

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 23 January 2020	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health
Report title:		Commissioned Youth and Play Service extension 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health approve the extension of grant funding to currently commissioned youth and play voluntary and community organisations for a period of 12 months from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, as shown in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Youth and Play commissioning plan (approved in April 2017) Appendix 2 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. 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.
3. 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 aligned with the council plan and the Fairer Future promises to create a fairer future for all in Southwark.
5. It followed the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy “Common Purpose Common Cause”. This is partnership strategy by the council, CCG and Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy. Its aims are to:
 - Ensure better partnership working to improve outcomes for residents

- Improve commissioning and grant-giving to focus on outcomes and be more collaborative, and community-led
 - Support better resilience in communities that are connected and more resourceful.
6. The Youth and Play 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.
 7. The criteria utilised to determine if grants would be awarded were:
 - Activities 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 youth provision to targeted youth work.
 - Activities were delivered in youth settings or adventure playgrounds tailored to meet specific outcomes in the ACYPS.
 - Services would 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.
 8. 33 organisations applied for funding, 21 were successful, please see appendix 1 for full details of grants awarded. The value of individual grants ranged from £7,500 to £43,000 for the period October 2017 to March 2019.
 9. In order to ensure continuity of service for children and young people and ensure the delivery of the ACYPS in its final year the cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities approved a 12 month extension of funding for the then commissioned voluntary and community organisations. The value of the programme was £500,000.
 10. One organisation, St Faiths Youth and Community Centre notified the local authority that it would not be continuing its programme in 2019-20. In addition London Community Boxing withdrew from the current programme and consequently was not funded in 2019-20.
 11. The impact on these two changes is that £18.6k funding was reallocated to the remaining 19 organisations pro rata. See Appendix 1 for details.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

12. 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.

13. In 2017 the Cabinet member for Public Health, Parks and Leisure approved an extension of 6 month 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.
14. 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 designed with considerable input from the voluntary sector.
15. The budget for the 18 month programme was £722,447.
16. 21 organisations across the borough that 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
17. 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.
18. In order to ensure continuity of service for children and young people and ensure the delivery of the Activities for Children and Young People Strategy in its final year the cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities approved a 12 month extension of funding for the commissioned voluntary and community organisations and the value of this programme was £500,000.
19. A monitoring framework including quarterly monitoring and annual reporting was developed as part of the commissioning process. See Appendix 3 for a summary of performance.
20. In July 2019 the cabinet considered the findings of the Serious Youth Violence Panel and agreed to implement the recommendations made by the panel.
21. The key recommendation for the Youth Service was that Southwark was to work with young people to redesign its youth provision to ensure that it is fit for purpose and helps give young people the best chance to thrive in life.
22. In addition the Activities for Children and Youth People Strategy was to be reviewed to enable redesign of borough provision.
23. The specific and relevant recommendations are as follows:

- Southwark to work with young people to redesign its youth provision to ensure that it is fit for purpose and helps give young people the best chance to thrive in life.
 - Southwark should consult with young people on the best way to recognise and reward young people with the borough for excellence building on the success of the Positive Futures Fund.
 - Promote raising young people's aspirations through signposting to mentoring schemes and through the use of trusted role models to both male and females at risk of youth violence.
 - Ensure that young people's voices are at the heart of their consultation and design processes.
 - To work in partnership to raise awareness of mental health & wellbeing with young people specifically the perceived stigma attached to this by young people and how this impacts their vulnerability to violence.
 - Community led organisations and Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) should be supported to make their resources and halls available for young people/services targeted at young people to use.
 - Work with the community, faith groups, voluntary sector, parents and TRAs to build resilience and address the trauma of serious youth violence.
24. In response to this it was agreed in Autumn 2019 that a review and redesign of the youth service and associated youth and play grants programme was required to ensure that available resources are meeting the needs of young people. The service needs to become more targeted, impactful and relevant.
25. The scope of the review involves extensive consultation, with the involvement of young people, families, carers and providers of services for children and young people.
26. The review includes the following elements
- Mapping of the range of services that are provided currently across the borough and any potential gaps in provision (and quality) or geography with feedback from young people on the extent to which these services meet their needs and aspirations;
 - The services and support that young people are looking for and their views on how these should be delivered, and by whom;
 - The relationship between play and youth provision and whether the current approach is still fit for purpose;

- Analysis of the current usage of the council's youth services, its fitness for purpose, and tests for duplication and join-up;
 - The priorities for the provision of services for young people;
 - A value for money assessment to test whether budgets are used to best effect and efficiency;
 - The sustainability of activities of value that have been initiated by young people and the community through funding streams such as Positive Futures;
 - Whether information about services for young people is readily available in a way that young people can access.
27. The review will lead to a new vision and set of objectives for the provision of positive activities to support young people in the borough.
 28. 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.
 29. 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.
 30. 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.
 31. In the light of the review and the subsequent development of a new strategy changes it is proposed that the current Youth and Play grants are extended for the year 2020-21.
 32. The extension will ensure continuity of provision and enable the development of a new commissioning plan for 2021 to align with new strategic priorities.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

33. New targets will be agreed with all funded organisations for delivery in 2020-21.
34. 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

35. 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.

36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

39. The grant funding available to commission youth and play provision for 2020-21 is £500,000 in cost code EX531.
40. The actual expenditure against the grant allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the parks and leisure revenue monitoring process
41. 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

42. 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 2020.
43. The decision to approve the report recommendations is one which is expressly reserved to the cabinet member under Part 3D of the council's 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.
44. 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

45. This report seeks the approval of the cabinet member for Community Safety and Public Health for the extension of grant funding to currently commissioned youth and play service voluntary and community organisations for a period of 12 months from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, as shown in Appendix 1.

46. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the proposed grant funding can be contained within the overall Youth Service's business unit revenue budget allocation.
47. 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 Youth service commissioning plan 2017-19 Activities for children and young people – A strategy for 2017 -2020	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Aileen Cahill (0207 525 2472)

APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix 1	Youth and Play Grant Awardees 2020-21
Appendix 2	Performance Data

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Caroline Bruce Strategic Director, Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 January 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
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		24 January 2020