

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 November 2021	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
<b>Report title:</b>		Positive Future For Young People Fund 2022/24	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Culture	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education approves the grant funding recommendations for the new 'Positive Future for Young People Fund' for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024 for the value of £979,603 994 as detailed in Appendix 1.
2. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education approves the re-profiling of £106,391 unallocated Positive Future for Young People Fund to be added to the previously agreed Young People's Fund increasing the allocation from £60,000 to £166,391.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Youth New Deal

3. The Youth New Deal aims to raise the profile of services in Southwark so that no young person is left behind and puts young people's voices at the heart of service delivery. It is the culmination of months of engagement with young people including last year's Youth Review, which consulted over 500 mostly young people.
4. The Youth New Deal was announced at the Council Assembly meeting in February 2021, when it was agreed to commit significant investment (£1m capital funding alongside £500k revenue funding, comprising a mix of both one off funding and ongoing revenue) to enable the delivery of innovative and exceptional services and opportunities for young people in Southwark.
5. The Youth New Deal is the council's response to rising challenges that young people face including unemployment, mental health issues, and crime – all of which have been exacerbated by Covid- with those under 25 in the UK over twice as likely to have lost their job due to the pandemic as those over 25s.
6. The Youth 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. Hundreds of 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.

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

7. In July 2021, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education approved 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 as follows:
  - a) Grant Programme 1 (GP1): £1,085,994 to commission activities for young people for the period 2022/23 and 2023/24 with a requirement for young people to be directly involved in deciding which providers to allocate this funding to
  - b) Grant Programme 2 (GP2): £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.
8. This report focuses on GP1.
9. The timetable for the commissioning of the PFYPF grant programme is set out in Appendix 2.
10. In order to realise the Youth New Deal commitment to ensure that the council commissions activities and programmes that are informed and shaped by young people’s voices, officers built on the original youth review consultation by conducting an additional online survey in March 2021, which was circulated to secondary school pupils in Southwark.
11. 374 young people responded to this 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 in Appendix 3.
12. The PFYPF 2-year programme can be summarized as follows:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Total budget</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Commissioned Positive Future For Young People Fund (PFYPF) programme	2 years	April 2022 – March 2024	£1,085,994	Successful organisations appointed based on their ability to deliver activities and projects identified by young people (as set out in Appendix 3).  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.
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13. Successful organisations bidding for the 2-year PFYPF programme needed to provide one or more of the activities under the outcomes as detailed in Appendix 4.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Positive Future for Young People Fund (PFYPF) – Operational Set-up

14. In 2019, prior to the agreement of the Youth New Deal, the council piloted the implementation of the original Positive Futures Fund. The new Positive Future for Young People Fund builds on the learning from this programme and merges it with the previous Youth and Play grants. The aim is to streamline youth related services grant funding and to put young people at the core of the process by involving them in shaping the grants criteria and outcomes and taking part in the evaluation of the applications.
15. The grants allocation process was overseen by an assessment panel consisting of three young people who are members of Southwark Youth Parliament and three senior officers from Southwark Youth Services, Youth Offending Service and Children’s and Adults Services.

### PFYPF - Grant Application Process

16. A three stage application process was developed with the aim of reducing the administrative burden on applicants:
- Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI)
  - Stage 2 – Dragons Den-style presentation
  - Stage 3 – Online application on Grant Management Software
17. **Stage 1 - Expression of Interest (EOI)** gave applicants the opportunity to submit a brief project description of the programme they sought funding for and to explain how it met the grants criteria and outcomes. Applicants completed an Expression of Interest form. If successful at this stage, applicants were invited to Stage 2.
18. **Stage 2 - Dragons Den-style presentation** this was an opportunity for the shortlisted applicants to make a 10-minute presentation to the Assessment Panel. Applicants were strongly encouraged to be accompanied by young people when making their presentations at the Dragons Den stage. If successful at this stage, applicants would be invited to Stage 3.

19. **Stage 3 – Online application form**, at this stage applicants were invited to complete the full application via Southwark's Grant Management Software portal.
20. The PFYPF was advertised and went live on the Southwark website on 23 August 2021 and it was promoted via the council's social media platforms.
21. A promotional video by a member of the Youth Parliament and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, was uploaded on [YouTube](#) to further promote the funding opportunity which received more than 30 hits on the website.
22. To support applicants through the new three-stage process, four briefing sessions were held. During these sessions officers shared details of the grant process with potential applicants, giving opportunity to raise questions. The briefing sessions also provided potential applicants an opportunity to gain a better understanding on delivering outcomes as set out in the recent Youth Review and New Deal for Young People report.
23. With council officers working remotely due to Covid guidelines, the briefing sessions were held virtually on 26 August and 2 September. Across the four sessions, 58 potential applicants attended. Applicants who were new to Southwark's grant funding programmes, were signposted to Community Southwark for help in developing their ideas/projects further and for support with the Stage 1 EOI form.
24. As well as the briefing sessions, applicants had the options of one-to-one support to navigate the new programme criteria and application process.
25. Community Southwark provided hands-on support on organisational governance, financial requirements for charities, community organisations, individuals and groups of young people. This included providing template organisational policies, procedures, DBS requirements, monitoring and council grant compliance for new organisations to adopt to ensure they are operationally compliant.
26. Following the closing date (17 September 2021), 103 Expression of Interest forms were received from a combination of registered charities, community interest groups, charitable incorporated organisations (COI), community interest companies (CIC), and Tenant Resident Associations (TRAs).
27. Applicants were asked to state the area or ward in Southwark where their activity would take place. Of the 103 applications received, 40 organisations (39%) stated they expected to deliver borough-wide youth provision, with the remaining 63 organisations (61%) delivering in specific wards/locations across Southwark.
28. From the 103 applications received, 33 organisations were successfully shortlisted and invited to make a presentation at the Dragons Den (Stage 2).

29. Following consultation with members of the Youth Parliament, it was decided to hold the presentations face to face as opposed to via remotely on Zoom. The presentations were held over three evenings (11, 12, 13 October) at council offices in Tooley Street.
30. Applicants were encouraged to bring young people along for the presentation. Organisations were allocated 10 minutes to make their presentation, with an additional 5 minutes for the panel to ask further questions or seek clarification.
31. Of the 33 organisations invited to present at Stage 2, 25 brought along young people resulting in inspiring and engaging presentations.
32. The panel adopted a 0 (poor) – 5 (excellent) scoring matrix to assess each presentation. On completion of all 33 presentations, the panel came together for a moderation meeting to discuss the scores and agree a consensus score for all applicants, based on demographic, operational, location need and value for money.
33. Following the process, 23 organisations were notified that they had successfully reached Stage 3 and were invited to complete the application form on Southwark's Grants Management Software (GMS) portal. By the closing date 25 October, 21 organisations had completed and uploaded their form with supporting documents on to the GMS portal. All of those organisations are being recommended for funding in this report
34. Two organisations failed to submit the Stage 3 application by the closing date. This resulted in £106,391 of unallocated funds. It is proposed that these unallocated funds are re-profiled and added to the previously agreed Young People's Fund referred to in paragraph 7b) above. This fund will be launched in the coming months for young people to apply to enable them to access activities where barriers such as affordability and accessibility might be an issue. The proposed re-profile would increase this funding from £60,000 to £166,391.

### **Recommendations for PFYPF grant funding**

35. All 21 organisations submitted valid applications, and were, therefore, successful in being awarded a two-year grant. Of these, four organisations are new to Southwark council funding, nine organisations are currently in receipt of Youth and Play and positive Futures Fund (PFF P2) grants and one organisation is in receipt of both Y&P and PFF funding. Eight organisations are in receipt of other Southwark council funding.
36. The recommended 21 proposals include 12 registered charities, two Charitable Incorporated Organisations (COI), two Community Interest Companies (CICs), four Companies Limited by Guarantee, and one Unincorporated Association /Tenants Residents Association (TRA), that

all demonstrated the involvement of young people in their submissions and presentations.

### **Policy framework implications**

37. The commissioning of the PFYPF 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.'*

38. 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 Future For Young People Fund (PFYPF) so that every generation of young people can benefit from this investment.'*

39. 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.

40. The commissioning of PFYPF directly links to the Youth New Deal that was agreed on 24 February 2021.

41. The Youth New Deal 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.'* Paragraphs 43 to 45 below expand on this.

### **Community impact statement**

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

43. As part of the application process, the council asked 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).

44. The PFYPF fund attracted 103 applications from across Southwark. There were 23 applications from the Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, 53 applications from 'white and other white ethnicities, seven applications 'preferred not to say, seven applications stated 'not known; five applications were 'incomplete' and eight were not returned. The equalities form was not considered at the same time as the Expression of Interest, and therefore did not affect the outcome.
45. Of the 23 applications recommended for funding, eleven were from the Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. The beneficiaries' equalities information will be collected as part of the monitoring process.
46. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the PFYPF and no negative impacts have been found (see Appendix 5).
47. One of the commitments of Southwark Stands Together (SST) in addressing racism, discrimination and inequality, is specifically focussed on the imbalance of Black, Asian and minority ethnic led organisations accessing funding opportunities. The inclusive approach taken in the PFYPF grant process has resulted in almost 50% of recommended organisations being from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities contributing to the delivery of this important commitment.

### **Health impact statement**

48. One of the main driving forces behind the Youth New Deal programme is to address health inequalities experienced by young people, particularly around mental health.
49. The PFYPF programme will afford young people opportunities to become active members of their community, fulfill their potential, improve their development and career prospects and feel heard and valued, which is highly beneficial for mental health and plays a key role in wellbeing. This will lead to higher levels of happiness, boost self-confidence and self-esteem and help connect with others.
50. There are also physical activities and sports being funded, which will provide opportunities for young people to become and stay active and will contribute to their overall physical health.

### **Climate change implications**

51. The delivery of services referred to in this report has the potential, like most other service delivery activity, for carbon emissions linked to those activities (i.e. lighting, heating, transport, etc.).

52. Officers will encourage appointed providers to develop and implement sustainability policies that align with the council’s climate emergency priorities, as outlined in the council’s Climate Strategy.

**Legal implications**

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

**Finance implications**

54. The grant funding available to commission youth and play provision for the period 2022 to 2024 is £1m in line with the council’s budget setting process.
55. The council is committed to providing three months’ notice of funding decisions where necessary. The profile of the grant funding allocation is shown below.

**PFYPF - 2 Year Grant Programme 2022 to 2024**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	£489,801
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	£489,801
<b>Total</b>	<b>£979,602</b>

56. Organisations who are currently receiving funding from the existing Positive Futures Fund, and whose contract end date is June 2022, were still able to apply, clarifying that they were requesting funding for the period July 2022 – June 2023, i.e. when their current grant expires.
57. These grant allocations will be funded from revenue budgets of £500k per annum in cost code EX531.
58. The actual expenditure against the grant allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the leisure revenue monitoring process.
59. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

**Consultation**

60. As noted in paragraph 2, significant consultation and engagement work took place with young people and youth providers as part of the youth review.
61. In addition, and as stated in paragraphs 8 and 9, in March and July 2021 officers expanded on last year’s youth review consultation by conducting an additional online survey, which was circulated to secondary school pupils in Southwark. This ensured that the Youth New Deal commitment,

requiring the council to commission activities and programmes that are informed and shaped by young people's voices, was met.

62. 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 2.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Governance**

63. This report seeks approval of the proposed grant funding allocations from the new 'Positive Future for Young People Fund' (GP1) for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024. The decision to approve the Recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council Constitution.
64. The report sets out details of the proposed PFYPF 2-year grant funded programme, 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 the planned and robust process that has been carried out, both for the purpose of attracting proposals from interested groups and organisations and evaluating those proposals.
65. 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.
66. 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 (EL21/083)**

67. This report recommends the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to approve the funding recommendations for the new 'Positive Future for Young People Fund' for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024 for the value of £979,603 and approves the re-profiling of £106,391 unallocated Positive Future for Young People Fund to be added to the previously agreed Young People's Fund increasing the allocation from £60,000 to £166,391.
68. 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, as mentioned in the financial implications.

69. 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
<a href="http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6664&amp;Ver=4">http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6664&amp;Ver=4</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	PFYPF Grant Recommendations
Appendix 2	PFYPF Commissioning Timetable
Appendix 3	Online Survey Results
Appendix 4	PFYPF Commissioning Framework
Appendix 5	EIA – Equality Impact Assessment

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
<b>Report Author</b>	Eva Gomez, Head of Culture	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	17 November 2021	
<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 Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	17 November 2021	