



Report of: Reducing Youth Violence Leader

Report to: Chief Officer, Safer Leeds

Date: 14th November 2019

Subject: Authority to spend – Nowells Youth and Community Hub

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 involved in violent crime is a priority for the city.
- In 2018, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) received significant funding from the Home Office towards reducing youth violence across the region. The funding was allocated from the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund and Leeds received £75,000 to develop a community hub and youth centre connected to the Nowell Mount Childrens Centre (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill ward), to be spent and delivered by 31st March 2020. Through discussion with young people in the local area, it became clear that £45,000 would not meet the aspirations of young people in the area and discussions commenced to secure additional funding.
- More recently, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has received further funding from the Home Office towards reducing violence across the region. Safer Leeds has been allocated £882,903 to spend on local projects that must be completed by 31st March 2020. £185,000 has been allocated to the Nowell Mount Youth Space project to match the £75,000 secured in 2018, comprising of £165,000 towards the building costs and £20,000 for community development.

- £20,000 of the £185,000 grant will be allocated to Catch to undertake activity to engage, advise and support young people in the Nowells to maximise the opportunities in developing the new Youth Centre.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Promoting community respect and resilience

3. Resource Implications

- The full cost of the project is £253,433 funded through the following:
- £75,000 early intervention fund
- £165,000 Violence Reduction Unit
- £25,000 community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding through local councillors (agreed in principle and to be ratified at Inner East Community Committee on 18th March 2020).
- The above funding provides a small contingency of £11,567
- Ongoing revenue costs will be met by Children and Families.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer, Safer Leeds is requested to:

Authorise funding of £240,000 (which includes a £11,567 contingency and excludes the £25,000 of CIL funding) to establish a new Nowells youth and community hub on the site of the Nowell Mount Children's Centre to the value of £253,433 + £11,567 contingency outlined at 3.0.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority from the Chief Officer, Safer Leeds to fund the costs of establishing a new youth and community hub on the site of and connected to the Nowell Mount Children's Centre.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Funding to reduce youth violence has been allocated to Leeds City Council via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to be spent in the 2019/20 financial year. It has been distributed to various projects across Leeds including deploying more resources into the Early Help and Front Door safeguarding hubs, providing peer advisors to young people vulnerable to exploitation and, a community grant fund. The remit of the funding is to reduce hospital admissions with a puncture wound, prevent and reduce knife enabled serious youth violence and reduce non-domestic homicides.

- 2.3 Additional work in communities with the highest levels of youth violence is a priority for this funding.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Nowell Mount is located in Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward, a ward with the second highest rates of knife crime and youth violence in the city.
- 3.2 There is a lack of accessible indoor community venues in the area, and organisations looking to deliver diversion and engagement activities for young people have struggled to secure venues to deliver quality youth work and support.
- 3.3 A project team of officers from Safer Leeds, Children & Families, Public Health and Communities have identified land adjacent to the Nowell Mount Children's Centre as a suitable location to install a building to be used primarily as a base for youth work, but also be available to other services and the wider community.
- 3.4 The new space will be traditional brick built and connected to the existing Children's Centre.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the new youth centre will be managed by a Committee made up of local providers, the existing Centre Manager and representatives from the local community, including young people.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the Executive Members for Communities and Children and Families plus wider stakeholders through the Violence Reduction Strategic Partnership.
- 4.1.2 Consultation has taken place with local Ward Members who are fully supportive of the project.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The Nowells is an ethnically diverse community and is classified as one of the 1% most deprived neighbourhoods in England according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
- 4.2.2 The centre will increase the capacity of community based organisations to engage with young people and local residents and foster community cohesion through projects that bring people of different backgrounds together.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Promoting community respect and resilience

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The project team shall consider the impact of their proposals on the environment and take steps to mitigate their impact on climate change, in line with the Council's climate emergency declaration.

4.3.3 During mobilisation the contractors will be asked to demonstrate how they will reduce their carbon footprint, including making best use of technology, energy saving materials for the building and in the day to day future operations.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Funding for the project is from the budget allocated to the Council by the OPCC and meets the priorities set out by the Home Office.

4.4.2 The Leeds Local Education Partnership will follow contract procedure rules to ensure that value for money is achieved in the procurement stage.

4.4.3 A report will be submitted to the OPCC on the success of the project at the end of the financial year.

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.

4.6 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 with mitigating actions identified.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Funding for community projects that aim to reduce knife enabled serious youth violence has been made available to Safer Leeds through the Home Office via the OPCC.

5.2 Youth work delivered in quality venues can have a positive impact on diverting young people from participating in crime and can reduce the risk of young people becoming a victim of violent crime.

5.3 A new permanent structure on the site adjacent to the Nowell Mount Children's Centre will enable the local community, and particularly young people, to have access to a community venue from which to establish regular youth provision and support wider community activity.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Chief Officer, Safer Leeds is requested to:

Authorise funding of £240,000 (which includes a £11,567 contingency and excludes the £25,000 of CIL funding) to establish a new Nowells youth and community hub on the site of the Nowell Mount Children's Centre to the value of £253,433 + £11,567 contingency outlined at 3.0.

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.