

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

Councillor Allan to the Chief Executive

- (1) Due to the full time Youth Worker complement being reduced to four for the whole city, can I be advised of the programme for youth work in Torry?

Answer:-

The work to implement the decision to reduce the communities' team budget by £1.4 m in 2011/12 is underway. The staffing budget available for staff, including Community Learning & Development, Youth Workers, Community Training and Economic Development and Neighbourhood Community Planning Staff has been reduced by approximately 67%.

A new management and operational structure is developed and the job matching process almost complete. The team has completed approximately 150 matching interviews during June 2011, for posts within the new structure.

Officers are working to manage the transformation of the service and to support the transition to leased community centres. Within the new structure a member of staff has been appointed to the new post of Development Manager for Young People. This post holder will have a team of four youth development officers, a small team of community learning youth workers and a small budget for session staff. The team will support the delivery of youth work across the city, including providing support for leased centre committees who want to commission youth work in their areas.

The transition process is underway between those staff leaving and those, staff taking up the new posts and reviewing how services will be delivered. A meeting is scheduled on 25 August 2011 to finalise the plans for the delivery of youth work across the city, including in the Torry area. The available resources will be used to target priority areas which will include Torry.

The programme at Tullos has stopped as normal, over the summer break. It is likely that this will continue, but as part of the achievement programme with schools. The work of the Torry Youth project will operate with limited funds which will require to be targeted. The facilities at Torry Youth project will continue to be available for use.

Officers will work with community centre management to facilitate their support for the delivery of youth work in their area. The city wide plan for youth work is being finalised during August.

Councillor Allan has indicated that she is not satisfied with the above response, and wants more detailed information on a number of issues which could be elicited via a supplementary question. These issues include clarification on the meeting to be held on 25th August, the need for additional information relating to older youths and specific issues relating to Torry in light of recent events.