

Report of the Director of Children’s Services

Report to: Inner West Area Committee Meeting

Date: 26th June 2013

Subject: Investing in Young People: Update of the Future Direction of Youth Services and Delegated Functions for Area Committees



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):All wards	<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 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

- Youth Services across the country have seen significant changes and challenges in recent year. In the context of major financial pressures facing local authorities and their partners, national youth services have been reducing and in some places removed altogether.
- In Leeds there remains a strong collective will to continue to invest in young people, by drawing together the various strands of youth activity currently operating across the council and the city, into a strong co-ordinated model providing an enhanced offer for the children and young people of Leeds. The aim is to make services to young people integral to the ambition to make Leeds the best UK city to grow up in – a child friendly city.
- Development of a new model for youth services across Leeds has been agreed by the Council’s Executive Board in March 2013. The model is based on the investment in the key role of Area Committees to appropriately determine local youth provision that best helps address agreed priority outcomes for each particular area. Area Committees will have more resource and more say around how this is achieved locally.
- In March 2013 the Council’s Executive Board approved a new allocation to the overall Area Committee budget ring-fenced for youth activities of £250k in 2013/14 and £500k in 2014/14, with a clear expectation that young people help to shape

the decision making around the spending of this resource, against an agreed set of outcomes.

- The new allocation for the Inner West Area Committee budget ring-fenced for youth activities is £16202 in 2013/14 and £32405 in 2014/15. The Area Committee function schedule for Youth Activity Breeze Funding is to commission, monitor and evaluate local play, arts, sports and cultural activity for young people age 8-17 with the involvement and participation of children and young people. This is supported with training opportunities for members and officers. Members are asked to consider how the fund will be administered and the decision making process.
- Executive Board also endorsed proposals for the Executive Member for Children's Services and Area Committees about how best to enable spend £2.54 million on targeted youth work across local areas in Leeds. The Executive Member intends to take a report to the July Executive Board to confirm how the targeted youth work budget will be allocated after further consultation with Area Committees.

Recommendations

The Area Committee is asked to give consideration to:

- How the activity funding will be delivered in each area building on the Breeze brand
- How they can link to other possible funding streams in localities to maximise activity for children and young people
- How children and young people will be involved throughout the planning, decision making and evaluation of the activity funding.
- How the Area Committee Chair and new Area Lead for Children's work with the Executive Member to shape the July Executive Board report re targeted youth work services.
- Delegating the Youth Activities Fund budget decision making function to the authorised officers, subject to consultation with Ward Members.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Area Committee with an update on the recommendations agreed at the Executive Board 13th March 2013; Investing in Young People: Future Direction for Youth Services in Leeds
- 1.2 The report will predominantly inform and update area committees of their delegated responsibilities for Youth activity funding. It will include how they commission, monitor, evaluate local play, arts, sports and cultural activity for young people age 8-17 years with the involvement and participation of children and young people throughout the process.
- 1.3 The report sets out how the delegated funding will be allocated and administered by the Area Committee and Area Support Team.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In March 2013 Executive Board agreed:

To note the comprehensive consultation and assessment work undertaken to develop a new vision for the 'youth offer' in Leeds, endorsing the continued commitment to youth services as a key strand of the child friendly Leeds ambitions.

- 2.2 To approve the new 'youth offer' outlined in this report bringing together a more co-ordinated approach to universal services, improved targeted and specialist provision, through an enhanced role for Area Committees and clusters and a stronger use of the Breeze brand.
- 2.4 To delegate responsibility to the Director of Children's Services and Director of City Development in consultation with the relevant Executive Board. Members to implement the remodelling of council run youth services and those provided by key partners in order to deliver the new approach. Full staff and Union engagement will also be ensured through this process.
- 2.5 Endorse the proposal for discussions between the Executive Member for Children's Services and Area Committees about how to best enable spend of £2.54 million on targeted youth work across local areas in Leeds.
- 2.6 Approve a new allocation to the overall Area Committee budget ring-fenced for youth activities of £250k in 2013/14 and £500k in 2014/15, with a clear expectation that young people help to shape decision making around the spending of this resource, against an agreed set of outcomes.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Area Committee function schedule for Youth Activity Breeze Funding is to commission, monitor and evaluate local play, arts, sports and cultural activity for young people age 8-17 with the involvement and participation of children and young people.

- 3.2 In order to support Area Committees and enable the successful commissioning, monitoring, and evaluation of activity with children and young people, Children's Services, City Development and partners will support the process with a support team for each of the 3 Council administrative areas.
- 3.3 Workshops will be offered for members and officers to support the engagement of children and young people in the process. Planning workshops will be offered to support Area Committees to evidence existing activity, identify gaps and to prioritise.
- 3.4 Applicants for the funding will need to be registered with the Breeze Culture network which will ensure all safeguarding measures are in place.
- 3.5 Monitoring data for 2013/14 will be gathered using the well-being model until the Breeze data management system is fully operational. In the future monitoring will be supported through the Breeze Team and the Breeze data management system which is being trialled currently in 2 areas and if successful will be rolled out. This will link to children and young people's Breeze cards and will provide a range of data which will be reported back to area committees through the Children's Services updates provided to area committees on a 6 monthly basis. Further monitoring will be required to ensure the qualitative data is collected in line with the Well Being model this will be facilitated by the support teams mentioned above.
- 3.6 The central Breeze team are managed within City Development and strong links remain to Children's Services supporting the diverse cultural offer of activities to children and young people in the city. Breeze has continued its success in the delivery of popular and successful activity for children, young people and families across the city. The delivery of the Breeze brand is supported by the Breeze Leeds website and the Breeze culture network enabling easy access for schools and young people to sport, arts and culture and will be utilised in supporting the youth activity funding process.
- 3.7 The youth activity funding creates further opportunities to link with area cluster partnerships, schools and other partners to maximise activity and opportunities for children and young people.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Further discussions between the Executive Member for Children's Services and Area Committees will take place about how to best enable spend of £2.54 million on targeted youth work across local areas in Leeds.
- 4.1.2 Further engagement with young people and partners are fundamental to the delegation model
- 4.1.3 Young people have been involved in training to support the commissioning process in localities through a range of workshops supported by the Children's Services Voice and Influence team, youth service and voluntary sector partners.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Youth activity funding delegated to area committees can support cohesion and integration in localities where identified as a local need with children and young people. The process envisaged encourages participation and engagement of young people and partners.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 Council policies and city priorities supported are the obsessions and priorities contained within the Children and Young People’s plan, the Leeds Education Challenge and the priorities of the sustainable Economy and Culture Partnership. They are also complementary to a number of Executive Board Papers; those in the March 2013 ‘Inspiring a Generation: A Sporting Legacy for Leeds, December 2012 ‘Review of Area Working: Findings and Recommendations, March 2013 Deputation To Council – Leeds Children’s Mayor Regarding The Winning Manifesto – ‘Leeds Offers Fun, Free, Fitness For The Family’

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 It is planned to take a paper to the Council’s executive board in July to secure approve for the formula which will be used to distribute £2.53m of targeted youth work resource. This resource is currently largely spent on the staffing costs of the Council’s Youth Service and on some contracts with voluntary sector organisations.

4.4.2 Allocated budget for Youth Activity Funding based on population data. The 8-17 populations by wards have been based on data received from NHS Leeds. The data is based on addresses of children and young people registered with GP’s. This has been shown to be the most comprehensive, accurate and up to date source of data for the population of children and young people.

4.4.3 The budget allocation for each area committee is as follows:

Local Breeze Activity				
Area Committee	Area	8-17 population	2013 /14 allocation	2014/15 allocation
<i>Inner East</i>		11434	34162	68323
<i>Inner North East</i>		8647	25835	51670
<i>Outer North East</i>		6861	20499	40997
	East North East	26942	80495	160990
<i>Inner South</i>		8322	24864	49728
<i>Outer East</i>		9701	28984	57968
<i>Outer South</i>		10080	30116	60232
	South	28103	83964	167927
<i>Inner North West</i>		5986	17884	35769
<i>Inner West</i>		5423	16202	32405
<i>Outer North West</i>		9451	28237	56474
<i>Outer West</i>		7771	23218	46435
	West North West	28631	85541	171083
		83676	250000	500000

- 4.4.4 Members are asked to consider the process for allocating the Youth Activities Funding, in particular how Members might respond to feedback from young people for more activities in the summer holidays. To allow grants to be awarded between Area Committee meetings, it is proposed that the Area Committee delegate the decision making function to the authorised officers - the Assistant Chief Executive (Customers & Communities) and Chief Officer (Communities) .
- 4.4.5 Proposals for funding would be developed based on consultation with children and young people. Projects would be circulated to Members using the same process as Wellbeing fund small grants. Once feedback from Members has been received, the Area Leader will consult with the Committee's Area Lead for Children and Young People before making a final decision. If Members give negative feedback on a proposal, it would be referred to the next Area Committee for further discussion.
- 4.4.6 The Area Committee will be kept up to date on projects funded through the Youth Activities budget at every meeting via the Wellbeing report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The remodelling of council run youth services and those provided by key partners will have implications for the council and this will be mitigated as far as possible ensuring the correct procedures are followed.

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.
- 4.6.2 There are a number of youth work contracts with voluntary sector bodies in Leeds currently funded who will need to be supported through new or revised commissioning arrangements.
- 4.6.3 The involvement and participation of children and young people is key to ensuring the right activities are available and suitable. It is essential that teams support this process to build success.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 In conclusion the youth activity funding creates an opportunity to build on activity provided locally meeting identified need. The process of involving children and young people in the decision making supports Leeds being a Child Friendly City and ensures children's needs are central to the process.
- 5.2 Locality budgets for activity will generate opportunity for creative ways to work across partnerships in localities.
- 5.3 Feedback from Children & Young People may indicate that they would like more activities to be delivered during the summer holidays. To facilitate this, a proposal is made to delegate the decision making function of the Youth Activities Fund to the authorised officers, in consultation with Ward Members and the Area Lead for Children & Young People.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is asked to give consideration to:

- how the activity funding will be delivered in each area building on the Breeze brand;
- how they can link to other possible funding streams in localities to maximise activity for children and young people;
- how children and young people will be involved throughout the planning, decision making and evaluation of the activity funding.
- The Area Committee Chair and new Area Lead for Children's work with the Executive Member Children's about how to best enable spend of £2.54 million on targeted youth work across local areas in Leeds.
- Delegating the Youth Activities Fund budget decision making function to the authorised officers, subject to consultation with Ward Members.

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.