

Item No. 12.	Classification: Open	Date: 13 December 2016	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Activity Strategy for Children and Young People 2017– 2020	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Maisie Anderson, Public Health, Parks and Leisure and Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE AND COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

The council has promised its children and young people the very best start in life. Despite challenging financial times, we remain absolutely committed to helping our children and young people to be happy, healthy, active, safe and prepared for the future.

Southwark is an amazing place to grow up, with a vast range of places for young people to go and things to do. In addition to our schools, the council provides and supports a vast range of activities for children and young people. From libraries to events and support for arts and drama, as well as activities in our parks and playgrounds, leisure centres, sports and youths clubs. There is no shortage of things going on in our borough.

However, the world is changing, and our services need to change with it. We must adapt and evolve alongside the young people in our borough. We have an opportunity to reassess what we provide and have asked local people what they want to see for children and young people. Over 500 people responded to our consultation, and their thoughts and opinions have been woven throughout the fabric of the new Activities for Children and Young People strategy 2017 - 2020.

We want our young people to make the most of the opportunities on their doorstep and to help us shape the activities on offer, whether delivered by the council or other local organisations. This will ensure that Southwark truly offers something for everyone growing and flourishing in our great borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet
 - Agree the proposed Activity Strategy for Children and Young People 2017– 2020 (ASCYP)
 - Note the grant allocation process for the provision of youth and play services
 - Note the approach to commissioning the voluntary sector to deliver specific services that support the delivery of the outcomes in the strategy.

INTRODUCTION

2. Southwark has an abundance of activities for children and young people to participate in and enjoy. There are a huge range of sporting activities stretching from football to cycling, to swimming in leisure centres and many sports facilities. Young people have opportunities to take part in performance arts provided by organisations such as Theatre Peckham and Blue Elephant. Creative arts and crafts are delivered by many organisations such as the South London Gallery and Café Gallery Project. Youth Clubs across the borough give young people an opportunity to participate, contribute, learn skills and enjoy themselves. Libraries help children develop a love of reading and support their learning. Parks run a range of activities for children and high quality playgrounds ensure that children have opportunities to be active and have fun across the borough. All these contribute to creating a rich and diverse offer to help children and young people to be happy, safe, healthy and active.
3. Officers have mapped the council's provision of leisure activities for children and young people across the borough. There is a much more extensive youth offer that crosses council services in areas such as education, the local economy and social care but there is also a very significant provision across the voluntary and community sector in the borough.
4. The council's Fairer Futures promises include commitments to support our children and young people to grow, prosper and achieve. Specifically Southwark has pledged to:
 - Provide free swim and gym sessions
 - Expand the play streets programme
 - Ensure there are top quality playgrounds across the borough
 - Provide a library card for all secondary school students
 - Increase the number of scholarships for young people including arts scholarships for foundation courses
 - Open a credit union account with £10 for each 11 year old
 - Provide 2000 apprenticeships.
5. At a time of significant challenges to public sector funding, it is more important than ever to be able to join up services and focus future investment choices in areas that will have the biggest impact. The ASCYP aims to refocus and target services to deliver the best outcomes for children and young people. It sets out the council's priorities for these services and activities over the next three years, with a focus on provision of universal activities available to all children, young people and their families, while maintaining commissioning of targeted youth services to help our young people keep safe and prepare for their future.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. As part of the development of the ASCYP the council conducted a mapping exercise of the provision of activities for children and young people in the borough. This exercise concentrated on out of school activities, run either directly by the council, the voluntary sector or clubs and associations. It covered the following types of activity;
 - Parks activities
 - Young advisers

- Youth centres
 - Libraries
 - Play sites
 - Sport and leisure activities
 - Arts and events
7. The exercise confirmed the richness of provision, identifying almost 700 activities of which 83% were provided for free. It highlighted the essential role the voluntary sector, local clubs and commitment of local people plays in the provision of activities for children and young people. It demonstrated that the council plays a significant role in the delivery of youth and play activities, particularly in its parks and libraries. It is only through this rich mix of provision that all children and young people have the opportunity to engage in activities, wherever they live in the borough.
 8. The council has for many years worked in partnership with the voluntary sector to ensure that children and young people benefit from the widest range of universal and targeted services. In 2015-16 the council provided grant funding to 16 voluntary sector youth organisations and three adventure playgrounds. The activities provided by these organisations range from youth clubs, football coaching, support of LGBT young people, to supporting education and personal development.
 9. In the light of government funding cuts the council reviewed its approach to direct provision of some youth and play in 2015-16. As part of this it was agreed to;
 - Transfer the youth and play team from the Children and Adult Services department to the Environment and Leisure department. This was to enable the council to keep these services running while aligning them with similar provision for children and young people, in particular being delivered in Parks, Sports, Leisure, Arts, Events and Libraries.
 - To integrate the services with the leisure division of the department. Bringing these services together to enable a joined up, integrated service for children and young people, improving access to provision, reducing duplication and delivering efficiencies
 - Develop a mixed model of provision which would maintain some direct provision across youth and play but increasingly deliver through voluntary sector partnerships and commissioning.
 10. The youth and play team transferred in July 2016 to the environment and leisure department. This year the majority of the existing activities run by youth and play services have been maintained. Youth club sessions have continued to run at 5 centres and 6 adventure playgrounds have remained open with supervised sessions. In addition to term time provision, a successful summer programme with a varied programme of activities was run. This has ensured that children and young people have still benefited from participating in these activities with dedicated staff.
 11. At the same time, the council has delivered on its pledges to continue to keep all its libraries open, running activities for children such as the summer reading challenge. After successfully piloting free swim and gym for U18s the offer was extended to all residents in July 2016. The Castle Leisure Centre opened in the spring, providing a valuable resource for children and young people to use. The

events and arts team continue to provide and commission services that enable young people to enjoy and participate in cultural activities. The council is making strides on delivering new playgrounds, recently committing to an additional £1.2million for playgrounds at Leyton Square and Southwark Park, thereby delivering the councils commitment to ensure a top quality playground in every local area. This is in addition to investment in other areas, such as the new landscaped play area in Peckham Rye and a new Urban Games area that is being developed for Burgess Park to provide exciting, challenging activities for all ages. There are also a rich range of activities provided by tenants and residents associations, and through the Neighbourhoods and the Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) funds. CGS for example has supported play areas in Parks and on housing estates and the Neighbourhoods Fund has provided revenue funding for activities for children and young people.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Mapping current provision

12. While developing the strategy, the council conducted a mapping exercise of provision for children and young people across the borough. In total nearly 700 activities were identified.
13. Activities were mapped geographically and show a good spread across each area. In particular the existing youth and play sites can be seen to significantly overlap with areas of higher deprivation in Southwark. It also demonstrated the challenge in finding out what is available in each area, given the breadth of provision. One of the key outcomes from the strategy will be to review and seek to enhance and improve the current information provision for families and children and young people.

Support to wider plans and strategies

14. The Activity Strategy for Children and Young People in Southwark supports the following key council plans and strategies:
 - The Council Plan and its Fairer Future commitment to giving young people the best start in life and helping everyone to live healthy active lives through the opportunities the strategy provides for young people to stay active.
 - The council and NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the new five year forward view with its aims of working together across services to improve the health and wellbeing of Southwark people with an emphasis on prevention and early action.
 - The new tripartite council: CCG and Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy which aims to achieve better partnership working across sectors to improve outcomes for residents, improved commissioning and grant-giving that focuses on outcomes for local people and better use of community assets to build resilient communities through community-led approaches. The VCS Strategy is about a new relationship with the VCS and unlocking the social value and assets that exist in communities to create a Southwark that is fairer for all. Where it makes sense we will work with partners to deliver activities for young people that support the aims of the Activities Strategy for children and young people in Southwark.

- The Families Matter Strategy that sets out approaches to working with children, young people and families to deliver high quality, effective services to local children, young people and families.

Consultation

15. To ensure that activities delivered across services and with partners meet the needs of children and young people, a consultation exercise was undertaken in the summer of 2016. The consultation engaged children, young people and their families and sought to identify their priorities for activities they would like to see for children and young people. The full report is available in Appendix 2.
16. The consultation was in the form of a survey which was made available online and in paper form. It was publicised widely through, schools, libraries, youth and play centres, attendance at community events and social media. A copy of the survey questionnaire is available in Appendix 3.
17. The consultation reached a wide range of residents. 534 responses were received, 49% of those who answered the question about age were under 25. The results offer a good balance between the views of young people themselves and other adults in the borough including parents and carers. There was a good range of income groups reflected in the responses; 35% were male and 40% female; 12.5% indicated a disability or had limiting health condition;
18. The survey asked questions on the five themes that appear in the strategy; Happy, Healthy, Active, Safe and Prepared. There was overwhelming support (more than 87%) for each of these. The order of importance was happy, safe, healthy, active and prepared. However it should be noted that being prepared for life has considerably more importance for the 18 to 24-year-olds and that safety remains a considerable concern for young people of secondary school age. Those over 25 and likely to be parents or carers of children and young people are most concerned about their children and young people being happy and healthy.
19. There were key differences in priority activities across the ages:

The top 3 priority activities for children aged 5-11 are:

Playgrounds	67%
Sport and leisure	64%
Reading/books	56%

The top 3 priority activities for children aged 12-15 are:

Fitness and sport	70%
Careers advice/work exp.	56%
Reading/books	46%
Art/culture/events	46%

The top 3 priority activities for young people aged 16-24 are:

Careers advice/work exp.	72%
Fitness and sport	59%
Debate/democracy	43%
Arts/culture/events	43%
Computers IT	43%

20. A question was also asked as to the barriers that children and young people face to attending activities.
21. 175 individuals responded to this question. Almost a quarter of these respondents thought that lack of information was one of the main barriers. Cost and distance to travel were the most often mentioned barriers across all the age groups. Young people were concerned about safety on the way to activity. The timing of the activities was in the top three concerns for those in secondary school and lack of interest in what's on offer a barrier for 16 to 17-year-olds.
22. The council will ensure that a wide range of activities are made available across all areas of the borough and for all ages, either free of charge or low cost to ensure that children and young people have opportunities to participate.
23. The consultation identified that residents are most likely to find information about activities online (58% of respondents). Therefore Southwark will continue to support access to activities by ensuring that information is made available online, is kept up to date and that it will signpost to other providers of services for children and young people.

The Strategy

24. The strategy (see Appendix 1) sets out the priorities for the provision of leisure activities for children and young people in Southwark for the next three years and is accompanied by an action plan to deliver the priorities. Five thematic outcomes have been identified to deliver the priorities:

Outcome 1: Happy: Children and young people have fun and feel happy

Outcome 2: Healthy: Children and young people live healthy lives

Outcome 3: Active: Children and young people participate and are active citizens

Outcome 4: Safe: Children and young people feel safe and secure

Outcome 5: Prepared: Children and young people have the life skills to succeed.

25. To deliver the priorities an integrated approach will be adopted to ensure that children and young people have access to the broadest range of activities to help them grow and prosper. These will be provided across many services both within the council, by the voluntary sector and local communities.

They will include

- parks and open spaces including playgrounds
- outdoor events such as festivals and carnivals
- sport and fitness including those provided by the councils leisure partner
- libraries
- arts and cultural events, delivered by arts organisations across the borough including those that receive funding from the council
- youth clubs, voluntary sector and those run by the council
- adventure playgrounds, voluntary sector and those run by the council.

26. The strategy confirms the commitment from the council and our partners to deliver high quality, young people-focused services that deliver the best

outcomes for children and young people. It will be used to inform future investment choices across services and provide a framework for the future commissioning of activities for children and young people.

27. It will enable us to prioritise expenditure on those areas that have been identified as key priorities by children, young people and their families. These will include, quality play provision, sports, fitness and leisure activities, library and arts events, personal development, careers information and work experience.
28. It will embed a new model of delivery using a mix of council and voluntary sector provision, by so doing enabling us to provide the highest quality from those best fit to provide it.
29. All provision, council and voluntary sector will be outcomes driven, designed to meet identified needs of young people and informed by them. Robust quality assurance and performance monitoring will be in place for all services.

Future provision of activities for children and young people

30. The council is committed to continuing to provide diverse opportunities for children and young people across the borough. It will do this through a combination of direct delivery by council services such as parks, libraries arts, through voluntary sector partners and through existing contracts, such as the Leisure Management Contract. By working in partnership we can maximize the value of the resources and ensure that we reach as many children and young people as possible.
31. The council recognises that in order to sustain this varied, high quality range of activities it needs to work in a very different way. It will do this by combining the best of what we do with the expertise and specialisms of the voluntary sector. A flexible approach will be adopted to ensure that resources and facilities are used to best effect to deliver the priorities in the strategy. This will mean working with partners to extend and maximize the use of our facilities and commissioning them to deliver activities on our behalf.
32. The council values the unique role of the voluntary and community sector in delivering exiting and engaging activities for children and young people. In February 2016 it committed £1 million for the period 2017-19 to commission activities for children and young people. This is a 13.5% reduction from the 14-15 to 15-16 funding cycle, but reflects the challenging financial climate.
33. Following agreement of the new tripartite council, NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group and voluntary & community sector strategy (*Common Purpose Common Cause*) at the November cabinet meeting a further report is being considered at this cabinet meeting which sets out proposals for better co-ordination of commissioning activity across the council and partners. The approach taken to the commissioning of activities for children and young people will align with this broader approach. Commissioning for children and young people will form part of this overall approach that will include a common outcomes framework. The commissioning strategy will ensure that future grants deliver the priority outcomes outlined above and that there is a robust but proportionate performance management framework in place to monitor outcomes against these targets.

34. The council will work with Community Southwark and the voluntary sector to engage with organizations to help them understand the requirements for funding and future monitoring arrangements that will be in place for funded organisations.

Community impact statement

35. The delivery of youth and play provision has a direct community and equalities impact on large sections of the boroughs residents. As set out in this report extensive consultation has been carried out and incorporated into this strategy, engaging with children, young people and their families to identify their priorities for activities. Although there are direct impacts, these have been minimised by taking a broad and balanced approach, and as such the strategy should minimise impact and enhance positive opportunities.
36. Where specific decisions are to be made about provision (in line with this strategy) individual equality and community and equality analysis will be carried out in line with the council's procedures.

Resource implications

37. The ASCYP runs from 2017-2020 and will be delivered within the agreed budgets for services that provide activities for children and young people in that period.
38. The actual expenditure against the grant allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the parks and leisure revenue monitoring process
39. On 1 November 2016, cabinet also approved a capital allocation of £1.2m on Top Quality Playgrounds which is expected to be delivered across the 2016-17 to 2017-18 period.
40. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director for Children's and Adults' Services

41. The transition of youth and play services from the children's and adults' services department to the environment and leisure department has been completed successfully. The staff in both departments worked hard to ensure that this was undertaken with the least impact on children, young people and parents and are to be commended for their efforts in sustaining the service offer and indeed a very full summer programme.
42. The extensive consultation and engagement with young people in developing this strategy has ensured their voice is heard and the strategy very much reflects their preferences and aspirations. The take-up of the council's free swim and gym offer by young people has far exceeded projections and bodes well for their health and wellbeing. The use of our libraries by young people again has far exceeded projections and will help young people with learning and access into employment. The diverse range of interests on offer will attract young people to gather and to work together around a shared interest or sport, assisting with their personal development, social skills and self-confidence.

43. This strategy is in accord with the council's strategies and plans in education, public health, social care and community safety and colleagues from Children's and Adults' Services will continue to work very closely with colleagues in Environment and Leisure to ensure it is implemented with impact to deliver our shared ambitions for children, young people and families in the borough.

Director of Law and Democracy

44. This report seeks approval of the proposed Activity Strategy for Children and Young People 2017– 2020 (“the Strategy”). The decision to agree the Strategy is one that can be taken by the Cabinet collectively.
45. Cabinet will note that the Strategy sets out a vision to improve health and well-being for all children and young people through a variety of leisure activities. The Strategy sets out five themes and outcomes which have been designed to accord with the key priorities identified by those children, young people and their families who have responded to the council’s consultation.
46. The report sets out at paragraph 14 the corporate plans and key objectives which the Strategy is intended to complement and support. Amongst the council’s various duties and powers in this area the Health and Social Care Act 2012 imposes a duty on the council to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. This would include (but is by no means limited to) the provision of services or facilities designed to promote healthy living (whether by helping individuals to address behaviour that is detrimental to health or in any other way), and making available the services of any person or any facilities.
47. Where there is no expressly conferred duty or power in relation to any of the functions outlined in the Strategy, the council has the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions (section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972). The general power of competence conferred by the Localism Act 2011 also grants the council the power to do anything that individuals may do.
48. The aim of harnessing the use of outside spaces which are owned and maintained by the council would also need to be consistent with the council’s powers relating to the provision and management of public spaces, and byelaws made by the council relating to their use.
49. The aim of improving commissioning and grant-giving processes related to the implementation of the Strategy should take account of the council’s duties as a Best Value authority under the Local Government Act 1999. Regarding grants in particular, the council has a general power to incur expenditure in the interests of, and where that will bring direct benefits to, its area (which includes making financial contributions to charities and non-profit making bodies carrying out public services, subject to a prescribed limit). The council has a specific power to make a scheme for making grants to voluntary organisations whose activities will benefit the whole of Greater London or any part of it, subject to a prescribed limit on the total amount of expenditure to be incurred. The report notes that future service provision will be subject to certain prescribed outcomes and to improved quality assurance and performance monitoring, and officers should seek advice from the director of law and democracy in relation to the form and content of any

contracts to be awarded to commercial and voluntary sector organisations.

50. In making its decision cabinet must be aware of the Public Sector Equality Duty imposed by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, which requires that due regard must be given to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct; to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. The relevant “protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation. Cabinet is referred to the community impact statement in this report and to the details of the consultation which has been undertaken involving children, young persons and their families and voluntary and community sector organisations in order to inform the development and detail of the Strategy.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

51. This report is requesting cabinet to agree the proposed Activity Strategy for Children and Young People 2017-2020. The reports is also requesting cabinet to note the grant allocation process for the provision of youth and play services and the approach to commissioning the voluntary sector to deliver specific services that support the delivery of the outcomes in the strategy. Full details are contained within the main body of the report.
52. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the proposed Activity Strategy for Children and Young People 2017-2020 will be delivered within the council’s existing departmental revenue budgets and the approved capital programme.
53. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report need to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Policy and Resources Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19 Update for spending review and initial savings proposals		
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s58659/Report%20Policy%20and%20resources%20strategy.pdf		
Policy and Resources Strategy 2016/17-2018/19 Revenue Budget		
Link: (Copy and Paste link into browser) http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s59966/Report%20Policy%20and%20Resources%20Strategy%20201617%20-%20201819%20-%20Revenue%20Budget.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendices circulated separately	
Appendix 1	Activities for Children and Young People in Southwark: a strategy for 2017-2020
Appendix 2	Activities for Children and Young People Consultation report
Appendix 3	Copy of Survey Questionnaire

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Maisie Anderson, Public Health, Parks and Leisure and Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	
Lead Officer	Fiona Dean, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 December 2016	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director for Children's and Adults' Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	1 December 2016	