

## **Summary of National Youth Agency Peer Review Report** **Warwickshire Youth Service (TYS) June 2024**

In Autumn 2023 the NYA started a pilot of Peer Reviews for Local Authorities to enable them to confidently assess the needs of young people in their area and fulfil their Statutory Duty for youth work. After an initial cohort of 3 local authorities the NYA were looking for volunteers to proceed with some further funded reviews. In Warwickshire we recognise that regular reviews of youth work support the continuing high standards that we want to achieve for our young people. We agreed to a review which took place in June this year. We were visited by 4 NYA representatives who spent 3 days in Warwickshire observing youth work delivery and talking to staff and our partners.

These are the main findings:

### **1. Strong Commitment to Youth Services:**

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has shown a commendable commitment to maintaining and developing youth services despite financial challenges.

Retention of Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) terms and conditions for youth workers, which has helped attract and retain qualified staff.

Investment in trainees and apprentices to build a robust workforce.

### **2. Effective Leadership and Management:**

The leadership team is highly experienced and passionate, with a clear structure for supporting and developing youth workers.

Youth workers feel valued and supported, with access to bespoke training and development opportunities.

The service is well-respected both internally and externally, contributing significantly to interdisciplinary practice and the broader Children and Young People's Strategy (2021-2030).

### **3. Positive Impact and Partnerships:**

The Youth Service (TYS) has developed strong self-reporting evaluation measures, demonstrating positive outcomes for young people.

Effective partnerships with other statutory agencies, contributing valuable insights and support in challenging circumstances.

### **Actions from the report:**

These actions aim to build on the strengths of Warwickshire's youth services, ensuring continued positive outcomes for young people in the county.

### **1. Develop a Comprehensive Mapping Exercise:**

The report recommends conducting a comprehensive mapping exercise in collaboration with internal and external statutory partners and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE).

Actions: We have started to map all youth work provision, including identifying needs and gaps. By having a clear picture of what is available and what is needed, Warwickshire TYS can better identify gaps in provision and reduce duplication. This will also help in making new partnerships and ensuring the best use of resources to support positive outcomes for young people. There is potential for this to be enhanced by additional data from youth justice and the Fast Team. Work to be completed by March 2025.

### **2. Develop a Youth Service Plan**

The report suggests creating a new specific strategy for the Targeted Youth Service (TYS), supported by a re-write of the current Warwickshire Youth Work Approach 2021 document. We will create a plan clearly defines what youth work is and how it has a unique role TYS plays within children's services across the local authority. It should also highlight the significant contributions TYS makes to the Children and Young People's Strategy (2021-2030) and its identified priorities.

Action: This is an ideal opportunity to review youth work delivery with the development of the Pathfinder Programme and the youth service being placed within adolescent teams. The plan is to have a comprehensive delivery plan for April 2025.

### **3. Review Participation Strategy:**

The report reflects on the Council's Participation plan and suggests Development of a plan for youth participation, outlining opportunities and expectations for young people within the service. This is something we feel is already a robust offer with Child Friendly Warwickshire.

Action: The youth service will continue to support formal and informal approaches to ensure that young people are enabled to have their voice heard in Warwickshire.

Specific tasks will look at collaboration work between the youth service and the youth council to enable more opportunities for young people. Discussions have already started on this.

Dave Jones, Interim Head of Service