



Report author: Kate Sibson
Tel: 0113 3788925

Report of: Head of Service, Learning for Life

Report to: Director of Children and Families

Date: 10th October 2019

Subject: Authority to establish the Positive Destinations Grant Fund and enter into competitive application process.

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" 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
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

Summary

1. Main issues

- Reducing the number of young people age 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training is a priority for the city.
- Delivering a mixed economy of support to young people not in education, employment or training between the local authority Pathways Team and the voluntary sector has proved effective in helping young people who are disengaged move into a positive destination.
- Following the expansion of the Leeds City Council Pathways Team and a review of the current third sector Pathways grants, it is proposed to change the grants programme to better fit with existing provision, and address unmet need of young people in year 11 who are at risk of not securing a positive destination after their GCSEs.
- The new 'Positive Destinations' grant programme will run for 12 months with a possible extension of a further 6-12 months until the conclusion of the youth work review and subsequent commissioning activity.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

- Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work
- Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes

3. Resource Implications

- The budget for the grants programme is £200,000 per year from the youth offer revenue budget which includes Leeds Guarantee funding.
- The budget is unchanged from the 2019/20 Pathways Grants Programme.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children and Families is requested to authorise the establishment of a Positive Destinations Grant Programme and award four locality based grants of £50,000 each to voluntary sector providers who have the highest scoring grant applications following a competitive application process.
- b) Approve a one year grant programme with the option to extend for a further six or twelve months until the end of the youth work review and completion of the subsequent commissioning activity up to a total potential value of £400,000.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority from the Director of Children and Families to establish of a Positive Destinations Grant Programme and award four locality based grants of £50,000 each to voluntary sector providers who have the highest scoring grant applications following a competitive application process.
- 1.2 The report outlines the changes from the current Pathways Grant Programme and highlights the benefits of the new approach.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Reducing the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training is a key priority for the local authority.
- 2.2 For the past three years, the focus of engagement with this cohort has been through the Youth Service's Pathways Team and grants to local third sector organisations.
- 2.3 In December 2018, Leeds City Council was successful in its bid to the European Social Infrastructure Fund, enabling it to expand its in house Pathways Team to work across the city in community hubs.
- 2.4 The six current Pathways Grant recipients have worked in partnership with the council's Pathways team and demonstrated successful outcomes for young people, an increasing number of whom have complex barriers including mental ill health, anger management and alcohol / substance misuse.
- 2.5 Consultation with the Pathways Team, grant providers, schools and young people has identified a gap in early support for young people in year 11 who are at risk of not having a positive destination post GCSE as current funding only allows work with young people who three months out of employment, education or training.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 As the internal Pathways Team has expanded, there is capacity within the voluntary sector provision to re-focus their work within communities rather than taking referrals from a list, and to work with young people in year 11 to ensure they have a positive destination come September.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the current Pathway grant programme be renamed as the Positive Destination Grant Fund and provide four grants of £50,000 tied to a specific part of Leeds to third sector organisations with a proven track record of supporting young people with complex and challenging barriers to re-entering education or moving into work or training.
- 3.3 There will be four grants available under the new programme, covering four areas of the city based on current figures for young people not in employment education or training.
- 3.4 The coverage is as follows, and grants are open to a single provider or consortium bid.

Lot 1: Inner East

Lot 2: Inner North East, Outer North East, Inner North West

Lot 3: Inner West, Outer West, Outer North West

Lot 4: Inner South, Outer South, Outer East

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the Executive Member, Children and Families. Current grant recipients, wider stakeholders and the internal Pathways Team have been consulted on the current grant programme and their suggestions for improvement have been incorporated into the new proposal.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The new projects will be focused in areas of greatest need, commonly the most deprived communities.
- 4.2.2 The grants will increase the capacity of community based organisations to engage with a wider number of young people.
- 4.2.3 Support needs of young people will be taken into account, currently a significant proportion of young people receiving support have protected characteristics.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work
Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The service provider shall consider the impact of their service delivery model on the environment and take steps to mitigate its impact on climate change, in line with the Council's climate emergency declaration.

4.3.3 During mobilisation they will be asked to demonstrate how they will reduce their carbon footprint, including making best use of technology and sustainable transport in their day to day operations.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Funding for the programme is from the current Pathways Grant Fund, from the Youth Service revenue budget including the Leeds Guarantee Fund.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This is a significant operational decision and will not be subject to call-in. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential within the council's access to information rules.

4.5.2 The grant application round and evaluation will be overseen by the Commissioning and Market Management Team to ensure compliance with legislation and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules

4.5.3 The contract will be awarded to the highest scoring applicant for each lot through an admin DDN at the end of the process.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 The project team is working closely to manage the risks associated with the programme, and a risk register will be kept.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Young people who are not in education, employment and training benefit from personal support to help them find a positive destination. When young people have complex mental health, emotional or substance misuse issues, offering support through a locally based provider can allow access to their other programmes and community assets.

5.2 Due to the expansion of the Council's Pathways Team and an unmet need in supporting year 11s at risk of becoming NEET, it is recommended that the current Pathways Grant Programme be amended and go out for a competitive application process to appoint experienced, local organisations to offer support to help young people continue in education or move to a work or training placement.

6. Recommendations

The Director of Children and Families is requested to authorise the establishment of a Positive Destinations Grant Programme and award four locality based grants of £50,000 each to voluntary sector providers who have the highest scoring grant applications following a competitive application process.

Approve a one year grant programme with the option to extend for a further six or twelve months until the end of the youth work review and completion of the subsequent commissioning activity up to a total potential value of £400,000.

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.