

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 19 July 2021	Meeting Name: Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Youth New Deal and Youth Services Update	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Leisure	

Recommendation

1. That the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission note the contents of this report.

Introduction

The Youth New Deal

2. The New Deal for Young people came out of the budget discussion in Council Assembly in February 2021 when it was agreed to commit £1m capital funding alongside £500k including one off funding and ongoing revenue, to raise the profile of services in Southwark so that no young person is left behind.
3. The New Deal is a response to the impact of Covid19 on young people as they have been disproportionately hit by the economic effects of Covid-19 with those under 25 in the UK over twice as likely to have lost their job due to the pandemic as those over 25s.
4. The New Deal also recognises that young people have been hit with a growing mental health crisis, with one in four in the UK currently feeling 'unable to cope', according to the Prince's Trust.
5. More than 200 young people have accessed Southwark's new free mental health drop in service for children and young people, The Nest, since it opened online in April and physically opened the doors in August 2020.
6. The Youth New Deal builds on the Youth Review and places young people at the heart of future service design to ensure that they can influence decisions affecting their lives. This includes ensuring that our facilities are fit for purpose, of high quality and young people friendly, that services meet their needs and enable them to fulfil their potential.
7. In March 2021 the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children,

Young People and Education was invited to attend the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission to provide updates and answer questions in respect of the refreshed plans for Youth Provision in Southwark.

8. This report follows up on that attendance and outlines the substantial work on implementing the New Youth Deal that has taken place at pace in recent months.

Progress

9. In March 2021 the Deputy Leader & Cabinet lead Children, Young People established a member and officer group to oversee the Youth New Deal and make sure that our commitments to young people are moved on at pace so that young people can access services and support. At the same time the Director of Environment and Leisure established a cross departmental working group to ensure the necessary collaborative working required to make a success of our work with young people.

Progress on the establishment of Positive Future for Young People Fund and Young People's Fund

10. The Youth Service Review set out a priority to combine the Youth and Play grants scheme with the Positive Future Fund under the 'Positive Future for Young People Fund'. It set out that the new programme would be accessible to youth work, arts and creative organisations, independent local suppliers and sports organisations. It also set out that a proportion of this fund will be overseen by young people and that the overall grant includes an allocation for community based preventative work to keep young people out of the criminal justice system.
11. The review also set out the establishment a Young People's Fund to give young people the opportunity to apply for funding and enable them to access certain activities, where barriers such as affordability and accessibility are an issue.
12. These two funds are being formally approved by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education as follows:
 - Positive Future for Young People Fund: £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.
 - Young People's Fund: £60,000 over the two-year period for young people to apply to directly, to enable them to access certain activities, where barriers such as affordability and accessibility might be an issue.

13. Officers are currently preparing the necessary documentation and process in order to launch the Positive Future for Young People Fund with a call out to providers in September 2021 so that the decision making process can be completed in time for granted services to launch in March 2022.
14. Providers will have to provide one or more of the activities set out by young people during the Youth Review Consultation. It is anticipated that representatives from the new Youth Parliament will be directly involved the allocation of 10% of this fund.
15. It is also anticipated that the new Youth Parliament will also be involved in helping shape the process for the allocation of the Young People's Fund, which will launch in March 2022.

Progress on the Digital Hub

16. The Youth Service Review recommended to create clearer pathways for young people to access information around careers advice, emotional wellbeing and personal development, and ensure this is easily accessible.
17. Officers have been completing preparatory work to develop a new youth digital information hub and establish a new youth services portal/website as the cornerstone of the Youth New Deal. This will ensure the rapid provision of comprehensive, up to date and accessible information about activities and services for young people and their families.
18. The supplier will work with officers, guided by feedback from young people, to create a flexible, user-friendly, interactive, future-proof website. This must meet the needs of young people, their parents and carers, and external organisations providing services locally to young people.
19. Officers have developed a detailed specification for the digital information hub in readiness for going out to the digital marketplace to appoint a supplier. This has been done in collaboration with web services colleagues and has been included as part of the recent gateway one report requesting approval of the procurement route. The procurement route has been approved and the report signed off on 28 June 2021.
20. Officers will go out to the digital marketplace for a supplier in early July, allowing 3 weeks for applications, which will be evaluated and a supplier appointed by August. Officers will then develop the solution with the supplier; the timescale for this will vary depending on whether solution is out of the box or needs to be developed as new (we will be able to confirm with the supplier once appointed). Similar projects that we have been looking at through the digital marketplace have a development time of 3-6 months.
21. Officers are working with colleagues in other departments, e.g. economy, to seek to develop a coordinated hub offer.

Progress on the Youth Parliament

22. The Youth Service Review recommended to give young people influence on council decision-making (including the service offer, service development, the commissioning budget and any other appropriate youth issues), working alongside council officers and elected members.
23. In order to implement this recommendation officers from the youth service, communities and education have been working closely to set up a new Youth Parliament to replace the previous Youth Council. This has included liaison with the Southwark Association of Secondary Head Teachers (SASH).
24. Over the last few weeks a number of events for young people have taken place. These events have attracted over 80 young people who had a chance to learn about the Youth Parliament and the New Youth Deal as well as hearing from inspirational speakers, including the Mother of The House of Commons RT Hon Harriet Harman QC MP, and further share their views on the future of the council's youth service offer. These events were organised in partnership with the Southwark Young Advisors and promoted widely on social media.
25. Over the month of June young people in the borough aged 14 to 19 were invited and encouraged to submit their candidacies to represent their school or local area.
26. The nomination period has now closed with 81 eligible candidates. This includes applications from 18 secondary schools/academies, SILS 3 & 4, youth centres and local areas. This is an outstanding result building on the previous Youth Council, which had 11 schools represented.
27. Elections will take place between 19 and 25 July with induction and training over the month of August and the first Youth Parliament meeting taking place in September 2021.
28. The Youth Parliament will be the cornerstone of the Youth New Deal Implementation as well as ensuring that young people's voices are included in wider council policy and decision-making.

Progress on audit of council owned spaces

29. The Youth Service Review recommended to conduct a youth-focused audit of spaces to understand how to create venues which meet the needs of young people.
30. In December 2020 officers appointed architecture, urbanism and research practice consultants "We Made That" to deliver a youth led review of facilities and public spaces on the Brandon Estate and to create a "toolkit" for other young people and practitioners to review other spaces and

places.

31. We Made That worked with young people from the estate aged 10 – 19 years old (or up to 25 if they had special educational needs) to hear about and review the local spaces that they use from their own perspective. The project was undertaken over the course of three months in spring/summer 2021.
32. The review and toolkit have now been completed alongside a short film made by young people. Recommendations have also been issued on potential design interventions for facilities on the estate that would make them young people friendly and provide positive activities and spaces for young people living, and visiting, the estate.
33. Officers are currently leading internal conversations with colleagues in other relevant service areas (housing, regeneration, communities) in order to agree the best way forward in implementing recommendations. Following that a wider discussion will take place with local stakeholders to explore how can they also contribute to deliver some of the recommendations and so that the voices of local young people can be incorporated in the way local partners plan and deliver their activity.
34. Officers will also be looking into how the toolkit can be applied to other spaces in the borough.

Progress on Sure Start for Teenagers

35. Work has been completed on the needs analysis and evidence gathering undertaken during Q1 2021/22. During Q2 consultation is being undertaken with teenagers, parents and those that work with them to begin to co-produce the Sure Start. This process will allow for the development of more concrete plans towards the end of Q2 to inform the next stages.

Progress on The Nest in-reach

36. The Nest will be supporting students from schools across Southwark focusing on three key areas:
 - Transitions
 - Exclusions
 - Awareness raising of mental health services
37. The transitions piece will focus on creating universal resources and workshops that can be delivered to students, their parents/carers and school staff to support young people as they make the transition from year 6 to year 7. Students identified as needing additional support to ensure they get off to the best possible start in secondary school will have the opportunity to participate in targeted workshops that will provide them with the space to voice concerns over the move.

38. The additional funding allocated via the Youth New Deal will be used to take a whole family approach in support of young people who are at risk of or who have already been excluded from school. These students, as well as their siblings and parents/carers will be able to receive support, either in a 1:2:1 therapeutic setting or in peer-to-peer support groups, in recognition of the fact that whole families are affected by exclusions, not just the young person in question.
39. The Nest's staff team will deliver assemblies and pop up stands during school events. PSHE workshops will be delivered in schools to raise awareness of the service amongst young people, and signpost them to other services in the borough.

Progress on jobs, apprenticeships, internships and enterprise

40. Southwark's Economic Renewal Plan (ERP) sets out the council's short, medium and long term priorities to deliver economic renewal as a result of the impact of the pandemic and Brexit on the local economy. The ERP, which can be found [here](#), has a key focus on young people aligned to the work on the Youth New Deal.
41. Key work streams aligned to the Youth New Deal include:
 - The promotion of job, apprenticeship and training opportunities directly to young people through the Youth Opportunities Campaign.
 - Support for young people into employment through key initiatives such as Southwark Works
 - Support for young people into good quality apprenticeships and paid internships both within the council and with our best employers.
 - Support for young entrepreneurs to be delivered through the refreshed Southwark Pioneers Fund.
42. Outcomes related to all activity on supporting young people into jobs, apprenticeships and internships are monitored quarterly and reported through the Borough Plan performance monitoring process as part of broader Borough Plan commitments on jobs, apprenticeships and enterprise.