

Report of Children’s Head of Commissioning and Market Management

Report to Director of Children’s Services

Date: 22nd March 2017

Subject: Leeds Youth Pathways Grant awards for the delivery of projects targeting young people who are NEET or at risk of NEET



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. The purpose of this report is to outline recommendations for grant awards to Barca-Leeds, CFYDC, GIPSIL, Hamara, Health for All, Learning Partnerships, Leeds Rhinos, Shantona, St Giles Trust and The Cardigan Centre to deliver projects to support vulnerable young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and vulnerable young people at risk of NEET for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.
2. These grants are worth a total of £310k and will enable approximately 500 young people to be offered support.
3. The overall purpose of the grant is to improve the work readiness capabilities of vulnerable young people, including self-awareness willingness to learn and develop, positive attitude with regard to self and their future, confidence, self-esteem and independence in life and work, development of resilience and longer term goals, broadening of horizons through experience of volunteering or work placement.

Recommendations

4. The Director of Children’s Services is recommended to approve the awarding of grants for the delivery of Leeds Youth Pathways projects to Barca-Leeds, CFYDC, GIPSIL, Hamara, Health for All, Learning Partnerships, Leeds Rhinos, Shantona, St Giles Trust, The Cardigan Centre for the total value of £310k for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline recommendations for grant awards to Barca-Leeds, CFYDC, GIPSIL, Hamara, Health for All, Learning Partnerships, Leeds Rhinos, Shantona, St Giles Trust, The Cardigan Centre to deliver projects to support vulnerable young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and vulnerable young people at risk of NEET. These grants are worth a total of £310k and will enable approximately 500 young people to be offered support.

2 Background information

- 2.2 The Leeds Youth Pathways Grant Fund primarily aims to support vulnerable young people most at risk of becoming NEET or young people who are NEET.
- 2.3 This new grant for 2017-18, created through combining budgets for the Leeds Guarantee and the low value Targeted Youth Work contracts under the management of the Head of Service – Learning for Life, will fund projects to develop personal capabilities of young people including:
- Self awareness
 - Willingness to learn and develop
 - Positive attitude with regards to self and their future
 - Confidence, self-esteem and independence in life and work
 - Development of resilience and longer term goals
 - Awareness of opportunities and how to aspire to a better future
- 2.4 The grants process has been designed to allow providers to be innovative rather than limiting delivery to previous models. It also allows the allocation panel to negotiate with providers on the size of projects after proposals are submitted. The selection of providers was based on assessment of the design of the delivery model, their experience and ability to deliver to similar groups of young people and working within outcomes-based arrangement, and their referral, identification and performance measure procedures. Providers were also required to present to panels of young people, who evaluated based on four areas including communication skills and explanation of how they will engage & motivate young people.
- 2.5 Applications received 80% of their score based on the quality of their application and 20% of their score based on the price element. This gave greater emphasis on quality than the standard 60% in recognition of the need to ensure quality provision which delivers successful intervention to achieve positive directions of travel within Leeds City Council's obsession to reduce the number of NEET young people.
- 2.6 The grants evaluation panel consisted of representatives from the Virtual School, Employment and Skills Service, Learning for Life Team and the Youth Offer Team, as well as a representative from Voluntary Action Leeds

- 2.7 Permission to procure was approved in January 2017 and the funding opportunity was advertised on 18th January. Applications were invited via YORtender to ensure the advertised opportunity were visible by all prospective suppliers
- 2.8 The deadline for application was 17th February. 24 applications were received by the deadline. One did not meet the priorities and was eliminated. The remaining 23 passed the initial checks for safeguarding and insurances etc and were invited to present to young people on 25th Feb. The total funding requested, minus the bid that was eliminated, was £1,014,433.25. This represents an over subscription of £704,433.25.
- 2.9 The Evaluation Panel met on 28th February to agree consensus scores for quality and recommend allocations. The applications were discussed briefly in alphabetical order, with consensus scores agreed for each of the six quality questions. These scores were added to the young people's presentation panel scores and scores for cost per young people to give overall rankings.
- 2.10 A declaration of interest by the Head of Service for Learning for Life was declared concerning a bid from an internal service. This member of the panel did not take part in consensus scoring for this bid.
- 2.11 16 bidders met the quality threshold of 50%. Seven were eliminated at this stage. The general level of quality was very good and all of the funding available can be allocated.
- 2.12 The range in cost per young person was far greater than anticipated, meaning that the application of the 20% weighting for price significantly skewed the overall ranking. No price cap was set prior to the grants process as there was no baseline price for this new grant. The intention for 2018/19 is to introduce a price cap and consider giving 100% weighting for quality.
- 2.13 A total of £756,279.23 was requested from the bidders who met the quality threshold. In order to cover need across the city using known NEET data, the panel had to reduce the number of cohorts proposed by most successful bidders. Ability to deliver in different localities in order to meet need across Leeds was also considered when recommending allocations.
- 2.14 The average cost per young person for organisations which met the quality threshold was £988. The range was £259 to £2,272. Nine came under £900 per young people, with four over by 35% or less and three over by 50% - 100%. The panel felt that the reasonable maximum cost based on the applications was £900 per young person and this was used as a guide when recommending allocations. Some organisations which were slightly above this were asked to reduce their cost per young person to £900. Those which are significantly above this were not considered for funding this year.
- 2.15 No projects specifically aimed at young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are recommended for funding this year. Young people with SEND without Education Health and Care Plans are eligible and it is recognised that this an important target group. All projects funded in 2017/18 will

be required to meet the needs of SEND young people and Children's Services will offer support where needed to ensure projects are able to achieve positive outcomes for these young people. This will be closely monitored and reviewed as part of planning for next year's funding round.

3 Main issues

3.1 This report relates to recommendations for funding to 10 external providers, who will deliver a variety of different projects in particular clusters across Leeds. The recommendations for each are as below:

3.2 Leeds Rhino's

To deliver, in partnership with RugbyAM, a 12-week programme using real-world challenges and work experience. The programme will be structured, captured and recognised through a bespoke pathway of open badges, to provide learners with a digital portfolio, to showcase their new skills, along with evidence, to employers and opportunity providers. The programme will be targeted at young people, aged 15-18 from the following groups:

- Teenage parents
- Looked after children/care leavers
- Home educated students
- Students that require an offsite alternative form of education

Recommendation: £15,550 to deliver project city-wide for one cohort (60 young people)

3.3 Barca-Leeds

Range of group and one to one support including:

- Access to counselling/meditation and one to one intensive support will improve resilience and potential to progress into employment
- Access to a range of activities at West Leeds Activity Centre and free access to Bramley Baths gym, swim and classes as to motivate/incentives
- local work tasters (Bramley Baths/ASDA/Greggs), work experience (Community Hubs) supported visits to Job Shops

Recommendation: £37,829 to deliver project in West Leeds clusters for 70 young people.

3.4 Health for All

Partnership with Business Services Leeds Ltd – YO“BIZZ” Project (Young People in Business). The YO“BIZZ” project will offer young people the choice of taking up enterprise as a chosen pathway. The project will deliver workshops, group hosted discussions and 1-2-1 coaching to help young people identify their preferred futures and realise their life goals. To target young people with mental health difficulties, care leavers, young people at risk of CSE and teenage parents and young dads.

Recommendation: £36,487 to deliver project across all South Leeds clusters for three cohorts (105 young people). To work in partnership with Hamara.

3.5 The Cardigan Centre

The Up-Skill programme will engage and empower young people over 24 weeks through 1-2-1's and workshops to become ready and progress into EET, with optional volunteering opportunities. Young people will be on the programme for 12 weeks (2 hours 1-2-1s per week) followed by another 12 weeks (2 hours contact per month). This is a rolling project with young people being able to join at any time.

Recommendation: £35,910.26 to deliver project in Open XS, Inner NW, Otley, Aireborough, ESNW and Horsforth clusters to 40 young people.

3.6 Hamara

Young people will participate in an accredited Breeze Arts Award creative component. Working with Big Comedy Shop, Cyclops Pedal Power, LUU Comedy Society, the project will run group workshops in alternative education, drama, film, comedy to build creativity and self-esteem and prepare people for the programme. Young people will also be offered a 10 hour Asdan accredited work placement to develop employability and ideas for social action/enterprise.

Recommendation: £28,800 to deliver project in South Leeds clusters for 32 young people. To work in partnership with Health for All.

3.7 Learning Partnerships

Inspire2Achieve is a programme of intensive 1:1 key worker support and interventions that offer a customised programme to suit the needs of individual participants. The support is offered for up to 6 months with an extension of 3 months in work support provided if a job is secured after the 6 month programme ends.

Recommendation: £36,000 to deliver project in Alwoodley, Next, EPOS, Garforth, Brigshaw and Temple Newsham clusters. To support 40 young people. To work in partnership with St Giles Trust.

3.8 St Giles Trust

The project will engage vulnerable young people primarily aged 16-17 year old, who are NEET from across Leeds. It will be particularly for young people known to the Youth Offending Service, with history or risk of offending and Year 11 leavers with a record of offsite education, with no EET destination. Young people will be provided with a programme of one to one and group activities.

Recommendation: £43,294 to deliver project in Alwoodley, Next, EPOS, Garforth, Brigshaw and Temple Newsham clusters for 52 young people. To target young people known to Youth Offending Service or at risk of offending. To work in partnership with Learning Partnerships.

3.9 GIPSIL

16 week intensive outreach programme across East and North East Leeds, designed to raise confidence, build self-esteem and address barriers young people may have to accessing education, training or employment. To incorporate a rolling programme of groupwork sessions as appropriate to include Careers and Progression options, Conflict Resolution, Money Matters, Sexual Health Awareness, Healthy Relationships, Healthy eating & lifestyles, amongst others.

Recommendation: £33,329 to deliver project in Inner East and Seacroft Manston clusters for two cohorts (50 young people). To work in partnership with Shantona.

3.10 Shantona

The project will recruit and engage with girls' aged 14 and 17 from mainly BME communities who are vulnerable to becoming NEET; including where identified by parents, Shantona's staff or other professionals as higher risk, due to domestic violence, child sexual exploitation or under a care order.

Recommendation: £10,800 to deliver project in Inner East & Seacroft Manston Clusters for one cohort (12 young people). To work in partnership with GIPSIL.

3.11 CFYDC

The project will offer a roll on, roll off programme dependent upon the needs of the young person with small group work covering a range of topics including crime diversion, job seeking skills, educational attainment, substance use and abuse. Access to services via local community based organisations, taster / awareness raising programmes with Leeds University and volunteering opportunities.

Recommendation: £32,000 to deliver project in CHESS and Networks clusters for 40 young people.

3.12 Please see appendix 1 for summary list.

Corporate Considerations

3.1 Consultation and Engagement

3.1.2 The project group including representatives from Sufficiency & Participation Team, Virtual School, Employment and Skills Service, Youth Offer Team and Commissioning Team was established to plan for use of the funding during 2017/18. This included a representation from Voluntary Action Leeds.

3.1.3 The project team has provided regular updates for the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, and also communicated with elected members who have existing small contracts for youth work provision in their wards.

- 3.1.4 The project team have engaged with the market through a discussion event around the priorities of the grant programme and Voluntary Action Leeds have delivered training on the bidding process to improve the ability of the market to compete.
- 3.1.5 Young people including care leavers were involved in the evaluation of applications whereby applicants were required to deliver presentations to panels of young people. These young people will receive detailed feedback about the outcome of the evaluation and allocation process.
- 3.1.6 As part of planning for 2018-19 allocations, the project group will consider how to use consultation and monitoring data to inform commissioning. It is the intention to build on learning from this transitional year of the new grant fund to ensure funding is prioritised according to need and

3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 3.2.1 An equality impact screening form has been completed and is attached as appendix 2. All providers will be required as part of their grant agreement to tailor their projects to the needs of individuals who may experience multiple disadvantages in accessing projects and give due regard to equality and diversity.

3.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 3.3.1 The guarantee provided by Leeds Youth Pathways to the most vulnerable young people supports one of the Children & Young People's Plan's (CYPP) obsessions: "Reduce the percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). It will also contribute to achieving the outcome: "All children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life.

3.4 Resources and value for money

- 3.4.2 This decision relates to one year grant awards at a total value of £310k revenue.
- 3.4.3 The allocation of grants follows a robust and fair competitive process which took into account quality and cost against known need.
- 3.4.4 Some applicants have been asked to reduce their costs prior to confirming the funding as some unit costs were considered too high by the allocation panel.
- 3.4.5 Every grant agreement will be monitored by the Commissioning and Market Management team, with quarterly performance monitoring on outputs, outcomes and spend to ensure value for money is achieved.
- 3.4.6 The Leeds Youth Pathways budget for 2017/18 of £310k is in place. This budget is under the Head of Service – Learning for Life.

3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 3.5.1 The permission to procure decision was approved in January 2017. This was a key decision and so was subject to call-in. The decision to award grants following the competitive grants process is significant operational.

3.6 Risk Management

- 3.6.1 If this decision is not approved, this vulnerable group of young people will not receive support from projects which could help them develop work readiness capabilities.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 This decision will benefit vulnerable young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and vulnerable young people at risk of NEET. Recommendations are based on a competitive grants process and providers will be monitored to ensure value for money and positive outcomes for young people are delivered.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Director of Children's Services is recommended to approve the awarding of grants for the delivery of Leeds Youth Pathways projects to Barca-Leeds, CFYDC, GIPSIL, Hamara, Health for All, Learning Partnerships, Leeds Rhinos, Shantona, St Giles Trust, The Cardigan Centre for the total value of £310k for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

6 Background documents¹

- 6.1 None

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.