

Community and Cultural Services Review (CCSR)

Update
June 2015

What is CCSR?

- The Community and Cultural Services Review (CCSR) was initiated as a response to 2015/16 budget proposals and a commitment to finding more creative and sustainable models for the delivery of libraries, children's centres and youth services including information advice and guidance.
- The review, underpinned by transitional funding, aims to explore new ways of working and a greater level of engagement with our partners and the community. **It is not about the council walking away from these important services that make a difference to the quality of many people's lives.**
- The term *community and cultural services* is a broad one and it is important to recognise that there are activities which are not in the scope of this review at this stage.

Timescales and financial implications

- The review formally started in April 2015 and was planned to last two years (to end in March 2017).
- The review will reduce the council's expenditure across libraries, youth services and children's centres by £2.3m within two years. Remaining expenditure on these services will be £4.6m (33% lower).
- £1.5m of transition funding has been made available to support the phased implementation to the way we do things.



Progress so far...

Libraries

Building on earlier work, a study of possibilities for a sustainable future for each library, 'Sharing Responsibility for Libraries', has been produced. Engagement activities in June and July to hear ideas and talk through the options.

Children's Centres

Discussions with 12 schools are taking place where the children's centre is on the same site to explore a significant role for schools in the leadership and local management of centres.

Youth Services

Following engagement activities, including with Ofsted, a new delivery model will see a smaller, more targeted youth service being co-ordinated Community Learning MK. This includes the Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team for young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

Identified savings to date mean that by the end of the financial year reductions to expenditure in the region of £1.6m annually will have been achieved.

Next steps...

- A Cabinet Advisory Group has been formed and a progress report to Cabinet is planned for 13 July. A project board is in place and will continue to meet.
- The implementation of the first wave of changes needs to be completed. These include reshaping our work with young people who are not in education, employment or training and refreshing our approach to youth work with a greater emphasis on more targeted work.
- During the autumn, a second wave of changes realising £700K of cost reductions will be needed across children's centres and libraries.
- We plan to continue our engagement activities with colleagues, partners and stakeholders to explore all possibilities and embrace a co-operative approach to service design and delivery.

Questions...

- Does your parish council interact with these services at the moment? If so any feedback is helpful.
- Have you any ideas about activities that you or others on your patch might want to put on in a library or Children's Centre?
- Are there any organisations in your area we should talk to?

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