

Subject:	Youth Service Update and Use of Housing Revenue Account Funding		
Date of Meeting:	19 September 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on youth services including the use of the Housing Revenue Account's (HRA) annual £250,000 contribution to the budget. The report includes information on performance from October 2017 to March 2018 including outcomes for Council tenants and their families. This report was considered by the Children, Young People and Skills Committee on 18 June

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That a progress report is considered by the Committee in June 2019.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the budget Council meeting for 2017/18 it was agreed that the Housing Revenue Account would contribute £250,000 to the Youth Services budget to help maintain services for young people. The total budget is £875,700.
- 3.2 A Youth Cross Party Working Group has been established and has met four times since October. The Group is co-chaired by a young person and the Chair of the Children Young People and Skills Committee. The terms of reference are attached at annex 1. The group helped develop a Youth Portal: refreshing and increasing the current function of the 'Where To Go For' and Youth Collective websites. The Where To Go For site will be promoted as the core route into the information sites for young people and will link to the Youth Collective site where young people will find the detail of council funded services that support young people. The Group has also led on plans for the additional £90,000 for the Youth Grants Programme agreed in the 2018/19 budget.

Youth Grants Programme

- 3.3 The Youth Grants Programme runs from 1st October 2017 to 31st March 2020 with an annual budget of £400,000. The Youth Grants Programme is based on

four areas of the city and three citywide specialist equalities services, with a focus on young people living in council house tenancies (see appendix 2). Providers are commissioned to promote positive changes for young people based around both short and long term outcomes. The focus of the programme is the impact on young people's lives and their experience of the services that they use rather than processes such as numbers of service users, opening hours or website hits. This is a change to previous ways of working and will need time to develop.

- 3.4 In order to align the programme more closely to HRA objectives, the service specifications were revised to reflect the geographical location and density of council properties within the city to maximise opportunities and improve outcomes for council tenanted households.
- 3.5 Three key priorities for council tenants were identified as:
- The reduction in anti-social behaviour in communities with council house tenancies:
 - Improving the social inclusion of young people in communities with council house tenancies
 - Supporting young people in communities with council house tenancies to improve their readiness for employment
- 3.6 In the first 6 months of the contract, the youth grant providers have been developing their relationships with housing colleagues and other agencies through the housing clusters and casework to work preventatively to identify and address any ASB trends, hotspots or problem areas. Feedback from the housing teams has been very positive, with fewer reports of ASB relating to young people coming up at the cluster meetings, and some good examples of joint case working between housing officers and youth workers.
- 3.7 In order to maximise the impact on HRA tenants, the delivery of both detached youth work and centre based activities has been targeted in areas of high density council stock to improve engagement levels and outcomes for young people living in council housing.
- 3.8 The youth providers have been supporting young people living on Council estates to enter employment, for example by supporting young people with writing CVs, getting work experience and accessing the Council's Youth Employability Service.
- 3.9 The providers use a central ICT (Aspire) system to manage their casework and report on outcomes for young people. Quarterly service review meetings are held with providers in conjunction with housing colleagues to ensure that council house tenants benefit from the funding.
- 3.10 A summary of performance information on work with young people is attached at Appendix 3. This shows the take up of services by council tenants by different services. This is the first time that the monitoring information has been analysed to show take up. The youth providers are using this information to look at how to increase the participation of council tenants. It is important to note that services vary in intensity ie. a large open access group attended by lots of young people compared to small group or one to one support. In the case of detached work it

can be difficult for youth workers to get the full names of the young people they are working with which can impact on the accuracy of the of young people from HRA properties taking up services in the performance monitoring reports.

- 3.11 Some of the Youth Grants providers were commissioned by Public Health to provide a Schools and Sexual Health Service during the period. This activity is included in the performance report and has increased the number of contacts. More work is being done to develop better ways of capturing outcomes including an outcome star.
- 3.12 Each of the lead providers have completed a narrative monitoring report to address how, particularly for young people in communities with council house tenancies, they have:
- improved the social inclusion of young people;
 - supported young people to improve their readiness for employment;
 - supported young people to live a healthier lifestyle;
 - included young people in the development and delivery of these services;
 - enabled young people with protected characteristics, or with multiple disadvantages to feel safer and supported.
- 3.13 Copies of the monitoring reports are at appendix 4 and also include case studies to show the detail of the work. The reports describe the work of each area in detail and explain that the first six months have included some scoping and development work for new areas including making contact with the local Housing Cluster meetings.

Youth Participation Team

- 3.14 The Council's Youth Participation Team deliver advocacy for children in social work, youth participation targeted at vulnerable young people and an independent visitors service for children in care.
- 3.15 The team delivers the Youth Advocacy Project which supports children and young people aged 8 to 21 who are cared for by the authority and care leavers ensuring their rights are respected. In 2017/18 they supported 113 children and young people. The team is moving to an outcome led model in line with the National Development Team for Inclusion Advocacy Outcomes framework.
- 3.16 The Independent Visitors service also sits within the team providing a buddy system for young people in care and care leavers. Independent Visitors undergo a rigorous vetting and training procedure. They are all volunteers who commit to a minimum of 2 years to buddy-up with a young person.
- 3.17 The Team supports the Children in Care Council which represents the views of children in care and care leavers to improve support for these young people. Work currently includes contributing to an introductory pack for children being taken into care and producing films from the young person's perspective of foster care to be used for foster care recruitment. Two members recently delivered a session for Brighton University's under-graduate social work course. The Council completes a standing report for the Corporate Parenting Board.

- 3.18 The Young Ambassadors programme recruits and trains young people who are looked after, care leavers and those supported by Social Work, to be used to support recruitment of Families, Children and Learning staff. Over the last year the Young Ambassadors contributed to the recruitment of the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, the Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding and Care, the Assistant Director for Health, SEN and Disability, the Head of Safeguarding and Performance and the Head of the Adolescent Service. The Young Ambassadors also help recruit newly qualified social workers each year.
- 3.19 The ARC (Ask, Report, and Change) project train care leavers to form part of an assessment team that monitors private providers of children's residential services and independent fostering agencies. The feedback received influences commissioning plans. This service is about to resume after a temporary suspension due to staffing changes.
- 3.20 The Youth Participation Team support young people across the city to present their views to key decision makers to influence change on both a local and national level. This includes a partnership of young people from across the city including the Youth Council, voluntary sector youth providers, and Children in Care Council. These groups have fed into the Youth Cross Party Working Group. The Youth Council sent their UK Youth Parliament representative to the national Youth Parliament sitting in the autumn.
- 3.21 The Team supports young people facing multiple barriers to education to gain formal accreditation outside school through the Youth Arts and Duke of Edinburgh awards. The team are supporting 48 targeted young people to work towards Duke of Edinburgh Awards and 81 young people from 15 different educational establishments to achieve Arts Awards. This work has been funded by the National Collaboration Outreach Programme (NCOP) until September 2018. Because of national changes in the arrangements for funding access to higher education NCOP will not be able to continue to fund the Awards programme. Alternative sources of funding are being explored for the future.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The alternative option considered as part of the budget process was a greater reduction in funding for youth services which would have led to less commissioned services.
- 4.2 The funding arrangements were changed to a grant process rather than a contract following feedback from the market and a change in commissioning requirements.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council's Youth Participation Team support the Youth Council and Children in Care Council to ensure young people are consulted on the future delivery and development of services. A Cross Party Group on Youth Services has also been established. The reports from the Youth Grant Providers explain how they have included young people in the development and delivery of these services.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The funding from the Housing Revenue Account will ensure that the Council can continue to offer a citywide range of youth services which will benefit council tenants.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The HRA contribution of £250,000 forms part of the total Youth Service budget of £875,700 for 2018/19; of which £400,000 funds the externally delivered Youth Services Grant programme, £375,000 funds the council's in house Youth Participation Team, and an additional £90,000 has been received for Neighbourhood Youth work and £10,000 for the Youth Bus. The Independent Visitors budget is outside of this and totals £67,100, which includes additional funding in 2018/19 of £20,000.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Steve Williams

Date: 26/4/18

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 507b of the Education Act 1996 places a specific duty on the Council to secure 'as far as reasonably practicable' sufficient educational and recreational activities for the improvement of young people's well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Young people are defined as those aged 13-19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24.
- 7.3 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being issued in 2012 clarifies that it is not prescribed which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. Local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being and personal and social development. They should strive to secure the best possible local offer within available resources. Under the guidance it is for local authorities to determine the mix of open access, targeted, preventative and specialist provision needed to meet local needs and how to integrate all services around young people and decide what facilities are needed and how to make these available and accessible, wherever possible maximising the utilisation and potential of all local partners' assets.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson *Date: 04/06/2018*

The HRA is primarily a landlord account, containing income and expenditure arising from the council's housing functions. Department of Environment Circular 8/95 gives advice in relation to the operation of that account. It provides that where amenities benefit the wider community, costs should be shared between the HRA and General Fund. Items specifically mentioned include amenities such as play and other recreational areas, grassed areas and gardens, community centres and play schemes. In each case it is for the local authority to form its own judgment on whether provision should be charged to the HRA or General Fund.

In 2017, budget council determined that the HRA should contribute £250,000 to Youth Services.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date 04/06/18

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 The Youth Participation Team focus support on vulnerable young people including children in care and care leavers. Monitoring information from the Youth Grants providers includes details of the take up by young people from protected groups. The reports from the Youth Grants Providers include information on how services have enabled young people with Protected Characteristics, or with multiple disadvantages to feel safer and supported.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 The Youth Grants Programme has been designed to reflect the geographical location and density of council properties within the city to reduce the need for travel and maximise the sense of community for council tenanted households.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 One of the intended outcomes of the Youth Grants programme is to decrease young people's antisocial behaviour in the targeted areas. Both the Council and commissioned services aim to increase the engagement of young people and help ensure young people feel they have a voice in their community.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Youth Cross Party Group Terms of Reference
2. Youth Grants Programme Service Areas
3. Youth Grants Performance Summary

Documents in Members' Rooms: None

Background Documents: None

Youth Services Cross Party Working Group – Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Cross Party Working Group will be to gather the views of young people to feed into Councillors and the Director / Assistant Director of Families, Children and Learning to inform decisions.

Governance and decision making

The Children, Young People and Skills Committee is the council Committee which is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health for children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19.

The full Council is the highest decision making body for the Council and agrees the budget for the Council once a year.

Views and recommendations from the Youth Cross Party Working Group will be taken into account and will be represented at the Children, Young People and Skills Committee by the Councillors and Youth Council representative.

Membership and Chairing Arrangements

Membership of the Working Group will include one Member from each of the three political groups in the council who attend the Children, Young People and Skills Committee, together with either the Executive Director or Assistant Director for Families Children & Learning.

The group will develop representation from young people from different areas, groups and youth services in the city. To start with this will include representatives from the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and the commissioned neighbourhood youth projects. The group will consider how to ensure the views of a wider range of young people can be gathered including whether representatives from other youth organisations should join the group

The meetings of the Working Group will be co-chaired by the chair of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee and by the Youth Council representatives on the Committee.

Operating Principles

It is intended that the Working Group operate in partnership and its goal is to reach recommendations by agreement.

This Working Group will be the main way that young people can influence the Children, Young People and Skills Committee of the Council.

The Working Group may ask for advice from legal, financial, property and other officers of the Council, or external advice.

Any discussions and papers from this group will be open and transparent and can be shared.

Frequency of Meetings

The Working Group meetings are to be held every 3 months for 1.5 hours and will start at 5.30pm.

The frequency of the steering group is to be reviewed and increased or decreased, as required.

Administration

Administration for the Working Group will be provided by the Early Years, Youth and Family Support service. The agenda and accompanying papers will normally be circulated one week in advance of meetings, but additional material may be sent later or tabled where necessary. The minutes of each meeting will be issued within ten days of the meeting.

Members will decide at the end of the meeting how the discussion of the group will be shared more widely.

Appendix 2 - Youth Grants Programme 2017 – 2020

Service Area	Providers	Wards	Budget 2017/18 (1/2 year)	Annual Budget 2018/19
Hangleton, Portslade and West Hove	The Hangleton & Knoll Project (lead) YMCA (partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hangleton and Knoll • Hove Park • North Portslade • South Portslade • Westbourne • Wish 	£39,500	£79,000
Whitehawk and The Deans	The Trust for Developing Communities (lead) The Deans Youth Project, Impact Initiatives (partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Brighton • Rottingdean Coastal • Woodingdean 	£30,500	£61,000
Moulsecomb & Patcham	The Trust for Developing Communities (lead) Impact Initiatives, Albion in the Community Extratime, Friends, Families and Travellers, Bevendean Activities Group (partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollingdean and Stanmer • Moulsecomb and Bevendean • Patcham 	£44,000	£88,000
Central Hove and Brighton	Brighton Youth Centre (lead) Young Peoples Centre, Turner Project, Youth Advice Centre (partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick and Adelaide • Central Hove • Goldsmid • Hanover and Elm Grove • Preston Park • Queen's Park • Regency • St. Peter's and North Laine • Withdean 	£49,500	£99,000
Equalities: LGBTU	Allsorts Youth Project Ltd		£9,500	£19,000
Equalities: BME	Black and Minority Ethnic Young People's Project		£9,500	£19,000
Equalities: Disabilities	Extratime		£9,500	£19,000
Aspire			£8,000	£16,000
		Total	£200,000	£400,000

