

**Request by Member for Scrutiny Review
2007/08 Work Programme**



Please complete the form below to request consideration of your issue by the
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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| Proposers Name: Ken Angold-Stephens | Date of Request 21.09.07 |
| Supporting Councillors (if any): Cllr. Stephen Murray | |
| Summary of Issue you wish to be scrutinised: The provision of County youth services within EFDC District. We have been told that the County Youth Service now has only one permanent member of staff based at Murray Hall which represents a much reduced staffing level although she is backed up by a number of part-time staff. We have also been told that the County youth services are being re-organised in our area but we have not been told what this might mean. As youth services are a non-statutory service they are vulnerable when finance is tight. This is occurring at a time when we are experiencing high levels of youth disorder, particularly in the south of the district and any suggestion of a reduced service would be alarming. In addition a large sum of money was spent only 2 years ago at the Murray hall youth centre which included generous office space, consulting rooms and an internet café. Is the service now being offered value for money and is best use being made of this facility? To what extent does the County youth service liaise with the District youth service to ensure there is no duplication and best value? We feel that the head of youth Services should be invited to O & S to be scrutinised on these issues. | |
| <p align="center">NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION</p> | |
| Public Interest Justification 3 When the Murray Hall was built there was huge local concern and confusion about the service that was to be offered by the youth service. The belief and fear that it was to be a youth club has never quite gone away. The area has attracted some anti-social behaviour although this has receded lately but much of the blame rested quite unfairly on the youth service. Nevertheless a lack of understanding of what an outreach service is or does for local youth has bred more rumours about what takes place there and a belief that it achieves nothing for our local youths. Local people quite rightly feel it is high time we know precisely what the service provides and how successful it is at what it does. This is a high priority for the south of the District. | |

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area: 3

Local concern about anti-social behaviour in the area thought to be encouraged by the presence of the Youth Centre. Although largely unfounded there is no doubt an adjacent old peoples home have felt the impact of a few trouble makers attracted to the Hall.

There has been a significant amount of vandalism at the hall which has cost the Town Council a significant amount to bring under control. Hopefully it is now receding.

Any reduction in the youth service will have an adverse effect on a lot of good work that has been steadily built up over the past 2 years.

Council Performance in this area (if known: Red, Amber, Green): 2

Not known as a lot of good work is no doubt going on but there has been little publicity about the work of the youth team within EFDC or ECC.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?) 3

Not that I am aware of

Office Use:

Pick score: 11

Considered By OSCC: