

Item No. N/A	Classification: Open	Date: 3 July 2017	Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety
Report title:		Youth and Play Grants Programme October 2017 – March 2019	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet member for communities and safety approves the Youth and Play grant awards 2017-19, as attached at Appendix 1 of this report, effective from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2019.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Youth and Play commissioning plan (approved in April 2017) forming Appendix 2 sets out the priorities for the commissioning of youth and play grants for 2017-2019. The plan was developed in accordance with the new Activities for Children and Young People Strategy (ACYPS) 2017-2019.
3. The strategy, which was developed following extensive consultation with children young people and their families, establishes a clear framework for outcomes to be considered in commissioning the voluntary and community sector to deliver youth and play activities.

The strategy identifies five priority outcomes to be delivered:

- 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
4. The commissioning plan is aligned with the Council Plan and the ten Fairer Future promises to create a fairer future for all in Southwark.
 5. It follows the Voluntary and Community sector strategy “Common Purpose Common Cause’ outcomes:
 - Better partnership working to improve outcomes for residents

- Improved commissioning and grant-giving to focus on outcomes and be more collaborative, and community-led
- More resilient communities that are connected and more resourceful.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Southwark remains committed to utilising the expertise of voluntary and community organisations to deliver high quality youth and play activities to dovetail with the ACYPS and the council's direct delivery arrangements. Our approach reflects the service's priorities and is guided by three key principles:
 - Commission provision which supports the development of a model, using a mix of council and voluntary sector provision, each focused on what they do best
 - Commission provision which delivers a redesigned offer of the highest quality and suited to meeting children and young people's needs
 - Develop smarter commissioning arrangements, which are underpinned by robust needs analysis, performance management and quality assurance processes.
7. In 2017-19 the total budget for the Youth and Play grants programme is £1m. In December 2016 the cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure approved an extension of 6 months funding to currently commissioned voluntary and community organisations. This funding for the period of 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017 valued at £277,553. The remaining £722,447 is the budget for grants for the period October 2017 to March.
8. The 2017-19 grants programme was revised to include both youth and play activities to provide an opportunity to broaden the scope of the programme and fund work which directly delivers against the ACYPS objectives. The aim being to ensure a balance of funded activity by new and emerging organisations alongside the long established organisations providing a range of universal and targeted work.
9. The process for the commissioning involved 3 key stages:
 - Development and agreement of the commissioning plan
 - Advertising and assessment of applications
 - Report & final decisions.
10. The impact of the grants programme will be evaluated through robust performance management including quarterly monitoring and annual reporting.

Application and assessment process

11. Voluntary and community organisations who work with children and young people were invited to apply to the grants programme through an online application process.
12. The programme was open to all applicants, regardless of whether or not they had been

previously funded. The minimum amount that could be applied for was £4000 per annum and the maximum of £30,000 per annum.

13. Applicants could apply as single organisations or as part of a consortium.
14. The commissioning plan set out clearly the criteria for funding.
15. A set of detailed guidance notes was provided as part of the application pack to support the applicants through the process.
16. 36 applications were received, with a total sum of £1,153,390 funding requested.
17. Assessment was carried out against how well each project addressed the criteria set out in the commissioning plan.
18. Particular focus was given to how the applications met the ACYPS priority outcomes. It was stipulated in the guidance notes that all projects must meet one or more of the 5 outcomes.
19. The evaluation included a scoring system. Scores of between 0-10 (10 being the highest) were given based on how well the application addressed the outcomes in the ACYPS, and the detailed project activity. A minimum score of 12 out of a possible 20 was required to be considered for funding.
20. Focus was also given to the financial information provided in the income and expenditure / revenue budget. A score between 0 -10 on both income and expenditure was given and a minimum score of 6 out of a possible 10 was required to be considered for funding. Financial breakdown of income and expenditure was assessed based on the following principles:
 - The level of detail and clarity in the budget breakdown
 - Value for money
 - Correct calculations
 - Is it realistic and achievable
 - Financial viability of the organisation.
21. Twenty one organisations are recommended for funding; the successful and unsuccessful applications are summarised in Appendix 1.
22. The value of the recommended grants is £722,383 (budget £722,447)

Policy implications

23. The council's Activities for Children and Young People Strategy (ACYPS) was approved in December 2016. The projects that have been recommended for funding are those that best meet the strategy priorities.

Community and equalities impact statement

24. The council's ACYPS was approved in December 2016 and clearly set out priorities for activities for children and young people in the borough for 2017 - 2020. The grant application process mirrors the strategy's objectives and clearly sets out the criteria and expectations that organisations must meet.

25. The process by which organisations have been recommended to receive funding is transparent and focused on delivering the most beneficial impact for children and young people in the borough.
26. The application process specifically sought information on target participants, community areas in which activities will be delivered in order to identify where there may be an overlap of provision or where activities are being targeted at similar groups.
27. The process set out in this report allows all groups equal and fair access. The selection and funding criteria, coupled with the principles of the ACYPS form a process designed to maximise engagement and community benefit. The further provision for single organisations or consortia also broadens the accessibility of the process.
28. No element of the funding process would have a detrimental impact on protected groups or characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Any potential impacts are minimised by taking a broad and balanced approach to the funding decisions.

Financial implications

29. The total cost of the recommended grant allocation for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2019 as detailed in appendix 1 is £722,383 and this can be contained with the remaining budget allocation of £722,447 for the same period.
30. Staffing and any other monitoring costs will be contained within existing revenue budgets.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

31. This report seeks approval of the youth and play grants for 2017-19 as listed in Appendix 1.
32. The decision to approve the report recommendation is one of the matters which is expressly reserved to the cabinet member under part 3D of the council constitution.
33. The report explains how officers had devised a clear and robust application process, including a detailed evaluation and scoring methodology for the purpose of assessing the funding applications submitted.
34. The community and equalities impact statement notes that, in establishing the application process, evaluating the funding applications and recommending the various grant allocations officers have had due regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained within the Equality Act 2010 in order to ensure that, as far as possible the application process and the funding allocations do not exclude any individual or group having a protected characteristic (under the Act) from participating in or accessing any element of the programme.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL15/031)

35. This report is requesting the cabinet member for communities and safety to approve the Youth and Play grant awards 2017-19, as detailed in Appendix 1, effective from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2019.

36. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the cost of the recommended grant allocations can be contained within existing budgets.
37. Staffing and any other related costs to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Activities for Children and Young People Strategy 2017-2020	www.southwark.gov.uk/	Aileen Cahill 0207 525 2472

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Grants recommendations 2017-19
Appendix 2	Youth and Play Commissioning Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Fiona Dean, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture	
Version	Final	
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
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		3 July 2017