

The Future of Central

A Consultative Report

Undertaken on behalf of

Reading Borough Council Youth and Community Service

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With

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background

Central Reading Youth provision is a Reading Borough Council centre which aims to provide programmes for the 11-25 year age group. It has historically been used by the African Caribbean community as a venue for functions and fund raising events. It attracts members of the community who are unemployed and need a place to congregate during the day. It seems to have lost its identity as a centre and needs re-clarification of its role within the community and Reading Borough Council Youth and Community Services.

1.2 Equality of Opportunity

The combined figure for the African and Caribbean communities is 3.8% of the total population, making it the largest minority group in Reading. The Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 place a general duty on public authorities to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups in carrying out their functions. Central youth and community centre is a borough wide provision utilised primarily by the African Caribbean community. However, there is a need for its role and function to be clarified and documented if it is to have the specific focus of meeting the needs of the large African and Caribbean community.

1.3 Aims of Consultation

The objective of the consultation is to clarify the role and function of Central Reading Youth Provision.

1.4 Consultation Process

Data were collected from a range of individuals, groups and organisations with an interest in or association with Central. Other groups and organisations were also invited to participate. 42 interviews were conducted and 132 surveys returned. The data was analysed and findings presented.