

Item No. N/a	Classification: Open	Date: 2 December 2019	Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health
Report title:		Positive Futures Fund grant programme – Phase Two	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing & Modernisation	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health approves the funding recommendations for phase 2 of the Positive Futures Fund that aims to support community organisations to provide inspiring opportunities for young people that divert them away from crime. These recommendations are set out in paragraphs 22 – 30.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A new Council Plan for 2018-2022 was agreed by Cabinet in June 2018. It includes a Safer Community as a key commitment. The plan highlights that everyone has the right to feel safe and be safe.
3. The plan also recognises that whilst Southwark is a welcoming and an inclusive borough, and we are proud that so many people want to make it their home, we need to empower people, particularly young people, with the opportunities that they need to make positive choices and to stay away from crime and violence. The plan commits the council to investing in our young people and finding new and innovative ways to support their futures, providing opportunities and investing in the groups that give young people inspiration and improved life chances.
4. The recommendation to establish a Positive Futures Fund to deliver this commitment was agreed by Cabinet in December 2018. The council committed to launch a new Positive Futures Fund to support community and voluntary groups, to provide inspiring opportunities for young people and divert them away from crime. The intention is that the Positive Futures Fund creates innovative work with partners to support a more direct community response to not only engaging directly with our most vulnerable and hard to reach young people, but also developing local solutions and responses to youth violence and knife crime.
5. This investment is additional to the council's existing investment in Youth Services, grants to voluntary sector youth providers and the Youth Fund that was established by the council in 2011. The fund will complement these existing programmes but be targeted at those young people most likely to become involved in crime. The total fund available is £500,000 to be awarded via a two stage competitive grant process.
6. Within the Council, the Communities Divisions of the Housing and Modernisation

Directorate is delivering the Positive Futures Grant Programme, for which the Community Safety & Partnerships Team is responsible. A full time member of staff has been recruited to oversee the implementation of the grant process.

7. An important element of the programme is the involvement of young people throughout the whole process; involving young people in agreeing programme criteria and outcomes, evaluation of the applications and making recommendations for funding. In addition to this, applicants were asked to provide evidence of how they have consulted service users in their project proposals.
8. The fund is overseen by a programme board involved in every stage of the process from agreeing criteria and outcomes, evaluating and making funding recommendations, and support and monitoring successful projects. The board consists of 9 members, 4 of which are young people aged between 16-24 years old.
 - Young Advisor (young person)
 - Young Advisor (young person)
 - Youth Council (young person)
 - Peer Navigator (young person)
 - Community Southwark
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health, (Board Chair)
 - Community Safety and Partnerships, Assistant Director
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Community Safety Officer
9. The Positive Futures Fund was launched by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health at the Youth Voice Event on the 26 March 2019.
10. The Positive Futures Fund has two phases as outlined in the table 1.

Table 1

Phase 1	Phase 2
£150,000 allocated to the programme	£350,000 allocated to the programme
Maximum that can be applied for: £15,000	Maximum that can be applied for: £50,000 to any single organisation
Grant term: 1 year, delivery end date 25 th July 2020	Grant term: 2.5 years, delivery end date 30 th June 2022
Proposed delivery start date is the 26 th July 2019.	Proposed delivery start date is 1 st January 2020

11. The key differences between the phase 1 grant programme and the phase 2 programme is the co-design element, which is minimal in the phase 1 programme. The outcome criterion for both phase 1 and phase 2 was agreed by the programme board and is set out below in paragraph 12. The co-design element is far more developed in the phase 2 programme with outreach consultation with young people and through 3 workshops involving young people and stakeholders. In addition to this a consultant was made available during the application process for applicants to seek advice on their project proposals.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

12. The following delivery criteria and outcomes for the fund was decided by the Programme Board on the 27th February 2019;
 - a. **Age range:** 7-25 years old
 - b. **Location:** Borough wide. However the Positive Futures Fund particularly welcome applications from organisations working in the following areas: Camberwell, Peckham, Bermondsey, Walworth
 - c. **Offer:** Universal programmes open to organisations working with all young people. However, applicants were particularly welcome from organisations supporting vulnerable groups such as Care Leaver, Young Offenders, School Exclusions, etc.
 - d. **Outcomes:** Young people develop life skills preparing them for adulthood
Young people have improved health and wellbeing
Remove barriers for young people by opening them up to new experiences

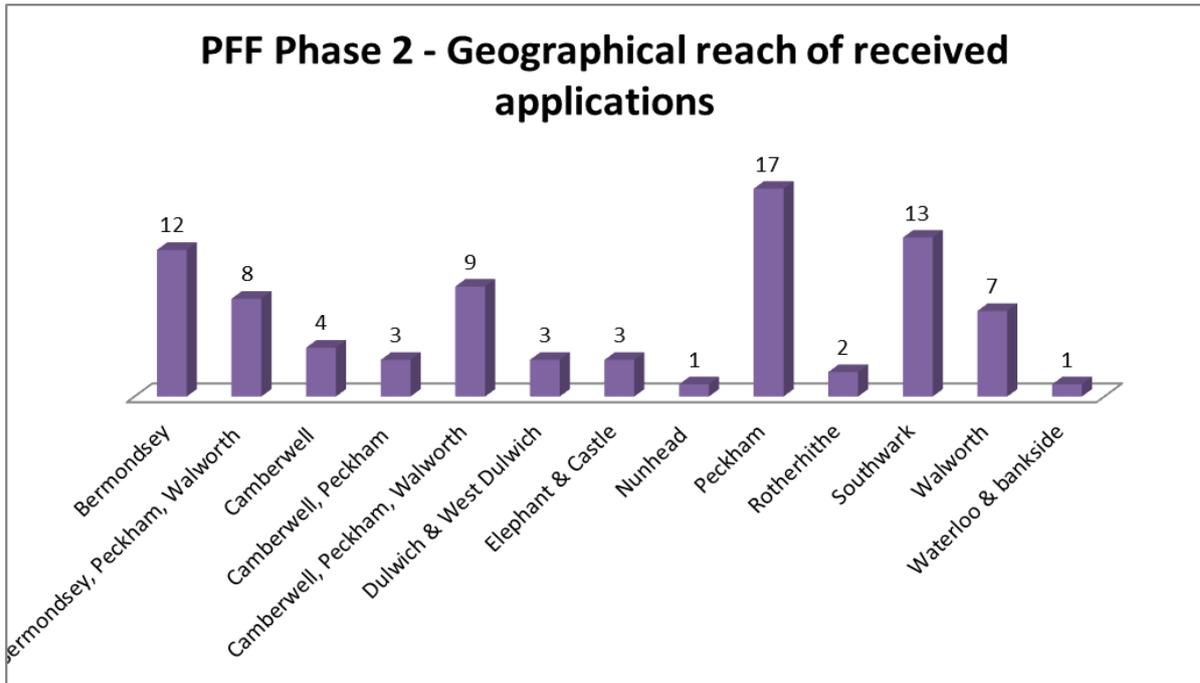
These were developed from the full set of 11 criterion and outcomes set out in the report to Cabinet on the 11 December 2018 which established the fund.

13. As a result of comments and feedback received from the phase 1 process, council officers reviewed the process for phase 2 adopting a new 3 stage format:
 - Stage 1 – Expression of Interest, (EOI)
 - Stage 2 – Dragon’s Den presentation
 - Stage 3 – Application Form
14. To support applicants through the new 3 stage format for phase 2, a series of briefing sessions and Young People workshops were held to provide the aims of the fund, and to inform potential applicants of the grant process, giving them the opportunity to raise any questions. This was also an opportunity for potential applicants to gain advice on developing outcomes and how to involve young people in the process.
15. 2 workshops were held at Cambridge House, facilitated by Southwark Council and Community Southwark for local voluntary organisations and groups. 3 potential applicants attended the workshop held on the 3 July 2019 with 45 attending on the 9 July 2019, including 5 young people.
16. 3 Young People workshops were held at Cambridge House, facilitated by Southwark Council and Community Southwark, led by an external consultant brought in to work specifically with young people to develop their project ideas, budgeting, and providing support in completing the Expression of Interest (EOI) form. 12 young people attended on 10 July 2019, with 8 young people attending on 11 July 2019. An additional workshop was held on the 25 July 2019 at which 6 young people attended providing specific focus on the EOI form and preparation for the Dragon’s Den.
17. Following the briefing sessions and workshops, applicants had the opportunity to liaise direct with Community Southwark for help in developing their ideas further and support with the EOI form.
18. 81 applications for the Positive Futures Fund phase 2 were received by the

closing date (7 August 2019), with 52 applications from a combination of registered charities, community interest groups and local voluntary organisations. There were also 29 applications from young people applying either as individuals or as a group of young people constituted as social entrepreneurs, charitable incorporated organisations (COI), or community interest companies (CIC)

19. Applications were received from across the borough with Peckham and Bermondsey being the most popular locations, (see Figure 1).

Figure 1



20. An initial review of the applications received was carried out by 2 community safety officers to check the EOI form had been completed correctly.
21. An assessment panel was formed to assess the EOI forms consisting of 1 Young Advisor, 2 Youth Council members, 1 newly co-opted Young Person, Youth Offending Service and Community Safety Officers who appraised applicants against the set criteria. The panel then met together to discuss and agree projects to recommend to proceed to Stage 2; the Dragon's Den presentations.
22. 22 applicants were recommended to proceed to Stage 2; Dragon's Den presentation, of which 21 organisations attended each giving a 10 minute presentation to the panel. 1 organisation did not attend.
23. From the Dragon's Den, 10 potential projects were put forward and were further reviewed by the Council Officer panel members with consideration given to; location, need/priorities to Southwark, track record/capacity to deliver, new ideas/energy, and requested funding amount.
24. All 10 projects were recommended to proceed to the Stage 3; Full Application Form.

25. All the projects were recommended to receive a reduced amount of the sum originally requested.
26. 10 projects were invited to submit a completed application form, of which application forms were received from 9 projects. 1 project did not submit their application form by the closing date of 30 September 2019 and as a result was unable to proceed any further in the grant award process. Due diligence checks were conducted by council officers on the 9 application forms submitted.
27. The total funding award for the 9 recommended projects is £275,000. This is £75,000 less than the total grant fund available for phase 2 of £350,000.
28. In order for the full grant fund allocation of £350,000 to be met the Council Officer panel members went back and reviewed the Dragon's Den assessments for the remaining 11 projects, identifying a further 2 projects to go through to the next stage and submit an application form. Application forms were received from both projects, and following due diligence checks were recommended for funding.
29. A total of 11 projects have been recommended for funding as detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Name of Organisation	£ Requested	£ Suggested	Project
Anima Youth	£50,000	£30,000	Health and wellbeing project for young women; early intervention to raise aspirations, improved life skills, communication, positive choices, volunteering and social action
Carnival del Pueblo Association & Cali Swing	£75,000	£35,000	Bespoke mentoring and skills based preventative programme for Latin community; early intervention, arts, drama, creative design and practical skills workshops; peer mentoring, life skills, leadership and communication, confidence and teamwork.
Construction Youth Trust	£50,000	£35,000	School based project; life skills in construction, volunteers, apprenticeships, life skills in teamwork, communication and practical skills
Elevated Minds CIC	£50,000	£40,000	Identity early intervention project; strengths-based coaching, mentoring, work in Southwark Inclusive Learning Schools, accredited courses, parent workshops and engagement
Fight for Change & Black Prince Community	£60,000	£35,000	Sports development through boxing, football and fitness, workshops in developing personal narrative, conflict resolution, sports leadership, mentoring and coaching
Inspire	£50,000	£30,000	Holiday programme, free activities; residential trips, Friday night open youth club sessions; football tournaments; Easter, Summer and Half term activities

Mentivity	£50,000	£35,000	Mentoring, group conversation based learning; alternative education provision, inspirational early intervention service, volunteering; parental support
Poets Corner Tenants Residents Association (TRA)	£50,000	£20,000	Estate and TRA activity-based projects; holiday scheme, motivational workshops, trips, indoor and outdoor activities, life skill courses, leadership
The Dockland Settlement & Bizzie Bodies CIC	£34,200	£20,000	Digital Design Makerscraft youth club; innovative skills development in tech and Makerscraft, 2D/3D digital design, robotics
Waterloo Sports	£50,000	£25,000	Estate-based football leagues in discipline, mentoring, leadership skills, confidence building and teamwork
Youthnetic	£75,000	£45,000	Transitional (Yr6/ Yr7) early intervention joint SILs & Newlands provision; educational and experiential provision; health & beauty skills training; digital media; fitness & gym activities held in Youthnetic Hub site
Total		£350,000	

30. The recommended eleven proposals, include thirteen organisations, 4 Community Interest Companies (CICs), two groups of young people, a non-profit social enterprise company, a trust and five registered charities, who all demonstrated the involvement of young people in their submissions and presentations.

Policy implications

31. The council plan was agreed at Council Assembly in November 2018. The Council Plan sets out the council's ambition for a Southwark to be a great place to live with clean, green and safe communities. The council plan commits to "empower people, particularly young people, with the opportunities that they need to make positive choices and to stay away from crime and violence". It commits to "work with communities to find local solutions that help young people stay away from knives".
32. The Positive Futures Fund is part of the council's work towards meeting this commitment and its findings will impact on future policy.

Community Equality impact Assessment

33. Youth violence and knife crime is an issue of national importance and particularly impactful locally. As a result, it is important that Southwark Council effectively understands the community impact and works with community organisations to develop potential solutions.
34. This fund will focus on and therefore particularly impact young people and the aim is to support proposals that are co-designed with and have the active engagement of young people in Southwark.
35. There is a legal duty on local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have

due regard to the need to promote equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination and to promote positive community relations. This grant programme will empower and enable hard-to-reach communities and those communities which experience discrimination, to achieve a better quality of life.

36. As part of the application process the council will ask organisations to estimate the percentage of their service users that fall into the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010. This information is used to assess the equalities impact of the programme. As part of the application process VCS organisations must demonstrate who will benefit from their organisations activities and how they support cohesion and community safety initiatives. Organisations must evidence the benefits users gain from their services or activities.
37. Grant funded VCS organisations are required as part of the Conditions of Grant Funding to sign up to the Southwark Diversity Standard. Contained within this is a requirement that all subcontractors and service provider pay workers the London Living Wage as a minimum. The council has recently achieved Friendly Funder Accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation. Living Wage Friendly Funders support charities to pay the real Living Wage that meets the cost of living through their grant-making.
38. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Positive Futures Fund. This document is available on request. This document is attached.

Resource implications

39. The total budget of £500,000 over three years, (2019-2022) available for the Positive Futures Fund has been approved as part of the Council's budget plan.

Legal implications

40. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities when carrying out its functions to give due regard to the likely effect of its work on and do all that it reasonably can to prevent: crime and disorder, misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and reoffending. This duty extends to the establishment of the Positive Futures Fund.

Consultation

41. Further consultation and publicity about the Positive Futures Fund was given at Community Councils in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, Borough Bankside and Walworth and Dulwich.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

42. The cabinet has established this strategy in accordance with section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (the general power of competence for councils to do anything that individuals generally may do). The decisions in this paper are also made in accordance with the Localism Act powers and are an exercise of executive functions of the council in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. These can be made by the Cabinet member in accordance with the council's scheme of delegation.

43. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, public equality duty is relevant to this decision and is referred to in the community implications paragraph above. An equalities impact assessment has been produced for this phase of the fund and indicates a neutral or positive impact for all protected characteristics under the Act.
44. The cabinet member needs to consider this assessment in making the decision. Reference is also made in the report to the duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which is relevant to this decision.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FIN1157 – JB)

45. The report recommends the approval of funding allocation decisions as contained in Table 2. The total allocation figure of £350,000 matches the planned value for phase 2. This is the final funding phase of the initiative with delivery planned to end in June 2022.
46. The Positive Futures Fund is held in reserve and will be drawn down as appropriate when funding is released to groups.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Plan 2018-2022	Housing & Modernisation 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Stephen Douglass 020 7525 0886
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan		
Establishment of the Positive Futures Fund	Housing & Modernisation 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Stephen Douglass 020 7525 0886
Equalities Impact Assessment: Positive Futures Fund	Housing & Modernisation 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Stephen Douglass 020 7525 0886
Positive Futures Fund - Phase One	Housing & Modernisation 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Stephen Douglass 020 7525 0886
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6858		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglas, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 November 2019	
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	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		2 December 2019