

Progress report on the Community Restoration Fund and Youth Fund

Background

1. The Community Restoration Fund (CRF) was announced, as part of the February 2012 budget setting process, in response to the civil unrest experienced in areas of Southwark in August 2011. It is a one off annual fund (2012-2013) and aims to restore community pride and deliver longer term solutions to support business growth and young people across the borough.
2. The Youth Fund was announced as part of the February 2011 budget setting process. It is a 3 year (2011/2012-2013/2014) programme established in response to rising numbers of young people claiming out of work benefits, increased university tuition fees and the withdrawal of the national Education Maintenance Allowance scheme. It aims to help young people in Southwark improve their long term employment prospects.
3. A joint Advisory Board currently manages the delivery of these funding streams, chaired by the Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services.
4. This report is intended to provide an update on progress on the delivery of the CRF and Youth Fund.

Progress to date - Community Restoration Fund (CRF)

5. There are two elements to the CRF: supporting young people and supporting businesses.
6. The objectives of the youth element of the CRF are:
 - To invest in increased positive opportunities for young people with the aim of giving young people more things to do;
 - To provide opportunities which prevent or intervene to divert the small number of young people who are at risk of making poor life choices, including criminal activity, and support a pathway to positive activities within the community.
7. The objectives of the business element of the CRF are:
 - To place thriving high streets and town centres at the centre of local communities that attract increased footfall and economic activity from across Southwark's diverse communities;
 - To ensure businesses are more able to adapt and innovate in response to regeneration and changing local economic circumstances;
 - To get businesses to work together collaboratively to share ideas and resources and achieve increased economic growth in their area.
8. Overall, the CRF has been successful in developing and maintaining 6 area specific business networks across the borough. It has supported young people to start their own business and has engaged young people

in positive activities, diverting them from criminal activities. It has provided access to information advice and guidance through the Youth Buses service and summer activities through 'pop-up' programmes.

9. Key activities and outcomes delivered through the CRF to date include:
- A pop-up shop project, delivered by Creation Trust, delivering business startup support to those interested in becoming self-employed
 - Sustaining low numbers of people not in education, employment and training (NEET) in the borough
 - More young people engaged in enterprise development through the "App project" and the "Mind your own Business" programme.
 - More provision available for young people through Community Council Youth Grants
 - Greater interaction between businesses in local areas such as Camberwell, Tower Bridge and Peckham
 - Business surveys conducted to gain better insight into business needs in different localities
 - Improved communication channels through the development of new business network websites in Camberwell, Bermondsey, Walworth and Peckham
 - Greater community engagement in the delivery of projects and events such as local young people running Rerezent's Talking Shop Radio show and local communities engaged in a range of festive and other themed markets
 - Development of a business improvement district in Bermondsey
 - Improved perception of the council by local business.

10. The CRF performance summary to date is:

	Spend to date	Outcomes achieved	Performance summary
Supporting Young People	£450,000	<p>More YP engaged in positive activities.</p> <p>Greater sense of community engagement in project development and implementation.</p> <p>Young people supported to start their own businesses</p>	<p>Community Council Grants: 100k funding made available between Community Councils for small projects to deliver improved outcomes for young people. Approximately 100 applications for funding have been received; projects will start in April 2013.</p> <p>Youth Buses – Buses in various locations throughout the borough focusing on hot spot areas as identified by Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and the Police.</p>

		<p>Increased access to further education, training and employment</p>	<p>Mobile delivery has also been extended with the purchase of Mobile Recording/Film studio called 'The Mix Bus' ensuring the service offer can be extended.</p> <p>Buses have also been used at various events promoting youth service activity and are working directly after school closure time in identified areas.</p> <p>Pop up youth clubs - 148 individual young people attended the two pop up projects with in excess of 800 visits to the projects during the summer period.</p> <p>Various activities were in place including film clubs, CV writing and life skills projects. The pop up clubs helped young people gain access to College and access to employment opportunities.</p> <p>'Mind your own Business' Business Bursaries scheme - 40 applications received in first funding round. 13 business ideas selected by the panel to go forward to next round. These 13 will work with London Youth Support Trust to produce a business plan. First grants will be allocated in February 2013 and second round of funding will take place in March 2013.</p>
<p>Supporting Business Growth</p>	<p>£199,330</p>	<p>Identifiable business networks established across the borough.</p> <p>Increased interaction between business</p>	<p>32 people to date have completed their retail training programme and delivered 2 Pop-UP Shops in Walworth; 2 people have gone on to start their own business. 6 business networks have been established and developed across the borough</p> <p>More businesses are actively engaged and have signed up to the newly developed business</p>

		network and the Council. Improvements made to key town centres and high streets	networks More interaction between local businesses and young people Approximately 10 community events and markets have taken place to date
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Progress to date - Youth Fund

11. The Youth Fund was put in place in 2011/12 for three years with the key objective of providing support and assistance to improve the life chances of some of the most vulnerable young people in the borough. In particular the fund intended to support activities that helped to improve the educational outcomes of young people and help support them access local job opportunities.

12. On 27th July 2011 the youth fund was formally agreed through an IDM allocating £3,175,000 over a three year period.

13. The fund is currently delivered through 3 strands:

- the Southwark Scholarship Scheme delivers financial support to fund university study for some of the most vulnerable young people in the borough;
- the Southwark Educational Maintenance Supplement (SEMS) delivers financial assistance for young people aged 16-18 in learning;
- the Southwark Employment Training Scheme (SETS) delivers employment support for young people aged 16-24 leaving education.

Southwark Scholarship Scheme

14. To date 13 scholarship beneficiaries have received financial support to fund their university study fees.

15. The subjects of study that the 13 scholarship beneficiaries are attending is as follows:

- Accounting and Finance,
- Economics,
- Mathematics,
- Sociology,
- Law,
- Sports Science,
- Computer Systems and Networking,
- Civil Engineering,
- Criminology and Psychosocial Studies,
- Sociology,
- Business and Marketing and
- Biomedical Science.

16. The scholarship scheme has a total budget allocation of £400k over the current lifetime of the programme.
17. The budget report proposes that resources be provided to extend the youth fund for a further three years until 2016/17. This will provide assurance for the future delivery of the scholarship scheme.

Southwark Educational Maintenance Supplement (SEMS)

18. The government abolished the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) on the grounds that it did not provide value for money. This meant that from January 2011 no new learners were eligible for EMA, although those already in receipt continued to receive reduced support until the end of that academic year. The scheme cost £560m per annum in England. Qualitative research for the government found that EMAs had limited effect on keeping learners in education. When recipients of EMA were asked what they would do in the absence of EMA only 12% said they would not be in education. The government therefore interpreted that 88% of students receiving EMAs would be in education even without it.
19. In Southwark in 2010/11 there were over 10,000 16-18 residents in Southwark the majority of who attended schools and colleges outside Southwark. There were 3,729 Southwark residents receiving EMAs at schools and colleges in and out of Southwark (i.e. approaching 40% of Southwark's 16-18 year olds residents). By contrast the Youth Fund Southwark Educational Maintenance Supplement (SEMS) in 2012/13 only reached about 900 students. This reflects the much more restrictive criteria used for eligibility in SEMS. EMA was available to students from households earning up to £30,810 pa whereas SEMS sets an income limit of £16,190 (in line with Free Schools Meals eligibility criteria). Also in 2012/13 EMAs were still available to some students and they were therefore not supported by SEMS
20. SEMS was not conceived as a replacement for EMAs. The cost of EMAs to Southwark students in 2010/11 was between £3m-£4m but the budget for SEMS was just £600,000. It was obvious therefore that SEMS could not match the scale and reach of EMAs in Southwark but was intended as part of a package to promote opportunities for young people through the Youth Fund. The average amount paid out by EMA to learners in Southwark was about £1000 whereas SEMS was only able to pay £262 per learner. EMA was also paid directly into the learner's bank account while SEMS is paid to providers based on data they provide about the number of eligible learners.
21. Many providers also provide additional support to students in need using money left over from the national 16-18 bursary fund after they have met the needs of those entitled to £1200 from this fund (care leavers, disabled students and 16-18 year olds receiving income support). Providers also add money from their own budgets to compensate for the end of EMA.

This can amount to hundreds of pounds and so is more significant than SEMS. Nevertheless SEMS has been a vital addition for many students and a survey done by email and phone found that students regarded it as having enabled them to stay on in education.

Southwark Employment Training Scheme (SETS)

22. There are several factors that contribute to continuing youth unemployment. These include: young people are less likely to have work experience; young people lack specific skills; young people don't have access to adequate support networks and employers; young people aren't yet familiar with the 'world of work' and often struggle to navigate the local employment support system.
23. Although London remains a supplier of jobs, competition to secure these jobs continues to increase. An increase in demand for high skilled jobs at one end and more low level service sector jobs at the other means the labour market may be 'hollowing out' with more competition for lower level jobs. This acts as a further barrier to employment for young people, who then less prepared to compete for jobs in an open market.
24. Recognising some of these issues, SETS aims to help young people gain access to available local employment opportunities and training.
25. To date, SETS has supported 431 young people. 126 have gained work experience and 62 have secured employment. Key observations from the delivery of the SETs include:
 - the spectrum of need of the young people on the programme is wide;
 - there is a large variation in the skills levels of the young people on the programme;
 - recent university graduates are struggling to secure employment;
 - there is lack of sector specific information about what jobs are available;
 - young people want help to navigate the local employment support system and work out what they want to do;
 - young people lack confidence and understanding of how to 'sell their skills' to employers;
 - young people benefit from having a mentor/advisor who can help them to realise their talents and ambitious.
26. SETS has been able to help young people make the transition from education to employment by giving them access to opportunities in the labour market, building their employability skills and raising their confidence. It has proved challenging to secure evidence of sustainable job outcomes over 13-26 weeks. This may be because of a number of factors including: the entry level jobs available are short term; young people do not wish to continue to engage with providers following job entry; young people move into training/further education following a period of employment; providers need to improve their monitoring techniques.

27. The majority of referrals for the SETS have been from Jobcentre Plus which suggests that this support has been successful in filling a gap that mainstream provision is not easily able to provide.
28. It should be noted that during 2012/13 Red Kite Learning, one of the providers contracted to deliver the largest proportion of outputs through SETS, ceased operation.

29. Overall, the youth fund performance summary to date is:

	Total Budget allocation (2011-2014)	Spend (or committed) to date	Outcomes achieved	Performance against key indicators to date
SSS	£ 400 000	£287,000	Talented YP given the opportunity to reach their learning potential	<p>13 students have been awarded a scholarship since the start of the programme.</p> <p>SSS aims to support 21 students in total.</p> <p>Students from the following wards have gained scholarships:</p> <p>Cathedral (3 people) Faraday (2 people) Newington Peckham Rotherhithe College East Dulwich Grange Livesey</p>
SEMS	£1,800,000	<p>The total £300,000 budget for 2011-12 was allocated.</p> <p>For 2012-13 the budget is £600,000 - to Date £382,500 has been allocated.</p>	<p>Successful in ensuring young people in the borough remain in education.</p> <p>Helped to sustain Southwark's NEET numbers at a low level – 495 NEET 16-18 year olds.</p>	<p>In 2011/12 the scheme supported 922 learners at 33 providers inside and outside Southwark.</p> <p>In 2012/13 to date, the scheme is supporting 1280 learners at 30 providers.</p> <p>A questionnaire has been sent to pupils who have benefited from the scheme 103 (11% of the number of</p>

				<p>students funded) from 22 providers have responded to date. Survey findings show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Travel, books and food were the most common uses of the funding;- All respondents said SEMS helped them stay in education;- Some students say it was "vital";- Others students felt the amount wasn't enough.
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SETS	£ 975,000	2011/12 spend of £298,158. 2012/13 allocated spend to date is £165,133.	Young people supported to increase their employability and compete in the labour market.	Key outputs since October 2011: Numbers supported: 475 Work Placements: 146 Entry to jobs: 65 Jobs sustained for 13 weeks: 22 Jobs sustained for 26 weeks: 8* *recorded for 3 projects delivering in 12/13
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Consultation

30. The Youth Fund was established in response to high rates of youth unemployment in the borough and the impact of the removal of education maintenance allowances as part of the 2011/2012 budget which followed an extensive consultation. This included the Southwark Spending Challenge. This challenge involved seeking views from each Community Council and through meetings with key community groups. The consultation process began in September 2010 with Cabinet Members agreeing a set of budget principles and then visiting community councils, and other groups.
31. The decision to establish the CRF followed the disturbances of August 2011. In the immediate aftermath of the disturbances the council held a series of 'community conversations' where individuals and groups provided insight into the impact of the disturbances and what could be done to learn for the future. These highlighted that young people need and value opportunities to be part of their community and in the decisions that affect them.
32. During January 2012, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Strategy held a series of meetings with key stakeholders, including local business leaders and business organisations, to discuss the development of the CRF. This helped to establish the scope of the fund and the process by which it would be distributed.
33. The Southwark Youth Council were involved in developing the proposals for the supporting young people element of the CRF and supported the implementation of the projects supported through this fund.
34. CRF projects have been presented to Community Council's for discussion and the youth community councils are helping to determine funding

allocations in their respective areas through the Community Council Youth Grant.

Summary of funding

35. The following funding allocations are in place for the youth element of the CRF:

Project	Amount awarded
Community Council Youth Grants	£100,000
App centre	£85,000
Business start-up bursaries (Mind your own Business)	£70,000
Pop-up youth projects	£62,200
Youth Buses	£180,000
Total	£497,200

36. The following funding allocations are in place for the business element of the CRF:

Organisation	Project	Funding allocation
Bermondsey Business Association	Bermondsey BID	£30,000
Business Extra	Walworth Town Team	£100,000
Camberwell Business Network	Camberwell is Cool campaign	£50,000
Creation Trust	Pop-Up Retail project	£84,000
Deli Felice (on behalf of Albion Street businesses)	Albion Street Traders	£4,800
Eclectic Productions	Reprezent Radio's Talking: Shop	£31,430
The Means	Peckham Town Team	£100,000
Tower Tandoori (on behalf of Tower Bridge Road businesses)	Tower Bridge Road Alliance	£40,000
Total		£440,340

37. The following funding allocations are in place for the youth fund:

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
Southwark Educational Maintenance Supplement	£ 300,000	£ 600,000	£ 600,000	£ 300,000	£1,800,000
Southwark Scholarship Scheme	£ 50,000	£ 100,000	£ 150,000	£ 100,000	£ 400,000
Southwark Employment Training Scheme	£ 350,000	£ 325,000	£ 300,000		£ 975,000
Total	£ 700,000	£ 1,025,000	£ 1 050 000	£ 400 000	£ 3 175 000