


Report for:	Cabinet - 12 June 2012	Item Number:	
Title:	Funding for Delivery of the Youth Strategy 2012		
Report Authorised by:	 p.p. Libby Blake – Director of Children’s Services		
Lead Officer:	Jan Doust, Belinda Evans		
Ward(s) affected: All		Report for Non Key Decision	

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The Youth Strategy has been subject to broad consultation, particularly with young people themselves and aims to deliver a coherent vision and set of priorities over the next three years. It encompasses all providers of services for young people, not just Council services and this report seeks agreement to the release of additional funds to support delivery of the strategy, specifically the key strands that have emerged from the consultation:

- Increase in the number of young people in education, employment and training;
- Diversion away from criminal justice system and increase in the number of young people who are positively engaged, particularly identifying and targeting those most at risk;
- Diversion of younger children in the 8-12 range away from criminal and gang related activity, particularly younger siblings of those already identified.

1.2 This paper sets out proposals for the use of £400k additional funding which will be focused exclusively upon the delivery these three key strands. We will be developing a commissioned approach and any new services will be delivered through the private, voluntary and independent sector, harnessing the skills and abilities that exist within local organisations.



- 1.3 This report sets out in detail the first phase of the delivery of these strands, including over the summer holiday period 2012. We will ensure that activities offered over this period will increase the engagement of young people and divert them from crime and anti-social behaviour, including a targeted offer for younger siblings who might be vulnerable. More detailed work will then follow on the wider programme for the remainder of 2012-13 and subsequent years and a further report will be provided to Members in Autumn 2012.

2 Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 This paper sets out the first phase of proposals for funding the youth strategy 2012-2014. It identifies the key strands that have emerged following the consultation, particularly with young people themselves. It states our commitment to ensuring that this strategy is delivered more and more through a commissioning approach that builds on the skills, abilities and local knowledge of the private, voluntary and independent sector and is increasingly less reliant on central service delivery models. Cabinet is asked to note the following points:

- Consultation with young people has highlighted the areas that are most important to them and this proposal seeks to deliver a set of activities that reflects what young people have told us;
- The Summer of 2012 is likely to be both exciting and challenging as London hosts the Olympics and we want to make sure that our young people have every opportunity to engage positively in these events;
- Holiday periods in every year can be more challenging as young people have more unstructured time as schools are closed and we want to make sure that they are offered exciting alternatives that enable them to spend their recreational and leisure time productively and to avoid becoming involved in unwanted distractions;
- The delivery of the strategy in the immediate and longer term is reliant on a number of partnerships across the Council, the Police and voluntary and community groups as well as young people themselves and the proposed planning group will bring these partners together to oversee implementation and the use of resources;
- The funding will enable the development of a stronger community-based approach, offering peripatetic support to some of our most vulnerable young people, and will expand our focus to younger populations, and to ensuring young people have the skills they need to maximise their opportunity to get work when jobs become available.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Cabinet:
- agree to the allocation of an additional £400,000 to fund the three key strands of the Youth Strategy including the 2012 summer programme;



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- agree to the establishment of a planning group that we will oversee the implementation of the strategy and make recommendations for funding and activities in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

4 Other options considered

None

5 Background information

- 5.1 In July 2011 an Elected Member/Officer Working Group was established to oversee the production of a Youth Strategy for Haringey that provides a framework for all organisations working with young people aged 13 and over in the borough.
- 5.2 A comprehensive needs assessment and service provider mapping exercise was undertaken to inform the development of the strategy. This analysed the needs of young people in Haringey, in relation to health, crime, education and employment, and deprivation and poverty and identified over 300 statutory, voluntary and community organisations working with young people in the borough. This was followed by an extensive consultation exercise.

This work has identified the following five priorities:

- Positive aspirations – ensure that services have a positive impact on young people's lives and that they are supported to access relevant education, employment and training opportunities
 - Safety of Young People – ensure that young people feel safe in all environments
 - Reduced risky behaviour – ensure there are early identification systems in place so that at risk young people receive help and support before their situations escalate
 - Positive participation - ensure that young people have a voice so that they can, if they want to, contribute to local, regional and national decision making
 - Accessible and appropriate youth services across the borough – making it easier for young people and parents/carers to find out about services, provide evidence that services are valued by young people and work with the third sector to shape youth provision across the borough and help them prepare for commissioning
- 5.3 The provision of positive activities and opportunities for participation during the holidays will support these priorities and respond to the needs and views expressed during the youth strategy development, specifically about the availability of activities over this important period.
- 5.4 **2012/13 – a unique year**
- 5.4.1 The summer of 2012 is a unique time when the world will focus on London as it hosts the Olympics and Paralympics. Together with the recently launched Cultural Olympiad and the Diamond Jubilee this is intended to be a time of celebration and fun in the city and Haringey's



young people should be able to feel part of it. The current response across the country to the Olympic torch relay indicates that there could be a great deal of enthusiasm for Olympic related events.

5.4.2 The increase in youth re-offending and referrals to the Gang Action Group means that a reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system and reduction in youth re-offending are key priorities. Through a programme of diversionary activities we can provide an early intervention service targeting young people most at risk. We know from the events of last August that the summer can be a critical period so we want to make sure that resources are targeted at making positive provision for young people

5.4.3 Anecdotal evidence indicates that children from as young as 8 can be vulnerable, particularly the younger siblings of those already involved. Evidence consistently demonstrates that early intervention with children who are in their last 2 years at primary school (Years 5 and 6) can determine positive outcomes in adolescence, so we propose that a proportion of the activities will be for children in identified hot spot areas with the aim of diverting them away from the influence of gang related activity.

5.4.4 The Youth, Community and Participation Service will work with colleagues in Community Safety, the Police, our voluntary and community partners and young people themselves to make sure that young people are being positively engaged during the summer of 2012.

5.5 2012/13 and beyond

5.5.1 As part of the development of the Strategy one of the key strands that has emerged is the need for the Council's Youth, Community and Participation Service to coordinate and signpost services for young people delivered by a range of providers. We are developing a commissioning role to support the achievement of the emerging priorities from the Strategy so that we can engage the most appropriate delivery partners.

5.5.2 A planning group will be established, comprising representation from Place and Sustainability (Community Safety, Employment and Skills), Public Health and the Children and Young People's Service (Youth, Community and Participation, Youth Offending Service and Children and Families).

5.5.3 The planning group will develop a two year programme to contribute to existing and emerging borough wide initiatives around issues such as anti social behaviour, teenage conceptions, worklessness and the numbers of young people entering care. The proposal will focus on the development of a universal and targeted offer to reduce risk taking behaviour through the delivery of relevant diversionary activities. The planning group will report regularly to Members.

5.5.4 Young people are at the heart of decision making and we have been training “young commissioners” who will be involved in developing the proposals and securing services that best meet the priorities.

5.5.5 The purpose of this work will be:

- To support the delivery of the Strategy for Young People and therefore ensure that services are working together to achieve better quality outcomes for young people;
- To support the Community Safety strategy by ensuring that there are positive diversionary activities for young people;
- To work with key partners to ensure that joint policy objectives are achieved relating to young people e.g. sexual health, community safety;
- To develop the Council's leadership role to achieve effective co-ordination of universal and targeted activities for young people and, in particular, to reassure communities that the Council is ensuring provision of aspirational leisure time activities;
- To ensure that there is an effective communication strategy so that we can be confident that all members of the community can access information about youth related activities;
- The development of the capacity and quality of provision for young people by working with the third sector providing training, support and challenge to enable them to become commissioning ready
- To maximise external funding opportunities, through the appointment of a Fundraising Manager, either by direct bidding or by supporting third sector partners.

5.5.6 A successful programme will provide an increase in positive activities, particularly during the holiday period, and an increased take up of the positive activities; a decrease in crime through strategically targeting positive activities at key hot spot areas identified by Community Safety and the Police, and an increase in the quality of provision, primarily through the commissioning of third sector activity

5.5.7 These positive activities will contribute to the well being of young people through the provision of safe environments where they can take part in a range of arts, sports and music activities, socialise safely with their peers and develop positive relationships with adults that they trust. Activities will be built around:

- **Arts provision** as there is a strong sports programme delivered through Recreation Services;
- **Peripatetic, detached work**, to ensure we are targeting the more disengaged young people.
- **Residential activities** to take young people outside the borough as an effective way of building strong relationships and introducing them to new experiences;
- **Communications** so that we can be confident all members of the community can access information on youth related activities.



- **Investment in the voluntary sector** to ensure they are able to be part of the delivery of services.
- **Work with targeted groups** who need additional support such as young people leaving custody, teenage parents, young people at risk of not engaging in education, employment or training or of engaging in criminal activity.

5.5.8 These proposals are in line with the:

- national strategy for young people “Positive for Youth” which highlights the importance of the local authority’s role in co-ordinating services for young people, raising their aspirations, and ensuring early intervention (particularly for those who are disadvantaged or at risk of not achieving) through the provision of positive experiences outside the classroom ; and
- recent government consultation on the draft revised statutory guidance on services and activities to improve young people’s wellbeing. In this guidance government confirmed that it will retain the duty on local authorities to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13 to 19 year olds, so far as is reasonably practicable.

6 Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 This report seeks approval to a range of activities and associated funding of £400,000. It also proposes the creation of a planning group to consider and develop further activities targeted at Youth in 2013-14 and 2014-15 within this sum.
- 6.2 Through the efficiency of the Council’s Treasury Management policies including in particular the use of internal borrowing and low interest rates, it is possible to find the required resources through a permanent virement from the Treasury Management budget.
- 6.3 The resources to support these proposals are therefore, subject to Members approval of this report and the associated virement, available within the Council’s overall resources.

7 Head of Legal Services and legal implications

- 7.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the local authority and relevant partners including, for example, the police and health services, with a view to improving the well being of children in the authority’s area so far as relating to (a) physical and mental health and emotional well being; (b) protection from harm and neglect; (c) education, training and recreation; (d) the contribution made by them to society and (e) their social and economic well being.



- 7.2 In addition section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which inserted section 507B into the Education Act 1996, places a duty on local authorities to, so far as is reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to (a) sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and (b) sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Qualifying young persons means (a) persons who have attained the age of 13 but not the age of 20 and (b) persons who have attained the age of 20 but not the age of 25 and have a learning difficulty. Local authorities may, for example, provide facilities for such activities or assist others in the provision of such facilities and such assistance may include financial assistance.
- 7.3 The local authority, in exercising these functions, must take steps to ascertain the views of qualifying young people in its area and Members attention is drawn, in particular, to paragraphs 1.3 and 5.2 of the report. Regard must also be had to any guidance given from the Secretary of State and Members attention is drawn, in particular, to paragraph 5.5.8 of the report.
- 7.4 In relation to paragraph 5 of the report and the commissioning role the Head of Legal Services would wish to be consulted upon and advise upon the commissioning framework and selection criteria.
- 7.5 Due regard must be given to the public sector equality duty together with the information provided at section 8 of the report Equalities and Community Cohesion and must be taken forward in any commissioning exercise. An overview of the duty is attached at Appendix A.

8 Equalities Comments

- 8.1 The Youth, Connexions and Participation EqlA assessed the impact of the shift towards the more targeted focus of the new Youth, Community and Participation Service with reduced provision of Council run universal services. The EqlA recognises the key role of the wider youth provision landscape in mitigating against some of the adverse impact and the Strategy for Young People in Haringey aims to provide a framework for all service providers working with young people to work together to achieve this.

9 Head of Procurement Comments

Not Applicable

10 Policy Implication

Not Applicable

11 Use of Appendices

Appendix A Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Equality Duty



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12 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Positive for Youth: A new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13 to 19. HM Government 19 December 2011.

Government consultation 'Draft Revised Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing' (issued 5 March 2012, closed 25 May 2012).

EQUALITY ACT 2010 – THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty states

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) A person who is not a public authority but who exercises public functions must, in the exercise of those functions, have due regard to the matters mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- (4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - (a) tackle prejudice, and
 - (b) promote understanding.
- (6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.



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- (7) The relevant protected characteristics are – age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.
- (8) A reference to conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act includes a reference to –
 - (a) a breach of an equality clause or rule;
 - (b) a breach of a non-discrimination rule.