

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Super-sites planned for Southwark young people

By Dipika Ghose

Southwark plans to spend up to £6m on three "magnet sites" for young people by 2010 after young people's services in the London borough were brought together under one children's services department last week.

The centres will bring together services for young people including health, Connexions and educational information. The three sites, which will together cost £3m to £6m to set up, will each have a network of satellite centres attached. The plans are part of a youth offer launching in April.

Under Southwark's new structure, youth services are under the same umbrella as Connexions, the teenage pregnancy strategy, Positive Activities for Young People, health and drug education, play services and after-school services.



Southwark: plans to launch 'magnet sites' for young people

Karl Murray, head of services for young people, said: "After consultation with young people and professionals, there has been a planned process to bring about better co-ordination across all Southwark's services for young people.

"The concept of the magnet sites is to have a focal attraction in the borough, as young people are always saying they don't know where to go for help. The sites will play out differently depending on the area."

AWARDS

New Year Honours List rewards youth sector

By Emily Rogers

The chief executives of the NSPCC, Rainer and Connexions Hertfordshire are among more than 40 individuals honoured for their services to young people in the New Year Honours List.

Among those appointed OBE for services to young people is Joyce Thacker, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's senior head of service for children and young people and previously chief executive of Connexions South Yorkshire. She has worked with young people since she was 13, as a volunteer for a youth club in Galloway.

Thacker said: "I love trying to make a difference: it's something that inspires me and what I get out of bed for."

Also appointed OBE, for her services to young people, is Joyce Moseley, chief executive of the young people's charity Rainer and founder member of the

Youth Justice Board, who has been involved in work with young people since 1968.

"I'm very pleased to receive this, not least because of the recognition it gives to youth justice," said Moseley.

Andrew Simmons, who has been chief executive of Connexions Hertfordshire since its inception five years ago, is also appointed OBE for his services to young people.

Other honours for the sector include Mary Marsh, director and chief executive of the NSPCC, who has been made a Dame for services to families and children.

Ian Russell, the former chief executive of Scottish Power, was appointed CBE for his services to young people and volunteering.

And George Edington, chair of the children's charity NCH, has been appointed CBE for services to children.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Union supports merger proposals

The main trade union for youth workers is backing plans that would see it become part of a super union with about two million members.

The Community and Youth Workers' Union (CYWU) believes the merger between its parent organisation, the Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G), and manufacturing union Amicus, would give youth workers a more powerful voice.

Delegates at a T&G conference last month voted in favour of the merger. A ballot of members of both unions will be held in February. If this is positive the new union will launch on 1 May.

Doug Nicholls, general secretary of the CYWU, said the national executive will

recommend that members back the proposal.

"It unites us with more youth and community workers and workers in the voluntary sector," he said.

ANIMALS

Dogs Trust calls for ownership lessons

An animal charity has called for young people to be taught how to have responsible relationships with animals through youth clubs and at school.

Chris Laurence, veterinarian director of the Dogs Trust, told *Young People Now*: "It is difficult to influence young people in deprived communities where some feel that a dog would protect them."

The call follows the fatal mauling of five-year-old Ellie Lawrenson by a pit bull terrier on New Year's Day. www.dogstrust.org.uk

Arts beat



Stars and stripes Artist Charlotte, 18, from Portsmouth, meets youth minister Beverley Hughes at Flourish, a national exhibition of artworks by looked-after young people. Sponsor PricewaterhouseCoopers plans to show some of the works in its offices. Some will be shown at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services conference in Leicester in March.