them about their experiences as women in leadership and professions. The course is designed to increase confidence and employability
 - Tower Hamlets Youth Arts attend regularly to provide art and creative opportunities
- b) **Columbia Youth Hub:** Columbia has recently done work in partnership with local voluntary organisations i.e. Newark Youth and BYM (Bangladesh Youth Movement) over the summer and successfully delivered Duke of Edinburgh sessions every Wednesdays in Exmouth estate. As a result, 15 girls successfully completed the Bronze award. With BYM, staff worked to deliver two girls sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays with around 15/20 girls attending workshops and trips. These partnerships have come to an end at present but, next term, as part of a pathway to sports project, they are hoping to deliver some specific sessions for girls and young women.
- c) **St Andrews Wharf Youth Hub:** St Andrew's Wharf hub is delivering a girls' empowerment project in partnership with One Housing on Thursday evenings. The project is thriving with up to 12 girls attending, with 8 to 9 girls attending regularly. During the summer, there was on average 15 girls

attending. Other partners include Island House Community Centre and George Green School where an ASDAN leadership course for female students was delivered earlier this year. The idea for this girls empowerment project developed from that course.

- d) **Limehouse Youth Hub:** Limehouse runs a weekly girls session led by a female member of staff.
- e) **Residential trip (girls and young women only):** Over the summer holidays there was a girls and young women's residential trip to Wales for five days. The residential aimed to increase teambuilding and leadership skills among girls and young women.

Residential trip (Young Mayor candidates, Haileybury girls and young women, Youth Arts Drama young people)- This residential combined three groups of young people. There were challenges with this trip as some parents felt uncomfortable with allowing their daughters to go on a residential course alongside groups of young people where boys and girls were mixed.

- f) **Spotlight Youth Hub:** In the last financial year (between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019) Spotlight has worked with 1,441 young females.

- Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019 (in the last financial year) young females attended creative programmes 3,147 times.
- Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019 (in the last financial year) 484 young females attended creative programmes.
- Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019 (in the last financial year) 34% of the young females who attended took part in creative sessions including dance, music, theatre and film making.

3.21 Examples of specialist provision prided by Spotlight to increase access by females include:

a) **Music She Makes**

- Spotlight is currently running "Music She Makes" a weekly project for female-identifying music lovers to work with female music producers to explore music production, lyric writing and performing.
- Music She Makes was initiated in September 2019 by Young Volunteer Charlie Davis, who felt that more could be done at Spotlight to create a safe space to engage and foster emerging female artists and sound engineers.
- Since its launch ten weeks ago Spotlight has engaged 16 young women with the programme, most coming into the studio space for the first time.

- b) **Girls Boxing with Boxing Futures:** Spotlight has been delivering non-contact boxing session for 16 months at Spotlight (Sept 2018 – present)

- They work with each individual to offer an all-female class, with female coaches so that the sport is accessible for the girls and young/women to attend.
 - They provide an opportunity to let out stress or anxiety in a controlled and disciplined way within a safe comfortable environment.
 - Each programme is spread over two terms, and group members are each individually working towards earning their Bronze or Silver Boxercise Awards through an assessment, where they receive a certificate and a Boxing Futures t-shirt.
 - They push aerobic and stamina levels through the shadow boxing, gloves and pad work, skipping rounds and circuit training.
 - Programme also builds soft skills – respecting coaches, time management and organisational abilities and team work.
 - There are a consistently good numbers of participants across all programmes. They have engaged 72 individual girls!
- c) **Girls Club with Spotlight:** Since November 2016 Spotlight has run a girls club every Friday engaging 190 individual girls. Sessions have been designed to provide a fun and comfortable environment where girls can learn to support each other and keep safe in a creative way.
- Sessions focus on different aspects of Spotlight’s 3 strands. Sports, arts and empowerment sessions have been delivered
 - An environment has been created where young people can interact with new groups of people.
 - The club supports knowledge around self-esteem and body image, breaking down the barriers girls have in recognizing their real beauty and further developing their understanding of health and well-being.

3.22 Other provision specifically for girls and young women

The following girls’ projects were funded through the Local Community Fund recently:

Organisation	Project	Priority	Annual funding
Newark Youth London	Girls in Action	Access to Youth Services	20,181
St Hilda's East Community Centre	St. Hilda's Girls Driven Project	Access to Youth Services	16,464
Stifford Centre Limited	Stifford Young Girl’s Project	Access to Youth Services	14,564

These are three out of the 27 projects (with a total budget of £990k) that were funded under the theme of Access to Youth Services

3.22 Youth Services Review

It should be noted that the Youth Service is undergoing a Review. Following the findings of the Review, a reshaped and restructured youth service and offer will be in place from April 2021.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is a background report which outlines provision available for girls and young women both in terms of general and specialist provision. The purpose of this report is to support debate around current provision with the view to increasing access to provision by girls and young women, as currently the percentage of females accessing services is lower than the percentage of the general population in this age group.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The Youth Service has a total budget of £3.6m for 2019-20. There are no pressures forecast for this financial year.
- 6.2 There is a savings target of £0.5m in the 2020-21 MTFs. The pending Youth Services review is expected to fully deliver these savings by the end of 2021-22.
- 6.3 The activities detailed in this report are not expected to incur any financial implications for the Youth service

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1. The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. It is consistent with the Constitution and the statutory framework for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-committee to be provided with information in respect of the Youth Service offer in relation to girls and young women.

- 7.2. Pursuant to section 507B of the Education Act 2006 the Council has a duty to provide facilities for education and recreational leisure time activities for all 13 to 19 year olds and some 20 to 24 year olds. The report sets out ways in which the Council complies with these duties for girls and young women
- 7.3 The Council must also have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristics and those who do not under the Equality Act 2010 (the public sector duty).
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- NONE

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A