

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 11 April 2019	<b>Decision maker:</b> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities
<b>Report title:</b>		Commissioned Youth and Play Service extension 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities approve the extension of grant funding to currently commissioned youth and play service voluntary and community organisations for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as shown in Appendix 1.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Youth and Play commissioning plan (approved in April 2017) Appendix 1 set out the priorities for the commissioning of youth and play grants for 2017-2019. The plan was developed in accordance with the Activities for Children and Young People Strategy (ACYPS) 2017-2020.
3. The ACYPS, which was developed following extensive consultation with children, young people and their families, established a clear framework for outcomes to be considered in commissioning the voluntary and community sector to deliver youth and play activities.
4. 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.
5. The commissioning plan aligned with the Council Plan and the Fairer Future promises to create a fairer future for all in Southwark.
6. It followed the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy “Common Purpose Common Cause”. This is partnership strategy by the council, CCG and Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Its aim are:
  - 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.
7. The commissioning plan reinforced Southwark's commitment to utilising the expertise of voluntary and community organisations to deliver high quality youth and play activities to dovetail with the ASCYP strategy and the council's direct delivery arrangements.
  8. The criteria utilised to determine if grants would be awarded were:
    - Activities that clearly demonstrated that they met the strategic outcomes and commitments in the Activities for Children and Young People Strategy (ACYPS).
    - They provided for children and young people from ages 5 to 19, ranging from play, universal provision to targeted youth work.
    - Activities were delivered in a youth setting or adventure playground tailored to meet a specific outcomes in the ACYPS.
    - Services to complement and not duplicate those of other organisations in the same geographical or service area.
    - Could demonstrate that children and young people had a voice and influenced the types of activity that takes place.
    - Activities are monitored and measured to achieve the agreed outcomes.
  9. 33 organisations applied for funding. 21 were successful. See Appendix 1 for full details of grants awarded.
  10. The value of individual grants ranged from £7,500 to £43,000 for the period from October 2017 to March 2019.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

11. The youth and play service transferred to environment and leisure in July 2016, bringing together sports, leisure, parks, libraries, events and arts provision with youth and play, into one directorate.
12. In 2017 the cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure approved an extension of six months' funding to the then commissioned voluntary and community organisations from April 2017 to end of September 2017. The value of this programme was £277,553.
13. A new grants programme from October 2017 to March 2019 was completed against a specification designed to deliver against the Activities for Children and Young People Strategy objectives. The specification was considerable designed with input from the voluntary sector.
14. The budget for the 18-month programme was £722,447.

15. 21 organisations across the borough who provide a range of activities from universal to targeted services were granted 18 months' funding. The activities range from:
  - Universal youth centre provision
  - Sports and physical activity
  - Adventure play
  - Creative arts and crafts
  - Detached and outreach work, incl pop up activities
  - Summer and residential programmes
  - Volunteering programmes
  - LGBTQ provision
  - Radio, music and media training
  - Issues based work
  - Life skills, advice, guidance and training.
16. The broad range of activities and geographical spread expands the reach of council supported youth activities well beyond those that are run directly by the council.
17. A robust monitoring framework including quarterly monitoring and annual reporting was developed as part of the commissioning process. See Appendix 2 for a summary of performance.
18. 2019-20 is the final year of the current Activities for Children and Young People Strategy. 2019-20 therefore affords an opportunity to review of the strategy, re-engage with children young people and their families and in the light of this review priorities going forward.
19. The council has committed to reviewing its approach to the commissioning of voluntary and community sector grants in 2019-20.
20. The purpose of the review is to ensure:
  - That best value is provided and that there is no duplication across funding streams
  - That there is centralised oversight and monitoring of performance of grant funded organisations
  - That there are standardised processes
  - That best practice is shared and processes are simplified.
21. In the light of these changes it is proposed that the current youth and play grants are extended for the year 2019-20.
22. A broad range of universal and targeted activities are currently provided within the existing programmes with a significant number of young people engaged on a weekly basis.
23. It is important that these young people are able to access continuous provision to support constructive leisure time, social development and to avoid involvement in anti-social behaviours.

24. In addition, these services help to provide support to safeguard young people from other risks within our communities such as gangs and knife crime, radicalisation or child sexual exploitation.
25. The extension will ensure continuity of provision to targets designed to deliver the ACYPS.
26. One organisation, St Faiths Youth and Community Centre has notified the local authority that it will not be continuing its programme in 2019-20. In addition London Community Boxing withdrew from the current programme and consequently will not be funded in 2019-20.
27. The impact on these two changes is that £18,600 funding will be reallocated to the remaining 19 organisations pro rata.

### **Contract management and monitoring**

28. New targets will be agreed with all funded organisations for delivery in 2019-20.
29. The reach and take-up of all commissioned provision will be monitored closely over the coming year to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved.

### **Community impact statement**

30. All young people should have access to a productive, safe and fulfilling future. However young people now face an unprecedented level of risks, vulnerabilities and what can be complex, sometimes disheartening challenges growing up in the modern world. Youth work, play, and engagement in constructive activities are crucial tools to assist young people in their transition to adulthood. These programmes of activity support them to be safe, knowledgeable, valued members of their communities, and to fulfil their potential in life.
31. Activities will be delivered across 19 voluntary sector sites across the borough, providing comprehensive and diverse borough wide activities for children and young people to attend, within or close to the communities in which they live.
32. The proposals set out in this report, and the process employed in the ongoing commissioning of organisations and the provision of grants have no negative impact on any groups or protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010.
33. All the organisations supported under this grant programme are required to provide monitoring information that demonstrates their commitment to inclusion. In particular, all organisations will be required to provide information on the ethnicity and gender of their participants and staff and demonstrate that they comply with equalities legislation.

### **Resource implication**

34. The grant funding available to commission youth and play provision for 2019-20 is £500,000 in cost code EX531.
35. The actual expenditure against the grant allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the parks and leisure revenue monitoring process.

36. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

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

37. This report seeks approval of the award of further grant funding to various voluntary and community organisations providing youth activities and play services, for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2019.
38. The decision to approve the report recommendations is one which is expressly reserved to the cabinet member under Part 3D of the council constitution. The proposed grant awards are consistent with the council's statutory duties and powers (notably the Public Sector Equality Duty imposed by the Equality Act 2010, as reflected within the community impact statement) and with corporate policy, in particular, the Fairer Future Promises.
39. Officers consider that these particular services should continue to be regulated by way of conditions of grant funding rather than by more formal commercial contractual conditions. However, in the light of previous experience all future service provision will be carefully monitored by officers and will also be regulated by appropriate legal agreements which will incorporate specific targeted outcome focused requirements and will allow the council to withhold or "claw back" funding if necessary in the event that the required services and service delivery outcomes are not achieved.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL18/052)**

40. This report seeks the approval of the cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities for the extension of grant funding to currently commissioned youth and play service voluntary and community organisations for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as shown in Appendix 1.
41. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the proposed grant funding can be contained within the overall Youth business unit's revenue budget allocation.
42. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Commissioning Youth Provision 2017-2019	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Aileen Cahill 020 7525 2472
Youth service commissioning plan 2017-19	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Aileen Cahill 020 7525 2472
Activities for children and young people – A strategy for 2017 -2020	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Aileen Cahill 020 7525 2472

## APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix 1	Grants award recommendations April 2019

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture		
<b>Report Author</b>	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture		
<b>Version</b>	Final		
<b>Dated</b>	10 April 2019		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes		
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
<b>Officer Title</b>		<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy		Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>			10 April 2019