

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 17th July 2013

Subject: Investing in Young people – Targeted Youth Work area formula.



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 Executive Board agreed that a new model for youth services in Leeds should be progressed incorporating investment of in the key role of Area Committees and clusters to appropriately determine local youth provision that best helps address agreed priority outcomes for each particular area. By 2014/15 the Council will be investing £3m through Area Committees to support targeted youth work (£2.5m) and youth activity (£0.5m) in Leeds.
2. In the context of the major financial pressures facing local authorities and their partners, nationally youth services have been reducing and in some place removed altogether.
3. Implementation of the first phase of the new model has commenced with allocations to Area Committees of a youth activity fund. A report confirming the allocation and expectations has been taken to the June-July 2013 Area Committee cycle.
4. The next phase of the new model is to progress discussions between the Executive Member for Children's Services and Area Committees about how best to enable spend of £2.5m of targeted youth work across Leeds. This work needs to be underpinned by a new formula for the distribution of the budgets at an Area Committee and area level. Unlike the activity fund this budget initially is committed against expenditure on staffing, building and other costs of the LCC Youth Service and a small number of contracts with local voluntary sector bodies.

Recommendations

5. Executive Board is asked to endorse a formula for the distribution of the targeted youth work budget with 50% (£1.5m) of the total funding allocated on the basis of young people resident in the 40% most deprived lower super output area and 50% (£1.5m) on a headcount basis. £0.5m has already been distributed to Area Committees on a headcount basis re the activity fund. The table below outlines proposed targeted youth work allocations at an Area Committee level and aggregated at an area (3) level.

Area Committee	Area	Population aged 11-17	11 -17 resident in 40% most deprived LSOA (Note 1)	allocation based 50% on headcount and 50% on 40% LSOA
<i>Inner East</i>		7857	7563	490540
<i>Inner North East</i>		6206	2420	219159
<i>Outer North East</i>		4914	549	108784
	East North East	18977	10532	818483
<i>Inner South</i>		5812	5788	372026
<i>Outer East</i>		7019	2682	245263
<i>Outer South</i>		7188	2960	261276
	South	20019	11430	878566
<i>Inner North West</i>		4231	2588	193843
<i>Inner West</i>		3818	3541	232019
<i>Outer North West</i>		6756	903	156581
<i>Outer West</i>		5558	2679	220508
	West North West	20363	9711	802951
		59359	31673	2500000

Note 1 - the number of young people in each area committee area that are resident in areas that are in the 40% most deprived LSOA (lower super output areas) in the country. The deprivation data used is based on the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – the index is a national measure of relative levels of deprivation in small areas (lower super output areas produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

6. Children’s Services will ensure that capacity is available to support Area Committees re commissioning and quality assurance. The targeted youth work resource is largely staffing so further change will also require that sufficient Human Resources support is also put in place.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report asks Executive Board to approve a new formula for the distribution of the targeted youth work budget which will underpin the redesign of youth work in Leeds and strengthen the shaping and commissioning role of Area Committees.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In March 2013 Executive Board agreed that a new model for youth services in Leeds should be progressed incorporating investment of in the key role of Area Committees and clusters to appropriately determine local youth provision that best helps address agreed priority outcomes for each particular area. By 2014/15 the Council will be investing £3m through Area Committees to support youth work in Leeds. £250k has initially been delegated to Area Committees in 2013/14 (with £500k to be delegated in 2014/15) as a youth activity fund. The youth activity fund has been distributed on the basis of a headcount of young people aged 8 to 17 resident in each Area Committee area. A report confirming the allocations and expectations is on the next Area Committee cycle.
- 2.2 Most young people make the transition to adulthood through a combination of supportive families, good schools, colleges, training providers and access to opportunities for personal and social development outside the classroom. However, irrespective of disadvantage some young people do need some additional support which for many can best be achieved through a voluntary relationship with a youth worker. This support will act as a conduit between the most intensive support and universal activity. It is of course essential that the targeted youth work resource is spent effectively and that youth workers will have very clear objectives around improving outcomes for young people, how they will avoid them becoming NEET, being drawn into risky behaviours, crime and anti-social behaviour and how they will support them with additional health needs.
- 2.3 The new model for youth work in Leeds envisages a targeted guarantee for young people. Children's Services continues to be refocused locally to ensure that vulnerable young people (for example those from hard to reach background or with specific challenges such as poor school attendance) can access both services that are part of the universal offer in the city and that specific initiatives, programmes are available offering targeted support as close to home as possible.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The next phase of the new model is to progress discussions between the Executive Member for Children's Services and Area Committees about how best to enable spend of £2.5m of targeted youth work across Leeds to support young people aged 11+. Targeted provision will be refocused locally to ensure vulnerable young people (for example those from hard to reach backgrounds, or with specific challenges such as poor school attendance) can access both services that are part of the universal youth offer, and specific initiatives offering them targeted support, and can do so as close to home as possible. This work needs to be underpinned by a new formula for the distribution of the budgets at an Area Committee and area level. Unlike the activity fund this budget initially is

committed against expenditure on staffing, building and other costs of the LCC Youth Service and a small number of contracts with local voluntary sector bodies.

- 3.2 Following changes in the national policy relating to youth work, in the last three years there has been a significant reduction in the budget available for the delivery of youth work with some authorities opting out of investing in services that do not have a clear statutory role. The approved budget position in Leeds supports significant investment but has also asked the service to implement reductions of £0.4m in 2013/14 and £0.7m in 2014/15. Redefining the level of resource applied at an Area Committee level is a key part of plans to meet budget targets.
- 3.3 It is difficult to accurately assess and attribute all of resources from different funding streams at an Area Committee level. National policy changes have significantly changed the balance and positioning of funding going into localities. For example, the Pupil Premium allocated to schools on the basis of free school meal numbers is valued at £28m in Leeds. Designing an equitable formula does need to take some account of the multiple funding streams and how they are targeted.
- 3.4 A number of services are designed at the level of the 3 area administrative areas. Area Committees could determine to work collaboratively at this level to determine how best to enable spend.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Young people have continued to be involved in focus groups in their localities to identify which programmes they value the most and which they believe will have the least impact if ended. Young people have been involved who work with the Council's Youth Services and local voluntary sector organisations. Bringing this work into the Area Committee framework will strengthen the link between the voice of young people, enabling effective change and developing a new social contract in Leeds.
- 4.1.2 Engagement on the Youth Review with Elected Members has continued through the June /July Area Committee cycle, with a cross party meeting on the 20th June and the Area Committee Chairs Forum on the 26th June.
- 4.1.3 Dialogue is sustained with VCFS partners through Young Lives Leeds.
- 4.1.4 The Council's Youth Service is undergoing restructuring to respond to the issues emanating from the Youth Review. Staff and their representatives have been regularly engaged about the implications.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The more direct influence of Area Committees to shape the targeted youth work services available can support cohesion and integration in localities with a more informed direction of the reduced resource available.

4.2.2 Recommendations in this report will be supported by further equality assessment as re-design proposals are co-produced with Area committees.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The recommendations in this report support the city priorities and in particular the obsessions and priorities contained in the Children and Young people's Plan.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The recommendations in this report are made on the presumption that better value for money can be achieved through a stronger, local direction of the youth work investment made by the Council.

4.4.2 Recommendations in this report will support approved budget proposals which target a net 30.4m savings in 2013/14 and a further £0.7m of savings in 2014/15 from the Youth Review.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report is subject to call-in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 High consideration must be given to the implications of the recommendations for staff in the LCC Youth Service and any further changes that Area committees will want to progress.

4.6.2 The above is also true in relation to youth work contracts funded through the targeted youth work budget. Any providers who will be affected by change promoted through Area committees may need to be supported. Children's Services Commissioning and Contract teams will provide support.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The formula recommended represents a balanced judgement about distribution of the budget available which recognises that:

- other funds are distributed on a targeted basis e.g. Pupil Premium in schools;
- all young people may require early help at some point;
- youth work allocations have previously been allocated on a formula based 50% on headcount and 50% on formula; and
- well-being budgets are distributed using a formula based 50% on population and 50% targeted using data from the index of multiple deprivation.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to endorse a formula for the distribution of the targeted youth work budget with 50% (£1.5m) of the total funding allocated on the basis of young people resident in the 40% most deprived lower super output area and 50% (£1.5m) on a headcount basis. £0.5m has already been distributed to Area Committees on a headcount basis re the activity fund. The table below outlines proposed targeted youth work allocations at an Area Committee level and aggregated at an area (3) level.

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- 6.2 Children's Services will ensure that capacity is available to support Area committees re commissioning and quality assurance. The targeted youth work resource is largely staffing so further change will also require that sufficient Human Resources support is also put in place.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 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.