

EXETER BOARD

Date: Monday 21 November 2016
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue:

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Howard Bassett, Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on 01392 265107 or email howard.bassett@exeter.gov.uk

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Services Centre, Paris Street.

Membership –

Exeter City Council

Councillors Bull, Denham, Edwards, Henson and Sills

Devon County Council

Councillors Prowse, Foggin, Hannaford, Hannan, Hill, Leadbetter (Chair), Morse, J Owen and Westlake

Associate Members

Phil Atwell (Exeter University), Sara Bond (Exeter Chamber of Commerce), Simon Bowkett (Exeter CVS), Gillian Champion (Exeter sub-locality of the Eastern Region New Devon CCG), Superintendent Sam De Reya (Devon and Cornwall Police), Dr Jonathan Draper (Exeter Cathedral), Angela Pedder (RD & E), Jude Taylorson (Faith Groups), Diana Moore (Exeter Community Forum) and John Laramy

Agenda

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

6 **Youth Strategy Update - Councillor Barry Parsons to attend**

(Pages 3 -
22)

Date of Next Meeting

The next **Exeter Board** will be held on Thursday 2 February 2017 at Time Not Specified

Future Business

The schedule of future business proposed for this Scrutiny Committee and other Committees of the Council can be viewed on the following link to the Council's website:

<http://www.exeter.gov.uk/forwardplan>

Councillors can view a hard copy of the schedule in the Members Room.

Find out more about Exeter City Council by looking at our website <http://www.exeter.gov.uk> . This will give you the dates of all future Committee meetings and tell you how you can ask a question at a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on 01392 265107 for further information.

Follow us:

www.twitter.com/ExeterCouncil

www.facebook.com/ExeterCityCouncil

Individual reports on this agenda can be produced in large print on request to Democratic Services (Committees) on 01392 265107

REPORT TO EXETER BOARD

Date of meeting: 21st November 2016

Progress report and presentation of Draft Youth Strategy for Exeter.

- **Whats the report about**

To report on the development of Exeter Youth Strategy and to present its findings

- **Recommendations**

That Exeter Board approve the draft survey and consider the next steps

- **Background**

At its meeting on 25th September 2014 Exeter Board recommended that a priority should be the development of a joint strategy for Exeter for the betterment of teenagers in the city, and that it would need to cover issues such as play, housing services and health and well being. It stated that the development of this strategy would include a wide selection of partners, consultations and inputs.

This initial recommendation was progressed at the Boards meeting on 17th February 2016 when it was resolved that

1. the Board welcome the commitment of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Engagement to engage with Exeter in the development of a youth strategy for the City;
2. Kevin Henman and selected Members and officers meet to establish the way forward for a report to be submitted to the next Board meeting on 28 April to agree the scope of a Youth Strategy for Exeter and the commissioning of a consultant for work on the Strategy to commence as soon as possible with a view to having the work completed by the Autumn; and
3. up to £5,000 be committed from Exeter Board which will augment Devon Youth Service funds to commission the work to produce the Strategy.

This work has now been done and the Draft Report is attached for consideration.

- **What next**

Exeter Board is invited to:

- Note the draft strategy and encourage its constituent bodies including Exeter City Council, Devon County Council and Exeter Community Forum to adopt the priorities it identifies
- Support a launch event for the Strategy, to be held during February half-term 2017, as a platform to engage wider stakeholders in the development of the strategy priorities, alongside young people
- Encourage partner agencies and bodies and youth focused organisations to collaborate on campaigning to achieve the priorities identified through the strategy.

Report from:
Kev Henman – CEO DYS Space Ltd (Formerly Devon Youth Services)
Dawn Rivers – Programme Manager Communities – Exeter City Council

Exeter Youth Strategy (Draft 2, November 2016)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

This strategy has been developed with the support and engagement of Exeter Community Forum, Exeter City Council and Devon County Council. Meeting young people's needs requires agencies to work together and actively engage with young people, their families and communities. These three bodies are committed to working together to help make Exeter a ***Young People-Friendly City*** where the views and aspirations of young people are heard and responded to, and where young people can access the best possible services wherever they live and whatever the wider economic, social and political context.

The Exeter Board and Devon County Council Youth Service have provided funding for the research and development of a multi-agency strategy to respond to the needs of young people aged 10-25 in Exeter City and its immediate surrounds. The strategy sets out priorities that have been identified through consultation with young people and the organisations that work with them and proposes actions to aid the implementation of identified priorities.

Recommendations

Exeter Board is invited to:

- Note the draft strategy and encourage its constituent bodies including Exeter City Council, Devon County Council and Exeter Community Forum to adopt the priorities it identifies
- Support a launch event for the Strategy, to be held during February half-term 2017, as a platform to engage wider stakeholders in the development of the strategy priorities, alongside young people
- Encourage constituent bodies and youth-led organisations to collaborate on campaigning to achieve the priorities identified through the strategy.

EXETER YOUTH STRATEGY (DRAFT)

1. Introduction

We often think of children and young people as being ‘on a journey’, though that journey may not have clear start and end points and is likely to involve a lot of different forms of transport and ‘station-stops’ along the way. This strategy covers the stage in young people’s journey between the ages of 10 and 25, a stage that includes many changes – from primary to secondary school; from school to college, work, university, apprenticeships; and from being dependent on parents and carers to independent decision making and different relationships and ways of living – maybe even becoming parents. It is a journey which is both exciting and scary, and young people are likely to need some help and support along the way. The strategy explores how organisations and communities in Exeter can help make growing up in the city as good an experience as it can be, and can help young people reach their destination safely.

2. Priority actions

2.1 The priorities identified in the report arise from analysis of the findings of research conducted about young people’s lives in Exeter between May and October 2016. An overview of that analysis can be found in Appendix 1 to this report. Young people’s own views were central to our approach, and 680 young people aged between 10 and 19 responded to our survey. 50 further young people from groups who were harder to reach, including those of Black, Asian and minority ethnic origin, LGBT young people and others with particular needs were interviewed by peer researchers. 51 organisations that work with young people provided their perceptions of issues for young people in Exeter through a separate survey.

2.2 The priorities listed here help Exeter develop its identity as a ‘**Young People-Friendly City**’.

| PRIORITY | INDICATORS |
|---|---|
| <i>A voice for young people in the city and beyond</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local youth forums involve young people in their communities• Young people contributing to city-wide strategies for environment, transport, sport, recreation, arts, culture and community development• Exeter young people make a strong contribution to Devon-wide youth voice forums• Public bodies can show how young people’s views have influenced policy and strategy decisions |
| <i>Things to do, places to go</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More youth centres and safe spaces for young people to go to meet their friends, get involved in new activities and get support from experienced youth workers• More affordable music, arts and sports events |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>and venues for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More young people-led initiatives to provide local places to go and things to do • Increased availability of 'pop-up' premises for short term youth facilities • Partnership arrangements in place that enable Exeter's young people to benefit from specialist sports and arts facilities in colleges, universities and other public bodies • Information about things to do and places to go in Exeter is regularly updated and made accessible to young people |
| <i>Protection from bullying and violence</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-agency campaign that involves young people in order to eliminate bullying in schools, youth projects, sports and cultural organisations • Education programme for young people delivered through schools, colleges and youth projects to highlight ways of reducing the risks of on-line bullying • Zero tolerance of bullying behaviour in public forums • Young people report reduction in fear of bullying and violence |
| <i>Support young people's mental health</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency strategy for supporting young people's mental health in Exeter, informed by the views of young people • Accessible early help for young people experiencing mental health concerns including counselling and peer group support • Support for families of young people with mental health issues, to enable them to be able to help the young person themselves |
| <i>An environment with young people in mind</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are consulted and engaged in environment and transport planning • Bus fares and timetables are determined taking into account accessibility for young people • Exeter's parks and city centre are more welcoming to young people, with safe spaces, better lighting and places where young people can sit and talk to friends • Free wifi access is built in to the creation of young people-friendly spaces • Organisations in Exeter support youth-led projects to combat litter and improve the environment |
| <i>A young people-friendly economy</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent approach to careers advice and stronger links between higher and further |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>education institutions and organisations working with young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger relationships between organisations that support young people and local potential employers leading to new work opportunities for young people in the city • More volunteering and project work opportunities that help young people develop the life skills they need • Specific programmes and materials on financial management aimed at young people delivered through schools, colleges and youth projects |
|--|--|

3. Next steps

3.1 The Steering Group has developed the strategy so far, but if it is to be of value in the city it needs to be adopted by a much wider group of stakeholders who can work together to turn the priorities into action.

3.2 Once the Youth Strategy has been discussed by the Exeter Board it is proposed that:

- An easy-to-read version is produced and widely circulated in the city, to young people and to stakeholders
- A launch event is held in February 2017 to introduce the strategy to a wider audience of public bodies, organisations working with young people, young people themselves, local businesses and education institutions, as a starting point to bring together those with an interest in pooling resources to take forward different elements of the strategy
- Action plans for each priority area are prepared and progress is monitored through appropriate arrangements

Appendix 1: Methods and Findings

1. Methods

1.1 A Steering Group was created to oversee the process, and included representatives from Exeter Community Forum, Exeter City Council and Devon County Council, as well as other individuals and organisations with an interest in young people in Exeter. A list of Steering Group members can be found in Appendix 2. The Steering Group was chaired by Councillor Barry Parsons, Cabinet Member for Performance and Engagement at Devon County Council. Gill Millar, an experienced youth sector consultant, was commissioned to lead the work on developing the strategy, supported by Devon County Council Youth Service and officers from Exeter City Council. Work on planning and preparing the strategy began in April 2016 and was completed by November 2016.

1.2 The Steering Group agreed overall parameters for the strategy, specifically:

- Focus on young people aged 10-25, to take into account key transition points from primary to secondary schooling and from education to work and further training
- The geographical boundary for the strategy is that of Exeter City Council, though it was recognised that facilities in Exeter are frequently used by young people from surrounding parts of Devon and even further afield.
- The strategy would focus on what young people do outside of the time they spend in formal education (schools, college etc), taking in their leisure time and services they may need for support with specific concerns such as housing, mental health and drug and alcohol misuse
- While recognising that students form a significant element of the population of 18-25 year olds in the city the Steering Group agreed not to focus on the needs of university students living in the city temporarily. However, it acknowledges the potential for increased partnership work with Exeter University and others to make the best use of facilities which could benefit young people.
- The views of young people should be at the centre of the strategy.

1.3 Work on the strategy had several elements:

1. *Research the needs of young people in Exeter:* this involved reviewing existing demographic information about young people in the city; consulting with 680 young people through an electronic survey and through interviews with 50 young people from key groups who were less likely to complete the survey – these interviews were conducted by a group of young researchers recruited from youth organisations in the city
2. *Consult with stakeholders:* an electronic survey was used to contact 51 organisations that either work with young people in communities or offer specialist services for young people. Some of these organisations were also invited to join the Steering Group.
3. *Map current provision for young people:* this was undertaken by reviewing existing databases of provision and by a questionnaire to organisations such as sports governing bodies, uniformed youth organisations, arts networks and others

4. *Review and refine priorities:* The Steering Group reviewed progress and added information and local knowledge as the project progressed, and have shaped the priorities presented in the strategy.

2. What we learnt about young people in Exeter

Key issues that were identified through our research were:

2.1 Population

- The population of Exeter is growing more quickly than any other part of Devon. 26.2% of the population is aged between 10 and 25 years with 7% of that population aged between 10 and 17 years. It is likely that more than half of the 18-25 year olds are students at the university and colleges, living mainly in Duryard and the wards around the city centre.
- The population of 10-17 year olds is not evenly spread across the city – in general wards with high student populations have relatively low numbers of 10-17 year olds. Within each ward there are pockets with high 10-17 years youth populations, and these often correlate with neighbourhoods with significant deprivation indicators
- 10.5% of young people in Exeter have English as a second language – for Devon as a whole, this figure is 3.5%

2.2 Education and employment

- In April 2016 11.9% of 16-18 year olds in Exeter were not in education, employment or training (NEET). The same figure for Devon as a whole is 7.3%. In some deprived areas of the city the figure is over 20%
- There seems to be a dip in academic achievement for young people in Exeter between age 11 and 16: young people in Exeter achieve more than the Devon average in Key Stage 2 tests in Year 6, but their results in achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C are considerably below the Devon average
- However, the majority of young people who completed our survey said they were confident they would get a good job once they completed their education

2.3 Crime and anti-social behaviour

- 45% of recorded crime in Exeter takes place in the city centre
- Young people are over-represented in statistics both as victims of crime and as perpetrators
- The vast majority of young people who responded to our survey told us they felt safe in their home neighbourhoods – but many more said they felt unsafe in the city centre
- We asked young people the best and worst things about living in Exeter – street drinkers in the city centre came high amongst the worst things

2.4 Housing and homelessness

- Organisations working with young people report high levels of young people who are homeless and insufficient provision to house them safely in the medium to long term
- Exeter City Council's housing statistics do not reflect this, possibly because many homeless 16-24 year olds are single with no dependents, so are not eligible for housing support through the local authority

- Organisations tell us that young people often move into Exeter from other areas, looking for accommodation and work, then are unable to find any affordable, safe place to live
- Many young people responding to the survey said the number of homeless people in the city centre was amongst the worst things about the city. This probably links to the street drinking noted above, and is not exclusively about *young* homeless people

2.5 *Health*

- Mental health has become a very significant priority issue, both for young people themselves (as reported to our survey) and for the organisations that work with them. Nationally there is a very significant increase in young people reporting mental health issues. Exeter has the second highest number of school age children with a mental health disorder in Devon.
- Treatment services for children and young people's mental health in Devon, as in most local health areas have very long waiting lists, and high thresholds of need before clients can receive treatment
- Teenage pregnancies in Exeter have declined considerably since a peak in 2007 and are close to the Devon average

2.6 ***What do young people like about living in Exeter?***

In the survey, we asked young people to tell us what they liked best about living in Exeter. It is hard to capture all the responses on this, but these 5 items were raised most frequently:

- Shops – there is a great range of them
- Friends
- Town – it's big, but not too big
- Schools
- Lots of places to go – this includes places in the city and the ease of getting out of the city and to the beach and the countryside.

Parks, food and sports were also mentioned regularly amongst young people's favourite aspects of Exeter.

2.7 ***What do young people dislike about living in Exeter?***

The survey also asked young people to tell us what they disliked about living in Exeter. Again, 5 items were raised most frequently:

- Traffic – young people are very aware of the traffic congestion in Exeter
- Litter – young people are often blamed for causing litter, so it is interesting to see that they are also unhappy about its impact on the environment
- Expensive – young people know the city has a lot of facilities, but can't access it all as much of it is too expensive for them
- Weather – we can't do much about that except design youth facilities that can keep young people warm and dry
- Homeless people – this is discussed above and seems to reflect a feeling of being intimidated in the city centre by the presence of what young people see as large groups of homeless people

Older young people who we spoke to in groups and individual interviews also highlighted the high cost and unreliability of public transport which meant they could not get to places they wanted to go at the times they wanted to get there.

2.8 What do young people think about life as a young person in Exeter?

We asked young people to agree or disagree with a series of statements, using a 5-point scale. The results showed that:

- Young people are fairly evenly split between those who think there are plenty of youth projects, including sports, arts and music opportunities for them to get involved in their communities, those who don't know and those who think there are not enough opportunities
- Most young people thought they knew where to get advice about issues that affect their lives (48%), though 25% said they did not know where to go for advice
- Most young people said they felt safe in their community, though considerably fewer said they felt safe in the city centre.
- Less than 24% of young people felt their views were listened to when decisions about young people are made in Exeter. If this strategy is to work, much more effort is needed to engage young people in decision making.
- Over 60% of respondents said they were confident they would be able to get a good job when they finished their education, and only 18% disagreed with this statement. It seems young people have confidence in both their own abilities and in Exeter's job market.

2.9 What do the organisations working with young people think?

We asked organisations to respond to a similar set of questions and there are interesting differences – and some similarities - between their responses and those of young people.

- Over 50% of organisations thought there were not enough opportunities for young people to get involved with in their areas
- Just over 30% thought young people could get access to advice and support on issues that affect their lives: young people themselves were much more confident. This could reflect the organisations' focus on young people with complex needs while the questionnaire was widely distributed and many of those responding may not have needed to find specialist advice.
- Organisations and young people had similar perceptions of young people feeling safe in their neighbourhoods, with fewer organisations expressing confidence that young people would feel safe in the city centre.
- Only 18% of organisations felt young people's views were taken into account in decision making about issues that affect them, with 42% disagreeing with this statement. This reflects the views of young people in the survey, and identifies a key issue for action.
- Organisations were less optimistic about young people's job prospects than the young people themselves: only 18% said there were good jobs available for young people in Exeter, with 42% disagreeing with this statement.

3. What are the priorities for young people in the city?

3.1 Our survey asked young people to identify the changes they would like to see in Exeter to make it more 'young-people friendly'. They selected the following as the things that mattered most to them. The numbers in brackets show the number of times this issue was ranked in the top 3 priorities.

Figure 1: Young people's priorities

1. Protection from violence and bullying – **261**
2. Free wifi across the city – **245**
3. Young people have a voice in decisions that affect them – **197**
4. Opportunities for fun & challenging activities – **184**
5. Improvements to the environment in Exeter – **169**
6. Improved public transport in Exeter – **159**
7. Wider range of training and qualifications – **157**
8. Information about jobs and careers – **121**
9. Curriculum for Life – skills for transitions – **113**
10. Advice and guidance from experienced workers – **101**
11. Chances to volunteer and help people - **99**

3.2 The interviews conducted with harder to reach young people, including those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities added more depth to these priorities. They said they wanted more spaces for young people to socialize, meet friends, get involved in activities if they want to – they did not want these to be too structured, preferring informal settings with activities available – such as youth centres – as well as more simple, welcoming places for them to meet their friends in public places, such as well-designed benches and shelters. The BAME young people interviewed were particularly keen to have more affordable accessible sports facilities.

3.3 They highlighted the high costs of facilities and transport that prevents them using existing sports/leisure facilities – they want free activities, more (cheap) concerts and young people's night clubs (no alcohol). Short-term pop-up workshops, events and venues were suggested, especially where they could provide opportunities for young people to lead.

3.4 They also said they would welcome an easy way of getting up to date information about what's on/what's available in Exeter.

3.5 Some BAME young people expressed fears of bullying and discrimination in youth provision – some examples were given from their own experience. Some BAME parents did not want their young people going to activities outside their home and families, either for fear of bullying or wider safety and cultural concerns.

4. What organisations see as priorities for young people in the city

4.1 Organisations working with young people were also asked to identify their priorities for young people in Exeter, and were given a similar list of issues to those of the young people, with the addition of a statement about targeted support for those with specific needs. Their responses can be seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Priorities identified by organisations:

1. Targeted support for young people with specific needs – **23**
2. Curriculum for Life – skills for transitions – **21**
3. Advice and guidance from experienced workers – **13**
4. Young people have a voice in decisions that affect them – **12**
5. Wider range of training and qualifications – **12**
6. Protection from violence and bullying – **12**
7. Improved public transport in Exeter – **10**
8. Opportunities for fun & challenging activities – **8**
9. Chances to volunteer and help people – **7**
10. Free wifi across the city – **6**
11. Improvements to the environment in Exeter – **5**
12. Information about jobs and careers – **4**

4.2 When asked which particular groups of young people were in need of targeted support, organisations listed a number of groups. Those seen as most in need were young people with mental health concerns, young people in housing need, those not in education, employment and training (NEET) and those in care and leaving care. Of these, mental health was the issue most frequently identified as most urgent and important.

4.3 Organisations also stated that there is a need for improved attitudes and tolerance towards young people in the city. This issue has also been noted in information discussed in the Steering Group: many in the city view young people as a 'problem', to be moved on from public places and as the cause of disruption in the city centre and in communities. Though it is indubitably true that some young people do take part in anti-social and criminal behaviour, they are a small minority and it is not reasonable to treat all young people as potential troublemakers. We need to do more to foster a positive conversation about young people in the city, involving communities, employers, public bodies and young people themselves.

5. What opportunities currently exist for young people in Exeter?

5.1 This strategy is focused on opportunities for young people outside of the time they spend in formal education. It has not been possible to create an accurate map of the opportunities currently on offer, for a number of reasons.

5.2 Firstly, there is no centralised database of organisations that encourage young people to get involved with their activities in the city. Exeter is not unique in lacking such a data-base, as very few areas have been able to keep up to date

records, despite much effort being made. The most useful source of data for this report was Devon's Family Information Service, though it is unlikely to include all the organisations currently working with young people in Exeter. The list of organisations identified is included as Appendix 3

5.3 Secondly, because much activity for young people is run by small community based organisations, often staffed solely by volunteers, it is almost impossible to keep up to date with provision as organisations open and close, change their times and venues and contact information. It is also hard to include commercial provision alongside that provided by voluntary organisations as it is rare that any infrastructure body has good links across VCS, private and public sectors.

5.4 However, young people have told us that they would welcome an easy to access way of finding out what is available in Exeter, so a possible outcome of the strategy could be some investment of time and resources into creating an electronic information service about young people's services – young people could and should be involved in design and development of this.

5.5 Based on the information available, and comparing it with what young people say they want, we can see that:

- There are few opportunities for young people to get involved in open access youth centres: Devon Youth Service's 'Hub' at 100 Club in Priory ward provides a range of open access sessions each week and is the only remaining secular centre, while some churches provide regular clubs for young people as part of their ministry. Young people in the north of the city are less likely to be able to get to provision at 100 Club because of poor and expensive transport links.
- There are few explicit opportunities for young people to have a say in decisions that affect them in Exeter. Devon Youth Parliament meets in Exeter though covers Devon as a whole. Devon Youth Service support the '9th Hub', as a virtual forum for young people in Devon to have a say. We have not identified any local youth forums in communities, though they may exist. Young people said they want to have a say in decision making and this seems to be a gap for Exeter.
- Available data suggests that the city is quite well-provided with sports facilities, either run by individual clubs, by public bodies or by private leisure facilities. There are also sports pitches and all-weather facilities available through Exeter City Council. Young people told us that they would make more use of these facilities if they were less expensive and available at times when young people were free (evenings and weekends). There may be opportunities to make sports facilities at Exeter University more accessible to local young people
- Exeter has a thriving arts, music and cultural scene, though it is not always easy for young people to get involved with it. As with youth organisations, it is hard to find an accurate database of arts opportunities, but more work may be needed to engage young people in arts and music. The need to embrace

cultural diversity in arts in the city was highlighted by a number of organisations and young people.

- There are a number of organisations in the city providing specialist and targeted support to young people with particular needs, such as housing, health, disability and being out of employment and training. Some of these organisations provide advice on a drop-in basis, others require a formal referral before the service can be accessed. Although young people responding to the survey felt they knew how to access support, organisations were less convinced that this was the case, highlighting unmet needs for key groups. They particularly noted gaps in support for young people in the early stages of mental health concerns.

6. What are the priority issues to help make Exeter a ‘Young–People Friendly’ City?

6.1 *A voice for young people in the city and their communities*

The young people we contacted were clear that they would like more say in decisions that affect them in the city. The issues that they are concerned about are varied, including environment, parks, transport, facilities for young people, sport, music, culture and support for vulnerable people. There was also a strand in the survey responses of young people wanting to be able to vote at 16. They see themselves as citizens of Exeter and want to contribute and have a say in its development.

6.1.1 Youth participation builds from the bottom up, and flourishes where communities and professionals are willing to listen and involve young people, where public bodies seek their views and participation and where young people are encouraged to take on representative roles, supported by those with skills in helping people find ways of having their voices heard. The organisations supporting the youth strategy should:

- Encourage local youth forums to involve young people in their communities
- Actively seek the views of young people on new proposals that could affect them
- Help young people to understand how decisions are made, and how best to influence decision makers to achieve change
- Support local young people to engage with Devon-wide, regional and national forums where they can achieve change.

6.1.2. Having a voice is not all about representation, however: young people can also have a voice through being involved in designing and running facilities, events and projects in their own areas. Organisations in the city should encourage young people in volunteering and social action in their communities, or on issues that they care about. In this way, young people learn how to lead and run projects for themselves, and also experience working alongside adults as equal partners in teams.

6.2 Things to do, Places to go

6.2.1. A key priority for young people we spoke to is the need for more places to go and things to do. When asked to be more specific about this, those we interviewed told us that the key characteristic of the places they wanted was 'informality'. They wanted to be able to go there to be with their friends, with the option of getting involved in activities such as sports or music, but no pressure to do that if they didn't want to. If there are staff, they want them to be friendly, understanding and to take an interest in the young people. This sounds a lot like youth centres.

6.2.3. Young people also suggested more short-term 'pop-up' facilities, maybe using empty shops or other premises where youth-focused cafes, or music workshops could be run for a few months, then either move on to other premises, or simply come to an end. This would involve a very flexible approach and creative partnerships between landlords, neighbours and young people, and could be a great opportunity for young people-led social enterprises.

6.2.4. There is a difference between the wishes of those at the lower end of the age range and those nearer the top. 10-14 year olds are more likely to want facilities in their immediate areas, while older young people are more willing and able to travel for facilities and activities that they value – though one of their biggest complaints about Exeter was expensive and unreliable buses, so there are limitations on this. There is an argument for neighbourhood based junior youth provision and city centre or 'hub' based specialised facilities aimed at those aged 15 and above.

6.2.5. In addition to providing social meeting places and access to a range of activities, this kind of provision also provides an entry point for young people to gain support on issues that affect their lives, by providing knowledgeable and supportive staff, information and education on issues such as drugs, alcohol, physical, sexual and mental health and protection from bullying.

6.2.6. Young people also said they would value some kind of easy-to-access directory so they could find out more about what is available in the city. There is scope for a project that involves young people in creating and designing such a directory, possibly as a website and/or app.

6.3 Protecting young people from bullying and violence

6.3.1. This was the top priority for the young people who responded to the survey, the majority of whom were 11-14 years. Clearly they experience bullying in different forms and in different settings – in school, in their communities and on-line via social media. More needs to be done to help young people develop strategies to cope with bullying, and to challenge the rising trend of bullying on-line. A mix of campaigning on the issue and practical education to help reduce risks, along with positive support for those who experience bullying will be necessary.

6.3.2. We do not know the extent to which young people are the victims of violence from other young people or from adults, and it seems likely that there is an element

of violence involved in the bullying that young people report. Again, this issue should be explored, with young people as partners, to identify responses that can reduce young people's fear of violence in Exeter.

6.4. Supporting mental health – improving resilience, better transitions

6.4.1 The organisations that work with young people identified young people with concerns about mental health as the highest priority group for intervention.

Nationally, there has been a dramatic rise in young people with mental health problems in recent years and the statistics show that Exeter is no exception to this – indeed rates of reported mental ill-health amongst adolescents is higher here than in most other areas of Devon.

6.4.2. Young people's mental health needs are growing and are outpacing developments in services to support them. Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have high thresholds and long waiting lists. Authorities recognise that there is a need for early help and early intervention to try to prevent young people needing to access specialist treatments. Devon has invested in a schools based approach to early help, training teachers in recognising symptoms of mental ill-health and providing initial support and information for young people. However, this is not easy to reach for all young people, nor is it always able to provide the kind of individualised approach some young people need.

6.4.3. There is a need for more support, including:

- Enabling those who already have professional relationships with young people (youth workers, housing support workers and others) to feel confident to support them on mental health issues
- Easier access to counselling for young people
- Groups that offer peer support to young people experiencing mental health problems
- Support for families of young people with mental health issues, to enable them to be able to help the young person themselves

6.5. Environment and Transport

6.5.1. Exeter's environment, open spaces and proximity to the countryside and sea were amongst the things that young people said they liked most about living there. However, they also felt that the environment could be much more friendly towards young people, in particular through:

- Making parks and the city centre more appealing by providing benches where young people can sit and talk to friends, and making spaces safer by improving lighting and taking out 'creepy corners'. As noted earlier, young people are particularly fearful of being attacked or robbed, and would make more use of both the city centre and open spaces if they were seen to be safer.
- Much of young people's communication is via mobile phones, usually Pay as you Go, so they are always seeking open access wifi. Their second highest priority was free wifi across the city, and while this might be impractical, wifi is

clearly important to young people and should be built in to the creation of young people-friendly spaces

- Young people expressed concerns about litter in the city, and there is scope for supporting youth-led projects to combat litter and improve the environment

6.5.2. Young people have lots of really good ideas about the environment, and one outcome of the Youth Strategy could be an environmental plan that really engaged with them.

6.6. **Jobs and careers**

6.6.1. Young people and the organisations we consulted recognised the importance of young people gaining the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to get into positive employment when they complete their formal education. They want young people to be able to gain the life skills to help them make that transition: this can include knowledge and understanding of managing their financial situation; advice about career options that matches their skills and interests, opportunities for experience in different work settings, and building their confidence in team working, communication, problem solving, creativity, entrepreneurship and leadership. There are many ways in which this can be achieved including:

- Consistent approach to careers advice and stronger links between higher and further education institutions and organisations working with young people
- Stronger relationships between organisations that support young people and local potential employers
- Volunteering and project work opportunities that help young people develop the life skills they need
- Specific programmes and materials on financial management aimed at young people

Appendix 2: Members of Youth Strategy Steering Group

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Councillor Barry Parsons (Chair) | Cabinet Member for Performance and Engagement at Devon County Council |
| Councillor Paul Bull | Exeter City Council |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor Daniel Gottschalk | Exeter City Council |
| Councillor Robert Hannaford | Exeter City Council |
| Diana Moore | Exeter Community Forum |
| Karen Gold | Devon & Cornwall Police |
| Mark Goodman | VOYC Devon |
| Rev. James Grier | Diocese of Exeter |
| Kev Henman | Devon Youth Service |
| Dawn Rivers | Exeter City Council |
| Cleo Heard | Graffiti Academy |
| Mahi Ahmed | Exeter City Council |
| Dave Rafferty | Devon Youth Service |
| Steff Holwill | Devon Youth Service |
| Gill Millar | Strategy Co-ordinator |

DRAFT

Appendix 3: Organisations working with young people in Exeter (from Devon Family Information Service)

| Name of organisation | Location of activities |
|--|--|
| DAISI Arts Inspired Learning | Various |
| Youth Enquiry Service (YES) | LBD House, George Street, Exeter, DEVON, EX1 1DA |
| Just 4 Funk Productions (Breakdancing) | Exeter Phoenix, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, |

| | |
|---|---|
| classes, workshops, shows) | EXETER, DEVON, EX4 3LS |
| June Bealey School of Dance | 7-9, King Street, EXETER, DEVON, EX1 1BQ |
| Exeter Academy of Dance | St Thomas Methodist Church, 110-111 Cowick Street, St Thomas, EXETER, EX4 1JE |
| Children of Deaf Adults Club | Unit 3-4, Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close, Marsh Barton Trading Estate, Exeter, EX2 8PW |
| CAMHS – mental health provision | 1a Capital Court, Bittern Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7FW |
| Children & young people's occupational therapy team | 1a Capital Court, Bittern Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7FW |
| Devon Children in Care Health Service | 1a Capital Court, Bittern Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7FW |
| Journey after child abuse team | 1a Capital Court, Bittern Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7FW |
| YMCA Exeter Housing | YMCA Exeter, 39/41 St Davids Hill, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 4DA |
| VOYC Devon | YFC Centre, Retail Park Close, Marsh Barton Road, EXETER, EX2 8LG |
| Exeter Singing Roots | St Sidwells Centre, Sidwell Street, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 6NN |
| CEDA Rhythms Music Club/FUMP | CEDA, Clare Milne Centre, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter, EX1 3QS |
| Wheelyboats Trust | Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre, Haven Road, Exeter Quay, EXETER, EX2 8DP |
| Riding for the Disabled Association Group | Oaklands Riding School, Balls Farm Road, Alphington, EXETER, EX2 9JA |
| Exeter Cathedral School Judo Club | Exeter Cathedral School, Palace Gate, EXETER, DEVON, EX1 1HX |
| Te-Ashi-Do Freestyle Karate | St Sidwells Centre, Sidwell Street, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 6NN |
| Exeter Martial Arts | 2-4 Station Yard, Richmond Road, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 4SP |
| Riverside Leisure Centre | Riverside Leisure Centre, Cowick Street, St Thomas, EXETER, EX4 1AF |
| Exeter Junior Chess Club | Heavitree Social Club, 2 East Wonford Hill, Heavitree, Exeter, EX1 3BS |
| Street Motion Freerunning Academy | Exeter Sports Academy, 33 Marsh Green Road West, Marsh Barton, Exeter, EX2 8PN |
| St James Judo Centre | St James School, Summer Lane, Beacon Heath, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 8NN |
| Traditional Japanese Karate Instruction | Trinity Community Hall, Arena Park, Beacon Heath, Exeter, Devon, EX4 8RD |
| Topsham St James Cricket Club | Bonfire Field, Exeter Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0LY |
| Countess Wear Cricket Club | The Pavillion, Winslade Park, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1DS |
| Broadclyst Leisure Centre | Broadclyst Leisure Centre, Station Road, Broadclyst, EXETER, DEVON, EX5 3AL |
| Exeter College Adult & Community Learning | Exeter College, Hele Road, EXETER, DEVON, EX4 4JS |
| Education + Training Skills | ETS House, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park, EXETER, DEVON, EX1 3QS |
| 2469 (Exeter St Thomas) Squadron Air Training Corps | Cowick Barton Playing Fields, Old Vicarage Road, St Thomas, EXETER, EX2 9DQ |
| Devon Youth Service 100 Club | 100 Club, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7EH |
| Radi8 | Belmont Chapel, Western Way, Exeter, Devon, EX1 2DB |
| Sub 18 at Belmont Chapel | Belmont Chapel, Western Way, Exeter, Devon, EX1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| | 2DB |
| Friday Night Youth at Riverside Church | Riverside Centre, 13-14 Okehampton Street, St Thomas, EXETER, EX4 1DU |
| RS2 at Pinhoe Rd Baptist Church | Pinhoe Road Baptist Church, 157-165 Pinhoe Road, Polsloe, EXETER, EX4 7HZ |
| Westside Youth Club | Westside Youth Centre, Merrivale Road, St Thomas, EXETER, EX4 1PT |
| The Beacon Community Centre | The Beacon Community Centre, Beacon Lane, Beacon Heath, EXETER, EX4 8LZ |
| Young Parents Group at West Exe Children's Centre | West Exe Children's Centre, Cowick Street, St Thomas, EXETER, EX4 1HL |
| Monthly Daisy Chain at Whipton Children's Centre | Whipton Childrens Centre, Hill Lane, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3JP |
| UK Youth Parliament | Room 129, County Hall, Topsham Road, St Leonard's, EXETER, EX2 4QD |

DRAFT