

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 20th July 2017

Subject: Youth Activity Funding

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 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 Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) considered a report on the Youth Activity Fund (YAF) at its meeting on the 23rd February 2017. The Board made a number of recommendations:
 - Continues to endorse the establishment of a steering group to further improve and develop quality, practice and outcomes relating to community committees funding and support of youth activities.
 - Recommends continued work to ensure city-wide best practice regarding the engagement of children and young people in the decision making processes of committees.
 - Recommends that the full peer inspection activities report be provided to the Board.
 - Requests that a further update report be brought to the Board for consideration of:
 - (a) Investment made in youth activities and the total annual YAF spend 2016/17 by community committees.
 - (b) The inclusion of SEND and BME groups in youth activities and how activities were promoted in relation to hard to reach groups.
 - (c) A progress update regarding the recommendations made by the Board
2. This report provides progress on those recommendations made by the Board concerning the Youth Activity Fund.

Recommendations

1. That the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families):

- a) Note the information contained in this report and appendices.
- b) Note the responses to the comments made at Scrutiny Board on 23rd February 2017

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide Scrutiny Board (Children's & Families) with an update on the delivery of the Youth Activity Fund with a focus, in particular, on the progress with the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board's on 23rd February 2017.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In May 2013 the delivery of the Youth Activity Fund for children and young people was delegated to Area Committees (now Community Committees). The aim was to promote commission and evaluate local opportunities for children and young people aged 8-17 years in line with the needs and priorities of the area with support from Children's Services. "Activity" is defined as play, sports, arts and cultural opportunities.
- 2.2 The budget for 2013/14 was £250,000, increased to £500,000 for 2014/15 and £500,000 again for 2015/16, reducing to £448,942 in 2016/17 and further reduced to £402,390 for 2017/18. Each Community Committee allocation is based on population of young people, creating a variation of budget and a fair allocation to each committee. The delegated budget is 'ring fenced' to be spent on youth activities and to include the involvement of children and young people in the decision making process and shaping the needs of community activity.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Scrutiny board on 23rd February 2017 made a number of recommendations for action. This report provides an update on progress and invites the Board to comment.
- 3.2 **Continues to endorse the establishment of a steering group to further improve and develop quality, practice and outcomes relating to community committees funding and support of youth activities.**
 - 3.2.1 A citywide YAF Steering Group will be convened, Chaired by Chief Officer Communities with a membership made up of Children's Champions, Finance, Communities Team, Children's Services, Breeze. The group will oversee the work of the Shadow YAF Steering Group which meets quarterly to look at good standards of practice and share ideas.
- 3.3 **Recommends continued work to ensure city-wide best practice regarding the engagement of children and young people in the decision making processes of committees.**
 - 3.3.1 Each Community Committee has an action plan for engagement developed with Children's Champions, partners i.e. Clusters and officers. There is a range of engagement depending on the area, partners and existing mechanisms for engagement. There continues to be significant consultation in schools and communities engaging young people and building relationships.
 - 3.3.2 Learning has been taken from best practices across the city. It is recognised each area requires a different approach and a range of partners to be involved i.e. 3rd sector youth organisations, Clusters, Youth Service and schools. There has been

an improvement over the last few years in terms of numbers of young people engaged and a more informed decision making process for YAF. Youth engagement events for 2017/18 are planned in for the following committees;

- Outer North West - January 2018 at a local high school.
- Outer West - 6th October 2017 in Civic Hall
- Inner West - November 2017 in Civic Hall
- Inner North West – January 2018
- Inner East – December 2017
- Inner North East – January 2018
- Inner South – January/February 2018
- Outer East – October 2017
- Outer South – consultation throughout summer 2017 followed by an event to be confirmed.
- ONE – establishing consultation and developing methods of engagement

3.3.3 The engagement events have varied in terms of format but successful ideas from the Outer North West have included working with activity providers to attend the events and work with groups of young people so they can have a flavour of different types of activities. This format also allowed Members to meet the providers and see them delivering the type of activities for which they have approved funding.

3.3.4 A leaflet was also produced in the Outer North West for schools, hubs, libraries and sports centres advertising provision for the summer months with booking information and useful phone numbers. This had a twofold purpose as it also fed back to the young people who had attended, what they had prioritised in terms of activities and evidenced that they had been listened to.

3.3.4 Voice and Influence have delivered fun and engaging training in local governance and representation for the young people attending, to better inform them in decision making processes and understand the context of the engagement events.

3.4 **Recommends that the full peer inspection activities report be provided to the Board.**

3.4.1 Peer inspection reports are attached Appendix 3.

3.4.2 Peer inspections are currently being planned in for the coming year, these will link to any issues or concerns raised about a particular project to ensure that particular activity is peer inspected. This is an additional monitoring tool to the visits carried out by the Communities Team and an Outlook Calendar of events has also been created to be shared with Members and colleagues. It is hoped that this will enable

and encourage Members to join the peer inspections where possible and also provide information on the breadth and diversity of activities offered citywide. .

3.5 **Investment made in youth activities and the total annual YAF spend 2016/17 by community committees.**

- 3.5.1 A summary of the total annual spend for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1. The Youth Activity Fund budget for 2016/17 was £448,942 for the city and 92.97% of available funding was approved at the end of year position.

4 **Corporate Considerations**

4.3 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.3.2 Engagement with young people and children is at the heart of the Youth Activity Commissioning process. Without a good understanding of the kinds of activities that will engage young people, when they should take place, appropriate costing in the right venues we will not ensure value for money and maximise attendance. A partnership approach to a range of engagement i.e. community youth summits with schools and partner agencies, consultation in schools, youth groups, Youth Service and local fun days. These are key in ensuring we extend those conversations as widely as possible ensuring quality discussion and meaningful participation.

- 4.3.3 A group of young people peer inspect a number of Youth Activity Fund activities across the city during the summer holidays. The Peer Inspectors inspect each activity based on their application, quality of provision, safety and safeguarding of participants at the activity, numbers attending and ability for children with additional needs to participate. The Peer Inspectors also carry out a mystery shopping exercise with the children and young people taking part in the activities and consult on future activities. A report is produced and shared with all community committees to support their evaluation and inform future funding.

4.3.4 **Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.3.5 **The Youth Activity Fund is proportionate across the city and reviewed as the population of young people changes. The Community Committees give consideration to equality implications relating to decisions and engagement to ensure a broad variety of activity across the area supporting equality, diversity, community cohesion and integration.**

- 4.3.6 The Specialist Inclusion Learning Centres have been invited to engagement events but discussions are ongoing as to a more targeted approach by the Communities Team to engage with young people who attend the centres. A link has also been made with the Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme who provide a range of activities to young people with moderate to severe learning and/or physical disabilities living in the north of Leeds. It is hoped they will do some consultation with the young people attending their project around participation in YAF activities.

- 4.3.7 The Breeze Culture Network is able to monitor ethnicity through the use of Breeze Cards at Youth Activity funded activities. However further work is still required to improve the robustness of this monitoring as not all young people have Breeze Cards and others have more than one, so data can be misleading or inaccurate.

4.3.8 The young people carrying out peer inspections question providers in relation to equality of access and accessibility of activities for all young people in their community. This is recorded and reported back to community committees in the Peer Inspection report.

4.4 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.4.1 The delivery of the Youth Activity Fund supports the Children and Young Peoples Plan with a particular focus on children and young people having fun growing up and being active citizens who feel they have voice and influence.

4.5 Resources and value for money

4.5.1 The Youth Activity Fund budget for 2016/17 was £448,942 for the city. The allocations were based on populations of children and young people aged 8-17. Full details of spend are set out in Appendix 1. Together with the total value of projects approved by the Community Committees as being £391,827 in 2016/17.

4.5.2 The budget for the 2017/18 is £402,390 across the Community Committees which represents an approximate 10% reduction from 2016/17. Appendix 2 illustrates the approved spend as at June 2017 by each committee and the remaining budget for 2017/18.

4.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4.7 Risk Management

4.7.1 There are no significant risk management issues arising from this report.

5 Conclusions

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families):

- a) Note the information contained in this report.
- b) Note the responses to the comments made at Scrutiny Board on 23rd February 2017

7 Background documents¹

7.2 None

7.3 Appendices;

1. Youth Activity Fund 2016/17 end of year position statement
2. Youth Activity Fund June 2017 position statement
3. Peer Inspection Reports 2016

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.