**June 2017: Update for VCS forum on Youth Advisory Boards and the recent re-commissioning of youth & community work provision.**

**YABs**

* Following CS Committee’s task & finish group report in November 2016, YABs are being re-focused as *young people led partnerships*, supported and advised by adults representing a range of relevant local agencies and organisations.
* The aim is that by September all YABs will be *chaired by a young commissioner*.
* A more structured approach is being taken to how young people are recruited from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences, together with a new *young commissioner development programme*.
* *YAB funding* has been ring fenced to support young commissioners and associated youth participation activities across the district, so that young commissioners can shape a wide range of local services.
* YABs are currently working on producing *an annual YAB plan*, based on analysis of local needs and young commissioners will direct the use of the remaining funding to support their plan’s aspirations.

**Youth & community work support for YABs**

* A *revised contract specification* was developed to reflect the new model for YABs, with an emphasis on supporting YABs to operate effectively as young people led partnerships and to enable young people to influence and shape local services in response to their needs.
* Following a good level of interest from VCSE organisations, NCC has recently undertaken *a procurement exercise to commission new youth & community work support* for all of the YABs, for when the current contracts cease in September this year.
* Bids were *evaluated by a panel* made up of young commissioners, Momentum, district council and CS early help representatives, all working with NCC’s procurement team alongside Robin, Neelam and myself from the commissioning team.
* From October 2017 *South Norfolk YAB will be supported by MTM* and *the other 6 YABs will be supported by MAP*. This reflects a change of provider for four of the seven YABs. We are working closely with YABs, current providers, MTM and MAP to ensure a smooth transition.
* We do want to publicly *acknowledge the work of current providers*, since the conception of YABs in 2011, as it has been their commitment, hard work and progress that has enabled us to get to this point where YABs are ‘part of the youth sector landscape’ in Norfolk.
* Our ambition now is to ensure that *young commissioners really do help to shape local services for young people*.

**Tim Eyres, NCC Children’s Services**