

	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 28 April 2017	<b>Decision Taker:</b> Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety
<b>Report title:</b>	Youth and Play Commissioning Plan		
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All wards		
<b>From:</b>	Strategic Director of Environment and Social Regeneration		

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet member for communities and safety approves the commissioning plan for the grants programme for youth and play for the period October 2017 to March 2019, designed to support the delivery of the activities for children and young people strategy (ACYPS).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 23 March 2015 the cabinet member for children and schools formally approved the commissioning allocations to 18 voluntary and community organisations from the youth and play service grant to provide youth and play activities across the borough. The organisations were commissioned in accordance with the youth service commissioning plan 2015-2017.
3. The approved report reinforced the commitment to make best use of the expertise in the voluntary sector, whilst demonstrating the council's commitment to continue funding youth provision. The report also resolved to support the new delivery model which sought to create a network of council and commissioned provision. The 2015-17 commissioning plan sought to refresh the approach to commissioning youth provision for 2015-17 and beyond, to better reflect the service's priorities.
4. On 13 December 2016, the cabinet member for communities and safety approved an extension of 6 months funding to currently commissioned youth and play service voluntary and community organisations 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017. The aim being to develop a recommissioning strategy during early 2017 taking into account the new voluntary commissioning model and emerging strategy noted below.
5. In December 2016 cabinet approved new activities for children and young people strategy (ACYPS). 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 of the voluntary and community sector to deliver youth and play activities.
6. 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.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

7. This commissioning plan has been developed in accordance with the new activities for children and young people strategy (ACYPS) 2017-2019, and the voluntary and community sector strategy ‘common purpose, common cause.’
8. Southwark remains committed to utilising the expertise of voluntary and community organisations to deliver high quality youth and play activities to dovetail with the strategy and the council’s direct delivery arrangements. Our approach going forward will better reflect the service’s priorities and will be 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.
9. The objectives in the commissioning plan fall within the council plan and the ten fairer future promises to create a fairer future for all in Southwark.
10. They will also follow the ‘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.
11. The process for commissioning grant aided voluntary sector service providers involves 3 key stages:
  - Development and agreement of the commissioning plan
  - Advertising and assessment of applications
  - Report and final decisions.
12. In the development of the plan engagement with the youth and play voluntary sector organisations was undertaken in partnership with community Southwark. More than 30 organisations attended a workshop on 23 February 2017. This was a mix of existing commissioned providers and prospective new providers.
13. The workshop was structured to be an interactive event where colleagues from the VCS were encouraged to be open and honest with their views in order to inform to the new Commissioning framework.
14. The aims and objectives of the workshop were:
  - To formally engage the voluntary, community and charitable sector to inform how the ACYPS will be delivered in partnership with them

- To translate the 5 strategic priorities happy, healthy, active, safe, and prepared into deliverable activity on the ground
  - To agree clear outcomes and monitoring arrangements.
15. The workshop was divided into four sections:
- Review of current programme in which participants were given an opportunity to feedback on what has worked well with the current grants scheme, what could be improved, what didn't work at all
  - Mapping current VCS activities against the ACYPS. Each of the priorities was looked at in detail to turn the high level commitments into tangible deliverable activities
  - Defining outcomes we want to achieve. Exploring how activities could demonstrate that they are contributing to the ACYPS and how they can reflect this
  - Measuring impact and outcomes. Exploring measures and systems that will need to be put in place to measure outputs, outcomes and impact.
16. There was extensive positive engagement throughout the workshop.
17. Attendees identified a number of key areas of concern with relation to monitoring of activity which can be summarised as:
- The monitoring framework should realistic and not be too onerous as they have limited capacity to complete
  - Outcomes have to be realistic and achievable – use a range of outcomes that could be bespoke to the organisations
  - Broad universal targets are difficult to evaluate, targets should be smart
  - A wide range of methodologies should be used to evidence outcomes. For example case studies, testimonies, parental feedback, personal development plans, plus a range of other methods.
18. The workshop took participants through the outcomes in the strategy focusing on what the voluntary sector can contribute to its delivery and measurement of outcomes and impact.

### **What we will fund**

19. We will only fund activities that clearly demonstrate that they will meet the strategic outcomes and commitments detailed in the ACYPS, detailed below.
20. Activities can be provided for children and young people from ages 5 to 19 and range from play to targeted youth work.
21. We will not fund the general maintenance/overheads of facilities for example a youth club, or adventure playground. We will fund activities that are delivered in a youth setting or adventure playground tailored to meet a specific outcome for example a health and well-being programme. Organisations will be required to clearly articulate, what activities they are seeking funding for, and what outcomes they want to achieve.
22. Services, programmes and projects will have to demonstrate that their activities meet some of the following ACYPS commitments:

Priority Outcome 1: Happy - Activities that improve confidence and self-esteem, support better engagement with adults and/or other young people, the development of new interests or hobbies.

Priority Outcome 2: Active - Activities that increased participation in physical activity, new hobbies, engagement in after school clubs, learning new skills, peer leadership, participation in youth forums, youth led activities and increased interest in local area and communities.

Priority Outcome 3: Healthy - Activities that support children and young people to live healthier lives make healthier choices improve knowledge of health and nutrition, improve emotional well-being, improve physical fitness, improve sexual health, and improve access to health information.

Priority Outcome 4 Safe - Activities that support improved confidence to travel using public transport, , reduce risky behaviours, develop young people's ability to support each other to stay safe, and feel safer in their local communities. Young people benefit from theme based workshops, on key subjects such as gang and knife crime, child sexual exploitation anti radicalisation and the Prevent duty 2015.

Priority Outcome 5: Prepared – Activities to support the development of communication skills, social skills, life skills, employment, training, apprentices, accredited outcomes young people volunteering, improved resilience, ability to manage personal challenges.

23. Organisations will be subject to meeting the selection criteria, and be expected to work together collaboratively across localities, with local authority youth and play facilities and each other. In their application they will have to demonstrate that their activity does not duplicate that of other organisations.

### **Performance Management**

24. The performance framework consists of two sections: monitoring outputs, and achieving outcomes.

### **Monitoring outputs**

25. Organisations that receive funding will be expected to provide data to demonstrate the take up of the activities. This information will be used to demonstrate value for money, and take up of the services provided, and will also be used as comparative data.

The following outputs will be used to measure success (as appropriate):

- Number of youth sessions delivered
- Number of community outreach or detached work delivered in the period
- Number of young people who attended youth sessions within the period
- Number of new attendees in the period
- Number of young people/ repeat attendees in the period
- Number of young people who received individualised support in the period
- Number of young people benefitting from off-site activities in the period.

### **Monitoring outcomes**

26. In addition organisations will be required to provide qualitative data to demonstrate the impact of their work. A suite of measures based on the input from the VCS at the workshop will be used. Examples are case studies, questionnaires and focus

groups with young people, audio and visual diaries, personal portfolios and staff feedback. Key to this will be that the measures are reasonable and realistic.

27. As part of the application process organisations will have to identify which of these outcome measures they will use and which are most suited to their particular activity. For example: case studies, testimony, young people achievements, journey travelled, before and after questionnaires, parental submissions, observations, feedback, individual personal development plans focus groups and use of multimedia.
28. To maximize the partnership with the voluntary sector and the use of facilities we will seek to rent or lease two council youth clubs to voluntary community and charitable organisations to develop new programmes for young people.

### **Grants awards 2017 to 2019 – commissioning criteria**

29. As this is an 18 month programme organisations must seek funding only for activities that will take place during the period of funding. All funded activities and projects must be completed by March 2019.
30. In their applications organisations must demonstrate that their proposals do not duplicate existing provision in the locality in which they deliver their services. It is advisable that bidding organisations seek to build collaborative approaches with others, so their activities, programmes, projects or activities are not duplicated, but instead are complimentary.
31. Grants will be awarded to organisations who demonstrate their ability, and commitment to achieve the defined outcomes of this programme. When considering the impact that the bid might have against the outcomes a number of criteria will be considered, including how well the activity meets the priorities in the ACYPS: that they meet standard procedures such as safeguarding, health and safety: that they can demonstrate sufficient experience and success in delivery and that they meet the financial requirements. All of these will be specified in the commissioning plan and guidance.
32. Applications will need to be submitted by Monday 5 June 2017 for grants to operate for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2019 (18 months). The minimum award is £4,000 per annum (i.e. a minimum of £6,000 over 18 months of this programme) and the maximum award is £30,000 per annum (i.e. a maximum of £45,000 over 18 months of this programme) Existing providers currently in receipt of grants are eligible to apply for funding in relation to the above areas of activities.
33. All applications will be considered by a panel of local authority officers, who will appraise the quality of the application, in meeting the priority outcomes and the commissioning criteria The decisions on the award of grants will be taken by the cabinet member for environment and the public realm.

### **Community impact statement**

34. There is a legal duty on local authorities to promote equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination and to promote positive community relations.
35. As part of the application process the council asks organisations to estimate the percentage of their service users that fall into the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act. This information is used to assess the equalities impact of their programmes. The form used to collect this information has been developed in line

with feedback from the forum for equalities and human rights in Southwark (FEHRS).

36. As part of the application process VCS organisations must demonstrate who will benefit from their organisations' activities and how they support the priorities in the ACYPS.

### **Resource implications**

37. The grant funding available to commission youth and play provision has been reduced by 13.5% from £1,156,641 to £1,000,000 in line with the council's budget setting process and the total budget available to fund the youth and play grants is £1m for the period 2017/18 to 2018/19 i.e. (£500k p.a.)
38. The council is committed to providing 3 months notice of funding decisions where necessary which would normally need to be factored into the budget and therefore organisation are receiving 50% of their previous annual allocation for the 6 month period from 1 April to 30 September 2017. The remaining grant budget available will be utilised to fund the remaining 18 months of the 2-year programme, in accordance with the new commissioning framework 2017-2019 as outlined in this report. The profile of the grant funding allocation in line with this approach is shown below.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 September 2017	277,553
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	722,447
Total	1,000,000

The revenue budgets will need to be realigned in line with the grant allocations costs for effective monitoring and reporting.

39. The actual expenditure against the grant allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the parks and leisure revenue monitoring process
40. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **Consultation**

41. Engagement with youth and play voluntary sector organisations was undertaken in partnership with Community Southwark. More than 30 voluntary and community organisations attended a consultation workshop on 23 February 2017. This was a mix of existing commissioned providers and prospective new providers.

### **Supplementary Advice from Other Officers**

#### **Director of Law and Democracy**

42. This report seeks approval of the commissioning plan for the grants programme for Youth and Play for the period October 2017 to March 2019. The decision to approve the recommendation is one which is reserved to the cabinet member

under the council constitution and the report advises that the commissioning plan is consistent with corporate policy.

43. When preparing the report recommendations officers have had due regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty (“PSED”) contained within the Equality Act 2010 in order to ensure that, as far as possible the proposals do not have an adverse effect or impact on any individual or group having protected characteristics (under the Act). Paragraphs 37 and 38 describe the details that organisations bidding for grant funding will need to include in their applications in order to enable the council to analyse the equality impact of a proposed programme and to demonstrate compliance with the PSED.
44. The PSED requires public bodies to have an adequate evidence base for their decision making, and consultation/engagement is a useful tool to provide an adequate evidence base. Case law has shown how important it is for public bodies to consult/engage to ensure that they understand the impact their decisions have on the local community. In addition the “Southwark Compact” agreement between statutory agencies and voluntary, community and faith organisations in Southwark notes that such consultation can inform decision making. The report confirms that consultation has been undertaken with the voluntary and community sector (including a workshop) to ascertain their views and to inform the development of the commissioning plan.
45. Following the evaluation of the funding applications the Director of Law and Democracy will advise and assist officers in connection with appropriate legal documentation which incorporates the council’s delivery, monitoring and management requirements for each programme and the specific outcomes required in each case.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance**

46. This report is requesting cabinet member approves the commissioning plan for the grants programme for youth and play for the period October 2017 to March 2019, designed to support the delivery of the activities for children and young people strategy (ACYPS). Full details are contained within the main body of the report.
47. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the proposed grants programme for youth and play will be delivered within the council’s existing departmental revenue budgets, as reflected in the resource implications.
48. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report need to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Activities for Children and Young People Strategy 2017 - 2020 Equalities statement Southwark Compact	Southwark Council Offices 160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture <a href="mailto:aileen.cahil@southwark.gov.uk">aileen.cahil@southwark.gov.uk</a>

### **APPENDICES**

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

#### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Fiona Dean, Director of Leisure	
<b>Report Author</b>	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	20 April 2017	
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Head of Procurement	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	27 April 2017	