

Oxfordshire County Council will destroy a top class service



Why we are taking action

From Tuesday, 23 August, youth workers employed by Oxfordshire County Council will begin a series of one day walk outs.

We are taking this action because the jobs of around 80 professionally qualified youth workers, who care for hundreds of vulnerable young people, are at risk as the council pushes ahead with the dismantling of its top class youth service.

We would much rather be doing our jobs, but the council is turning its back on young people:

- **the Conservative-led council plans threaten 26 youth centres and two youth teams**
- **OCC plans to slash youth service funding from £3.7 million to £1.4 million making the county the lowest contributor to youth services in the entire country**
- **the cuts spell the end of professional youth work in Oxfordshire, replacing qualified youth workers with non-professional managers and volunteers**

Oxfordshire's young people deserve better

There is a perception that Oxfordshire is a wealthy county with low levels of deprivation. This is not true. Areas, such as Banbury, Witney, Abingdon and parts of Oxford have pockets of high deprivation. In the prime minister's rural constituency of Witney, five council-run youth centres will close isolating these children.

In a 2007/08 report, OCC spent just £59 per head a year on 13–19-year olds, while the average spend in England was £84. The county ranked a disappointing 104th out of 118 local authorities for net expenditure on youth provision.

OCC is sending a message to its young people that it does not care.

OCC STOP THE CUTS

What we do – why it matters

We work with some of the most marginalised young people in our society – those living in poverty, or who need education, fighting addiction or loneliness.

We reach those who struggle to engage with other services. And we are cheap to run. By helping young people in need, we protect them from more costly interventions, like prison.

Oxfordshire County Council is turning its back on young people at a time when they need us most.

We are professionals. Yet, the council thinks it can replace us with volunteers.

OCC's cuts will see vulnerable young people falling through the net.

Please help us prevent this. Write to **Cllr Keith Mitchell**, leader of Oxfordshire County Council, at keith.mitchell@oxfordshire.gov.uk or write to **Cllr Louise Chapman**, cabinet member for children, young people & families louise.chapman@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall,
New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND



In a 2010 customer satisfaction survey, young users of our service said:

"We are treated with respect and our views are listened to by the workers. It helps us keep away from the streets."

"The youth workers are great. We meet good people and have decent role models."

"I have fun at my youth club."

www.unitetheunion.org/campaigns.aspx

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