

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to: Outer North East Area Committee Meeting

Date: 16th September 2013

Subject: Investing in Young People: Update of the Future Direction of Youth Services and Delegated Functions for Area Committees



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): All wards	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. In March 2013 the Council's Executive Board approved a new allocation to the overall Area Committee budget ring-fenced for youth activities of £250k in 2013/14 and £500k in 2014/14, with a clear expectation that young people help to shape the decision making around the spending of this resource, against an agreed set of outcomes.
2. The new allocation for the Outer North East Area Committee budget ring-fenced for youth activities is £20499 in 2013/14 and £40997 in 2014/15. The Area Committee function schedule for Youth Activity Breeze Funding is to commission, monitor and evaluate local play, arts, sports and cultural activity for young people age 8-17 with the involvement and participation of children and young people.
3. Following the July area committee, proposals for spending this budget have been developed by the area lead member for children's services, in consultation with a member from Harewood and Alwoodley wards.

Recommendations

4. Approve the proposed arrangements and procedures for spending this budget;
5. Endorse the establishment of a Children and Young People's Area Committee sub-group.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the area committee with proposals for spending the budget delegated to the area committee for universal youth services.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In March 2013 Executive Board agreed, as part of the new model for youth services a new allocation to the overall Area Committee budget ring-fenced for youth activities of £250k in 2013/14 and £500k in 2014/15, with a clear expectation that young people help to shape decision making around the spending of this resource, against an agreed set of outcomes. This funding is to support play, arts, sports and cultural activity for young people aged 8-17.
- 2.2 This budget has been split between the ten area committees based on population data of young people aged 8 – 17. The Outer North East area committee has been allocated £20,499 for 2013/14 and £40997 for 2014/15.
- 2.3 The report presented to the July meeting of the area committee asked members to consider, in respect of the universal funding, how it will be delivered in each area building on the Breeze brand, how it can link to other funding streams and how children and young people will be involved throughout the planning, decision making and evaluation of the activity funding.

3 Main issues

- 3.4 Subsequent to the July area committee meeting, Cllr Lamb, the area lead member for Children's Services, has met with Cllrs Cohen and Robinson to develop proposals for spending this budget. It is proposed that these members form a sub-group to oversee Children's Services issues in a similar way to the sub-group already established to consider Environmental issues.
- 3.5 This sub-group has held one meeting to consider how to split the funding across the three wards, how to involve young people in the decision making process, how to publicise and process applications, and use of the money for match funding projects.
- 3.6 The three options for how to spend the money across the Outer North East are:
- Split the money equally between the three wards, giving an allocation of £6,833 per ward;
 - Split the money between the three wards based on the 8 – 17 population figures for each ward shown in the table below:

Ward	Population 8-17 years	Allocation 2013/14	Allocation 2014/15
Alwoodley	2490 (36.29%)	£7439	£14,878
Harewood	2309 (33.66%)	£6899	£13,797
Wetherby	2062 (30.05%)	£6161	£12,322

- c. Do not split the money by ward, but use strategically to target the areas in most need.
- 3.7 Following discussion with the sub-group, it is proposed to split the fund on a ward basis by population (8-17 years). This follows the formula for splitting the fund down to the ten area committees. The wellbeing fund is also split by population.
- 3.8 It is proposed to establish a panel for each ward with ward members, and nominated young people. Advice will be sought from the youth service and the school clusters on how to engage young people in the decision making process effectively. The favoured approach is to use school councillor representatives who are in effect democratically elected.
- 3.9 The area committee has the delegated authority to make decisions on spending this funding. Therefore each panel will discuss applications and make recommendations to the area committee.
- 3.10 The fund has to be spent within this financial year and cannot be carried forward. Therefore for this financial year the proposal is to invite applications, and establish the ward panels as soon as possible after this meeting with a view to bringing recommendations for spending the funding to the December area committee for approval. The delivery of activities can then take place from January to March 2014.
- 3.11 For the 2014/15 financial year, a timetable for considering and approving applications will be established.
- 3.12 The fund will be advertised widely to youth clubs, sports clubs and any other organisations offering activities for young people by writing to all the clubs and through using existing communications networks including the Parish and Town Councils.
- 3.13 Organisations providing youth services funded by the budget can be a council department, a commercial organisation operating on a non-profit basis, or a community or voluntary group. All organisations must be registered with the Breeze Culture Network, and in registering will be required to submit their safeguarding and equality policies.
- 3.14 Providers will be required to keep registration forms and a register of attendance and to have attendees fill out evaluation forms (which will be supplied). Providers must complete monitoring reports at agreed intervals, templates for which will be supplied and agree to unannounced spot check visits to check that safeguarding procedures are being followed. They will also sign a funding contract/SLA to agree the details of what will be delivered.
- 3.15 Providers are expected to capture data using young people's Breeze card and a hand held scanner for this method will be provided.
- 3.16 Providers will be required to list their activity on the Breeze website through the Breeze Culture Network and provide information to be included in the Cluster 'What's on' guides, webpages and mail shots. They will also be required to agree

to the council sharing information about the activities with other statutory bodies, and voluntary, community and faith organisations.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.2 Further engagement with young people and partners are fundamental to the delegation model

4.1.3 Young people have been involved in training to support the commissioning process in localities through a range of workshops supported by the Children's Services Voice and Influence team, youth service and voluntary sector partners.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Youth activity funding delegated to area committees can support cohesion and integration in localities where identified as a local need with children and young people. The process envisaged encourages participation and engagement of young people and partners.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.4 In order to support the delivery of the children and young people's plan the activities will support the outcome: Children and Young People Have Fun Growing Up by providing play leisure, culture and sporting opportunity for all 8-17 year old across the city.

4.5 This process will also support the outcome: children and young people are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence, the activities fund will increase participation, voice and influence in localities around the city.

4.6 Resources and value for money

4.6.1 The 8-17 populations by wards have been based on data received from NHS Leeds. The data is based on addresses of children and young people registered with GP's. This has been shown to be the most comprehensive, accurate and up to date source of data for the population of children and young people.

4.6.2 Where possible the monies will be used to match fund youth activities across the area.

4.7 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.7.1 The remodelling of council run youth services and those provided by key partners will have implications for the council and this will be mitigated as far as possible ensuring the correct procedures are followed.

4.8 Risk Management

4.8.1 High consideration must be given to the implications of the recommendations for staff in the LCC Youth Service.

4.8.2 There are a number of youth work contracts with voluntary sector bodies in Leeds currently funded who will need to be supported through new or revised commissioning arrangements.

4.8.3 The involvement and participation of children and young people is key to ensuring the right activities are available and suitable. It is essential that teams support this process to build success.

5 Conclusions

5.1 In conclusion the youth activity funding creates an opportunity to build on activity provided locally meeting identified need. The process of involving children and young people in the decision making supports Leeds being a Child Friendly City and ensures children's needs are central to the process.

5.2 Locality budgets for activity will generate opportunity for creative ways to work across partnerships in localities.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Approve the proposed arrangements and procedures for spending this budget;

6.2 Approve the establishment of a Children and Young People's Area Committee sub-group.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 Executive Board 13th March 2013; Investing in Young People: Future Direction for Youth Services in Leeds.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.