

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 July 2021	Meeting Name: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Report title:		Positive Future for Young People Fund Commissioning Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education approves the commissioning plan for the new 'Positive Future for Young People Fund' grants programme for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024 for the total value of £1,145,994.
2. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education approves that this grant funding is split as follows:
 - £1,085,994 to commission activities for young people for the period 2022/23 and 2023/24 with 10% of this fund being directly overseen by young people, i.e. young people will be directly involved in deciding which providers to allocate 10% of this funding to.
 - £60,000 over the two year period for young people to apply to directly, this is to enable them to access certain activities, where barriers such as affordability and accessibility might be an issue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Executive summary

Youth Services review and Youth New Deal

3. In December 2020, the Cabinet agreed a new vision for young people as follows:

'We are committed to ensuring that young people have positive lives now and in the future – we will do this by placing young people at the heart of future service design to ensure that young people influence decisions affecting their lives. We will ensure that our facilities are young people friendly, that services meet their needs and enable them to fulfil their potential.'

4. This commitment was further enhanced on 24th February 2021 when Council Assembly resolved to launch a Youth New Deal to support young people.
5. This report focuses on realising one strand of this vision, as follows:

“The bringing together of the Youth and Play grants scheme with the Positive Future Fund, re-named ‘Positive Future for Young People Fund’, providing a fund of £600,000 in 2021-22 for activities for young people. 10% of this fund will be overseen directly by young people.”

Current Youth Service Offer

6. The council currently directly operates five youth clubs which, prior to the COVID pandemic, delivered a total of 14 evening sessions each week, with a further two sessions for young people with special educational needs. In addition to this in-house programme, the council also currently commissions 19 voluntary organisations to deliver youth and play activities across the borough. The commissioned organisations deliver both universal and targeted youth work.
7. It is proposed that this mixed-economy of in-house provision and commissioned youth provision continues. For the avoidance of doubt, the focus of this report is on the commissioned provision only.

A new approach - the ‘Positive Future for Young People Fund’ (PFYPF)

8. As noted above, the Youth Review recommended the merger of the current youth and play grant funding with the Positive Futures (Community Safety) grant funding, with 10% of the total funding allocation set aside for direct distribution by young people.
9. The Youth Review also made a firm commitment to reviewing the youth programme offer, to ensure that providers are offering activity programmes that are informed and shaped by what young people want. To get this feedback young people were asked what programmes they would like the opportunity to participate in, both through the original youth review consultation and also via an online survey, which was circulated to secondary school pupils in Southwark in March 2021.
10. 374 young people responded to the survey. Young people were asked which physical activities, personal development activities, wellbeing activities and workshops/courses they would like to take part in the most. The detailed responses are available at Appendix 1.

Commissioning approach for the new PFYPF

11. Two grant programmes are proposed:

- Grant Programme 1: £1,085,994m (over 2 years) for providers to bid into to provide activities as specified by young people. Young people will be directly involved in deciding which providers to allocate 10% of this funding to.
- Grant Programme 2: ‘Young People’s Grant Programme’ of £60,000 to be accessed by young people directly, to enable them to take part in activities where barriers such as affordability and accessibility might be an issue. This second grant fund was also agreed by Cabinet in December 2020, as follows:

‘Establish a ‘Young People’s Fund’ which gives young people the opportunity to apply for funding. This will enable them to access certain activities, where barriers such as affordability and accessibility are an issue. This will initially be funded from the existing grant budget.’

12. This fund will be accessed by young people to bid into to enable them to take part in activities. In order to maintain this fund, an annual celebration event will take place for young people and grant-funded organisations to show case their achievements. Young people will also be encouraged, and supported, to come up with ways in which they can raise money throughout the year. Money raised will then be invested back into the Young People’s Grant Programme.
13. For the main grant (GP1), the minimum award is £10,000 per annum (i.e. a minimum of £20,000 over 24 months of this programme) and the maximum award is £30,000 per annum (i.e. a maximum of £60,000 over 24 months of the programme). Existing providers currently in receipt of grants are eligible to apply for funding.
14. The detail of the two programmes is set out on the following table:

Table 1 – grant programmes

Programme	Length	Year(s)	Total budget	Requirements
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Commissioned providers grant programme (GP1)	2 years	April 2022 – March 2024	£1,085,994	<p>Successful organisations will be appointed based on their ability to deliver activities and projects that were identified through an online survey completed by young people (as set out in Table 2).</p> <p>A proportion of the grant (15%) will also be given to organisations that work in innovative ways to inspire and to keep young people out of the criminal justice system.</p>
Young people's grant programme (GP2)	2 years	April 2022 - March 2024	£60,000 with young people being supported to raise further funds	Grant programme 2 will establish the 'Young People's Grant Programme'. Young people will be encouraged and supported to raise further funds.

15. Successful organisations bidding for Grant Programme 1 must provide one or more of the following activities under the following outcomes:

Table 2 – commissioning framework

Outcome 1: Physical activity
Football
Swimming
Basketball
Gym
Boxing
Outcome 2: Personal development
Life skills
Careers advice
Budgeting skills
CV writing
Sports mentoring
Outcome 3: Wellbeing activities
Social space chill out area
Art therapy
Mentoring
Meditation
Counselling
Outcome 4: Workshop/courses
Healthy eating and cooking

Money management
Film making
Arts and crafts
Drama / acting
Outcome 5: Adventure play
Adventure playground
*Outcome 6: Preventative work (15%)
Please see below
**Odessa Youth Centre session
Please see below
***Fast Forward sessions (up to 25 years)
Please see below

***Preventative work**

16. It is proposed that organisations delivering the community based preventative work (15% of the overall grant allocation) must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Projects that work in innovative ways to inspire and to keep young people out of the criminal justice system.
- Projects that aim to create a positive impact in local communities and encourage longer term sustainability of resources to continue the work taking place with disadvantaged young people.
- Projects that focus on prevention and early help or reduction of criminal activity and are clearly targeted at those most vulnerable to being drawn into criminal activity rather than open access services.
- Projects that do not duplicate but can link to activities funded through existing programmes such as the council’s youth grants or existing council provision working with this target group.
- Projects that help make communities, and/or young people, feel safer.
- Projects that support young ex-offenders, young people who are Care Leavers and complement partnership work on young people’s mental health and wellbeing.
- Projects that support young people feeling more able to access services at an early point and in times of crisis.
- Applicants need to show that Young People are and will continue to be actively involved in delivery and be able to evidence clear impact.

****Odessa Youth centre programme**

17. To enhance the current council youth programme, the council will also seek, through this procurement process, one organisation to deliver two universal sessions a week from Odessa: Docklands Youth Centre. These sessions must offer at least one of the activities listed in Table 2.

*****Fast forward Special Educational Needs and Disability Project**

18. The council will also be seeking one organisation to deliver the council’s

'Fast Forward' Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) project. The requirement will be for a specialist SEND organisation that can deliver two sessions a week from their own premises.

19. There will be a section on the application form for organisations to indicate if they would like to run sessions from Odessa Youth Centre and if they would like to run the Fast Forward Special Educational Needs Project.

Policy implications

20. The commissioning of youth and play activities is directly linked to the council's commitment to a 'Fairer Future for all', in particular:

'We want all children and young people in the borough to grow up in a safe, healthy and happy environment where they have the opportunity to reach their potential.'

21. The refreshed Borough Plan 2020 - 22 sets out a series of commitments across eight themes, one of which is 'A great start in life'. Southwark has committed to:

'Invest in young people in Southwark, ensuring our youth services meet their needs and giving them a stronger voice in decisions which affect them.'

'Mainstream the Positive Futures Fund so that every generation of young people can benefit from this investment.'

22. The objectives will also follow the 'common purpose common cause' outcomes as detailed in Southwark's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2017 - 2022:

- 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.

23. The commissioning of youth and play activities directly links to the Youth New Deal that was agreed on 24 February 2021. Council Assembly resolved to launch the Youth New Deal which will:

- Work to ensure no young person is left behind during and after the pandemic, by promoting young people's mental health and wellbeing and enabling young people to access education, training and jobs.
- Support the creation of a new Youth Parliament, made of up young people who live in Southwark, which will have ultimate oversight of the Youth New Deal and the money that is spent on young people in the borough.

- Consolidate all the funding streams into a single fund, as appropriate, titled the Youth New Deal and dedicate an additional £100,000 for resources and support to co-ordinate the new role of the Youth Parliament and this new way of working.
 - Secure £100k towards carrying out the other recommendations of the Youth Review as part of the Youth New Deal.
 - Establish a committee to be led by the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Education, and include the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety. The committee will facilitate this move to put young people in control of their funding and of their futures.
 - Commit £200,000 to expanding the free mental health drop in service (The Nest) to Southwark schools as part of our commitment to support 100% of children and young people with mental health needs.
24. The recommendations and action plan that came out of the youth service review also link to the 'Southwark Together' commitment which promises to, 'Commit to root out inequalities by implementing the recommendations from the *Southwark Stands Together* work against racial inequalities and injustice.' The youth service will ensure they work closely with the Southwark Stands Together programme on work streams for young people.

Community impact statement

25. There is a legal duty on local authorities to promote equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination and to promote positive community relations.
26. 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).

Finance implications

27. The total grant funding available to commission youth and play provision for the period 2022 to 2024 is £1,145,994 in line with the council's budget setting process.
28. The council is committed to providing three months' notice of funding decisions where necessary. The profile of the grant funding allocation is shown below.

GP1: 2 Year Grant Programme 2022 to 2024

Financial year	Amount (£)
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1 st April 2022 to 31 st March 2023	£542, 997
1 st April 2023 to 31 st March 2024	£542, 997
Total	£1,085,994

**Organisations who are currently receiving funding from the existing Positive Futures Fund, and whose contract end date is June 2022, can still apply, but must clarify that they are requesting funding for the period July 2022 – June 2023, i.e. when their current grant expires.*

GP2: Young People’s Grant Programme

Financial year	Amount (£)
1 st April 2022 – 31 st March 2024*	£60,000

**It is anticipated that ongoing funding will be generated through fundraising events*

29. The revenue budgets will be in line with the grant allocations costs for effective monitoring and reporting.
30. The actual expenditure against the grant allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the leisure revenue monitoring process.
31. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

Legal implications

32. Please see the concurrent report of the Director of Law and Governance.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

33. This report seeks approval of the commissioning plan for the new ‘Positive Future for Young People Fund’ grants programme for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024. The decision to approve the Recommendations is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under the council Constitution.
34. The report sets out details of the two proposed grant funded programmes, which align with the revised Borough plan and other corporate policy in this area. The report also confirms the steps that have been taken to consult interested young persons in order to inform the development of the programmes, before launching the Fund and inviting grant applications and proposals. The report also describes that a planned and robust process is to be carried out, both for the purpose of attracting proposals from

interested groups and organisations and evaluating those proposals.

35. The intention of the Fund is to engage all individuals and groups within the local community by offering the opportunity to apply for funding and to benefit from the projects which arise from the funding allocations. This is consistent with the requirements of the council's statutory duty (the Public Sector Equality Duty) as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010.
36. Following the allocation of the Fund to successful applicants appropriate legal terms and conditions will regulate the various grant awards.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL21/016)

37. This report requests the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to approve the commissioning plan for the new 'Positive Future for Young People Fund' grants programme for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024 for the value of £1,145,994 and to approve the allocation of £60,000 from the £1,145,994 budget to establish the 'Young People's Grant Programme'.
38. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the proposed cost of the recommendations will be contained within the Youth Service's grant budget allocation and Positive Futures Fund reserve.
39. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Youth Service Review Cabinet Report December 2020	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Tina Thorley 07599546729
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=6664&Ver=4		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Online survey results
Appendix 2	Grant terms, application process, performance management

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	
Lead Officer	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
Version	Final	
Dated	26 June 2021	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 July 2021