

Report to John Goffee and Chris Lennox
(with amendments from Change Up Group Members)

By M Ishaq

Youth Offer & the Change-Up Group

CC: Susan Hughes, Independent Chairman
Chairman and Company secretary of LCVYS
Chairman and Chief Officer of LACYP
Chairman and Chief Officer of LYA

Date: 15 February 2007

1. Context

1.1 Lancashire County Council (LCC) have been working with and supporting the three voluntary youth umbrella organisations (LCVYS, LACYP, LYA) for a number of years as a part of its strategy to provide services for the youth in Lancashire. The three organisations have performed a useful function in providing information, advice and infrastructure support to many smaller voluntary youth organisations that are providing services at the grass roots level. The relationships and the reporting responsibilities between the organisations and the LCC Youth & Community Services have been largely flexible and informal.

1.2 However, national and local changes are taking place which include:

- § A specific new role and duties identified by the Government for the Local Authorities to deliver the Youth Offer.
- § Placing new additional responsibilities on the Local Authorities to be custodians in ensuring highest possible standards in delivering the Youth Offer both in terms of direct delivery of services and in monitoring performance and outcome of those services delivered through partnership/commissioning arrangements
- § The integration of Lancashire Youth and Community Service and the Connections Lancashire Service into one new universal support service for young people in Lancashire.

These changes require much more stringent monitoring and review arrangements in terms of outputs and outcomes in return for public support and therefore necessitate new arrangements.

1.3 Other changes are similarly in progress including the establishment of Lancashire Locals which will have responsibilities for distributing grants at the local level. This is at a time when the overall grants from the LCC to the voluntary sector are progressively in decline.

1.4 The LCC Strategy in delivering the Youth Offer reflects the new arrangements and requires greater accountability from the organisations that it will financially support in the future.

1.5 As a consequence LCC has encouraged and supported LCVYS, LACYP, and LYA since April 2006 to come together and if possible restructure themselves (ideally as a one single organisation) which acts as an umbrella for the whole of the voluntary youth sector in Lancashire.

1.6 Despite encouragement and support from LCC the progress made to date has been slower than expected.

1.7 At the beginning of October as part of the CDWC PYI consultancy M Ishaq was engaged to look at ways as to how these negotiations/discussions could be further enhanced and possibly accelerated to achieve LCC objectives of:

- One single umbrella organisation for voluntary youth sector which could represent the interest of youths in Lancashire and which could
- Act as a commissioning body to commission services from the smaller voluntary organisations working with the youth at the local level.

To undertake this exercise Mr Ishaq was to meet the Change Up group as a whole and meet separately the individual members.

2. Meetings with the Members

Change Up Group (Date 10.10.06)

2.1 With assistance from the Independent Chairman (Susan Hughes) I was able to have an agenda item on the group's meeting and introduce myself and my purpose in terms of my role on the workforce development strategy with the possibility of providing support in the discussions/negotiations between the LCC and the group.

2.2 A wide ranging discussion took place with input from all the members where they emphasised that:

- Their Associations' work was wider than their work with just LCC.
- They were considering a number of different models for working together
- Their emphasis was on delivery of their current role/services (no mention of how to influence/input or lead on strategy/policy).

- They could set themselves up and co-operate in delivering aspects of the Youth Offer but not all of them were sure as to what the package was.
- There was some awareness that they would have to deliver measurable outputs/outcomes.

Summary of the outcomes of Meetings with Individual Organisations

Structure/Activity	LCVYS	LACYP	LYA
Organisational Status	Charity & Ltd Company by guarantee	Charity & Ltd Company by guarantee	Charity & Ltd Company by guarantee
Aims/Objectives	To provide brokerage role to the members for accessing development support To represent the views of the voluntary youth sector at all levels	Supporting member clubs to provide for young people a safe place to learn and grow; engage in relationships with caring adults; and affordable planned programme of activities and events; and opportunities for personal and social development.	To provide support and services to member organisations to increase voluntary action, achieve higher standards of service provision, develop and incorporate recognised quality standards in terms of service and recognition of volunteers skills.
Members	No. 120 Principally infrastructure organisations	No. 14 full members and 26 activity members.	No. 100 Principally small youth groups, youth clubs, ethnic minority (EM) groups. local community groups. Dream schemes. Fire-fighters,
Main areas of Services/Support provided	Does not directly work with young people. Information and representational work role. Information provided on developments affecting voluntary youth sector; Types of development courses/training available; Newsletter (Lolly) 10 issues/ annum.	Very focused on providing services to members (approximately 700 young people), but also provides services to other youth groups subject to available capacity. Work in co-operation with other organisations and agencies. Sports mobile project; takes activities to young people throughout Lancashire	Publish quarterly newsletter with information on developments. Provide support for members to access insurance provision. Provide accredited training to members. Provide assistance to access funding. (in 2006help to access £620,000 of additional funding to the Voluntary Youth Sector).

	<p>A trading arm organisation established (LOLLYTRAD Ltd)</p> <p>Independently represent the voluntary sector at all strategic forums.</p>	<p>Quad Squad project; a quad bike based motor education programme delivered throughout Lancashire.</p> <p>Trailblazers; a mobile cycle project using mountain bikes to teach young people safe ride skills.</p> <p>Ormside Mill provides outdoor educational and residential experiences for small groups up to 16 places.</p> <p>Representation on 8 club mgmt comm's.</p>	<p>Partner in Lancashire Learning Consortium brokering £1.2 million for the sector.</p> <p>Over the past 9 years with BLF funding has worked with voluntary youth sector to deliver specified youth work outcomes (total value approx £600,000).</p> <p>LVCFS – Volunteering Lancashire 4 projects with values of £70,000.</p> <p>Trading company- Lancashire Youth Support Services established (currently not being used).</p>
Funding Arrangements	<p>LCC contributing £41,000 towards staff costs.</p> <p>Voluntary sector input 8K</p>	<p>LCC contribution £28,000</p> <p>Accessing additional 170K from a variety of other sources.</p>	<p>LCC contributing £30,000</p> <p>Funding from other sources contributes towards costs of other full time and part time staff.</p>
Employment	<p>2 Full time 1 Part time</p>	<p>5 Full time 2 Part-time</p>	<p>10 Full time 1 Part time 1 Full time volunteer</p>
Affiliations	<p>Members of the newly formed Lancashire Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (LVCFS) Consortium</p> <p>National Council for Voluntary Youth Services; NorthWest Regional Youth Service Unit; NW Regional CVYS, Voluntary Sector NorthWest; NW Network – Holds the Children's and Young People's Portfolio on the Lancashire VCFS Consortium Board of</p>	<p>Members of the newly formed Lancashire Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (LVCFS) Consortium</p> <p>Clubs for Young People (CYP UK)</p> <p>National Association of Clubs for Young people (NACYP) LCVYS</p>	<p>Members of the newly formed Lancashire Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (LVCFS) Consortium</p> <p>North West Youth (Co-operative company)</p> <p>UK Youth</p>

	<p>Directors, Board representation on the Lancashire Learning Consortium, 11% Owner Member of Connexions Lancashire Ltd.; Partnership member of the Lancashire Children's Fund; Wide variety of LCC committees and, most recently, invited to sit on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for Lancashire</p>		
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3. Conclusions

From the work undertaken so far there are a number of conclusions that come to the fore:

3.1 It is evident that there is a degree of duplication in the services provided particularly in terms of information and support.

3.2 The organisations are generally service delivery orientated rather than strategic. Although LCVYS recognises its role in terms of representation of the voluntary youth sector, its role is limited due to limitations in capacity.

3.3 The aspirations of the organisations are principally limited in supporting their members or undertaking their existing activities although one of the organisations has expressed its desire to develop and incorporate new strands to its existing role/activities.

3.4 It is unlikely that all the three organisations would agree to become one corporate body within the foreseeable future, although there is a possibility that they could co-operate on certain aspects of work with the voluntary youth sector.

3.5 The membership of the three organisations is fairly limited. There would appear to be many voluntary organisations working with or providing services to the youth in Lancashire who are currently not members of any of these organisations.

3.6 None of the organisations is currently structured or geared to act as a commissioning organisation which could independently or as a member of a consortium commission services within the context of impartiality, objectivity and

transparency with the ability to apply management and administrative systems/processes/procedures which are adequate to monitor/evaluate the outputs and outcomes that will be required in delivering the Youth Offer.

3.7 Not all the Change Up Group members are fully clear as to what is required by the Lancashire Youth Offer.

3.8 There may be some misconceptions amongst some of the members as to what the Children's Trust **is** able to offer in the future. These again need to be clarified.

3.9 It would be advisable for LCC to extend the existing arrangements with the Change Up Group members for a specified period of time to enable them and the LCC to have more time in order to come to agreeable arrangements for the future (John Goffee has indicated his willingness to agree to this proposition and suggest an extension to the LCC Members with the condition that clear proposals for future working arrangements from the Change Up Group are with him by 31st March 2007).

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

4.1 Any ambiguities (if any) regarding the content of the proposals that LCC has requested to the Change Up Group for submission by 31st March 2007 are urgently clarified.

4.2 The Change Up Group submits clear proposals to LCC as to how it can support LCC in delivering the Youth Offer by 31st March 2007.

4.3 The LCC extends its current financial support to the Change Up Group members to 31st July 2007 by which time specific Service Level Agreements are concluded with the group as a whole or with the relevant individual members.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT

The following relates to the developments that have taken place since the initial draft report was produced in mid November 2006.

The members of the Change Up Group at their meeting on 10th January 2007 were particularly keen to reflect the progress made in the last two months which was suggested should be in the form of an addendum to the report. It was also agreed that any factual inaccuracies in the report should also be amended.

The members of the Change Up Group agreed to provide information on the factual errors/omissions in the report and these have been incorporated in the report attached.

The information relating to a number of positive developments since the draft report was produced are highlighted below:

1. The Change Up Group has been able to agree on a Statement of Intent which is attached together with the covering letter.
2. A Youth Hub has been established with membership from the three Change Up Group members as well as the LCC. This has made real progress in developing and agreeing on a co-operative and systematic approach to delivering the Youth Offer within the voluntary sector context.

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HIGHAM
BURNLEY
LANCASHIRE. BB12 9BU

2nd December 2006

TO MEMBERS OF:

Lancashire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Lancashire Youth Association
Lancashire Association of Clubs for Young People

Trustees and staff members from Lancashire Council for Voluntary Youth Services, Lancashire Youth Association and Lancashire Association of Clubs for Young People have been meeting together, in a forum entitled Change Group for Lancashire Voluntary Youth, under my Chairmanship since April 2006.

As has been previously reported, the Change Group was formed to review key issues arising from developments taking place that will have a significant effect within the youth and voluntary sector agendas.

Over the last few months considerable progress has been made and Trustee Bodies have agreed to fully explore a closer, collaborative working relationship. Members of the Change Group would like to reassure all stakeholders that these developments are being made to strengthen the voluntary youth sector as a whole, by creating a more streamlined approach for service and support delivery to the sector, through what has been termed a Youth Hub.

With a view to outlining its aims, the Change Group has produced a Statement of Intent, which I have much pleasure in enclosing for your information.

Change Group for Lancashire Voluntary Youth

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Change Group for Lancashire Voluntary Youth

Statement of Intent

This statement comprises an agreement between Lancashire Council for Voluntary Youth Services, Lancashire Youth Association and Lancashire Association of Clubs for Young People, to work in collaboration. This is to achieve improved outcomes for all voluntary youth organisations, recognising their diversity, uniqueness and independence.

In doing so, we agree, in the short and medium term:

1. To work together to develop and agree a collaborative working model referred to as the Youth Hub.
2. To work together collaboratively to develop a working methodology for the functions and operations of a Youth Hub.
3. To work together collaboratively to develop a vision statement to support and underpin the work of the Youth Hub.
4. To follow a process of due diligence and when necessary formalise any emerging partnership by written and legal arrangements as may be required.

Agreed on 22nd November 2006 and signed on behalf of the Council and Associations by:

Name	Signature	Date
Tony Andrews	_____	_____
Gordon Russel	_____	_____
Marion Middleditch	_____	_____
Ian Ferguson	_____	_____
Graham Whalley	_____	_____
Alan Donkin	_____	_____