

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 12 September 2023	Decision Maker: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees
Report title:		Continued funding of the Nest's In-reach service to school communities in Southwark	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees formalise approval of an extension for a further year to March 2024 for Groundwork London to provide mental wellbeing support to schools through the Nest at a cost of £212,000.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In February 2021 Council Assembly agreed to launch the 'New Youth Deal: no young person to be left behind'. This sought to:
 - Promote young people's mental health and well being
 - Enable young people to access education, training and jobs
 - Create new forms of youth governance through a youth parliament
3. As a part of this £200,000 was allocated to expand the Nest Mental Health Service to schools, it is this project, now funded from within the service that this report relates to. This project expanded the free mental health drop in service offered by the Nest to Southwark schools. This is a part of the commitment to support 100% of children and young people with mental health needs.
4. Equality of access is a key focus of the Local Mental Health Transformation Plan and monitoring shows that the demographic coverage is positive and broadly in line with the schools demographic data. Overall targets have been exceeded.
5. Ensuring children and young people access the right support at the right time ensures that those with low to moderate mental health needs may be supported before their needs escalate. In addition, the reduction of waiting lists for clinical services is a key priority in the Local Transformation Plan. The provision of preventative services for low to moderate levels of mental health needs is a contributor to this reduction. There is close working with

the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust to ensure cases are referred into the correct level of service. This helps with improved management of waiting lists across the partnership.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The Nest has focused their work on the following areas:

- To normalise the topic of Mental Health
- Providing tools and strategies for supporting mental health
- Awareness raising
- Transitions
- Co-production
- Exclusion

Current Offer

Area	Current Offer
Awareness raising	<p>Universal assemblies in Primary and Secondary schools</p> <p>Mental Health workshops – tailored to each school. These groups are co-produced</p> <p>Provision of additional training, information, resources and signposting for teachers</p>
Transitions	<p>Transition workshops for year 6-7</p> <p>Transition workshops for year 11-12</p> <p>Workshops for parents / carers</p> <p>Individual targeted support for children identified as in need of additional support by schools</p> <p>Webinars / workshops and session plans for teachers to facilitate additional workshops during the transition period</p> <p>Partnership programmes to boost wellbeing of students</p>

	Summer activities arts and culture programme to increase confidence and health and wellbeing with an early intervention focus
Co-production	Young people, parents / carers and teachers views are used to inform and shape delivery especially at the start of each individualized intervention
Exclusion	Young people at risk of exclusion or those already excluded are offered wrap around support and an initial mental health assessment with a Clinical Lead with onward referral to CAMHS if required.

Current performance

7. The project has been operating since April 2020.
8. In the year to date 373 children and young people have accessed support from this additional provision in the Nest exceeding the service target of 360 young people. In addition assemblies have been held reaching over 2000 students. 85% of schools are accessing support through the School Engagement Project or the Mental Health Support in Schools Team, this number has been increasing since the commencement of the project. These two teams work closely together to ensure support at an appropriate level is offered and to avoid duplication. Of the children and young people accessing services 94% reported positive outcomes up to quarter 4 2022/23 with 89% of users being satisfied with the service offered by the Nest.
9. During the current financial year quarterly monitoring will be considered with the contract monitoring of the Nest and will include the service lead from the Children and Families Division. This will provide an overview of the provision of support for low to moderate mental health needs and support future planning and consider the evidence base for this work.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

10. The Nest School Engagement Team works to co-produce the support to be delivered and use the feedback from children, young people, parents and carers and teaching staff to shape the service offer.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

11. Children with minority ethnic and mixed heritage backgrounds are underrepresented in South East London's Clinical Mental Health services (CAMHS) and equality of access is a key priority of the Southwark Mental Health Local Transformation Plan. This project contributes to improving equality of access and the demographic of those accessing the service is broadly representative of schools data therefore increasing access to services before crisis support is needed.
12. Access to services operated by the Nest shows that of the children and young people accessing them:
 - 2% were Asian/ Asian British
 - 36% were Black / Black British
 - 16% were Mixed / Multiple heritage
 - 37% were White / White British
 - 10% were from other backgrounds

Health impact statement

13. There are opportunities for improving children and young people's mental health outcomes through schools and support programmes. Referrals to clinical children's mental health services have increased (CAMHS) and this project provides earlier intervention reducing the risk of children and young people needing a crisis response.

Climate change implications

14. This project is delivered locally and is in line with the Council's relevant policies and strategies as set out in Southwark's Borough Plan.

Resource implications

15. This project contributes to the post-pandemic response to increased need for mental wellbeing services.
16. Funding for this project previously came from earmarked reserves in line with the decision made by Council Assembly. An extension of funding from the Children and Families Directorate for 2023/24 is requested in this report, the amount requested has increased in line with agreed cost of living increases.

Legal and Financial implications

17. The £212k funding for the Nest in this report is in addition to the £350k already paid annually. It has been agreed at Children and Adults board that the proposed £212k for 2023-24 will be funded from C&AS departmental reserves. Children and Families division has received a budget uplift in order to fund this additional amount, and thus it is fully funded.
18. Please see the concurrent reports of the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance) and the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance below.

Consultation

19. Ongoing consultation and co-production with children, young people, parents and carers and schools is in place to help shape service delivery.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance

20. This report seeks approval to extend the Children and Young Peoples Mental Health service to schools by way of a further grant to the Nest for a period of 12 months to 31 March 2024.
21. Decisions to approve funding to voluntary organisations over £2500 are expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the Council Constitution.
22. This report notes that the continued funding of the project is consistent with relevant corporate policy and strategy and will assist the council to fulfill its statutory obligations, in particular the Public Sector Equality Duty prescribed by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which requires the council to have due regard to the needs of individuals and groups having a protected characteristic under the Act. Paragraph 5.2 notes that this project contributes to improving equality of access to the services delivered by the Nest, with targeted focus on children from underrepresented backgrounds.

Strategic Director of Finance REF: [17DK2023-24]

23. The Strategic Director of Finance notes the contents of this report, and in particular the Financial Implications section.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Suzanne Green, Programme Lead	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 September 2023	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		12 September 2023