

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	11 January 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E2347
TITLE:	Positive Activities & Looked After Children Funding	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 Partnerships paper		
Appendix 2 Information detailing the grants awarded in the September and November		
Appendix 3 Equality Impact statements for the Virtual School for Children in Care		
Appendix 4 Impact statement for the Youth Enablement Grant		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 In March 2010 as noted in the medium term plan the Cabinet set aside £75,000 for “funding for the youth service to support an increased emphasis on empowering and supporting the development of local community activities, including a pilot grant scheme to support community organisations providing targeted youth activities. Of this amount £25,000 will also be used to provide free swimming for disadvantaged children.” especially those looked after.
- 1.2 Although the Youth Service has been very successful allocating funds through the small grants scheme called the Youth Enablement Fund (there is a separate report to cabinet re this). We have not been able to allocate all of the swimming funds, as looked after children are already well supported in this field. Only £2,000 has been spent to date. Therefore we are requesting a change of use of the allocated funds.
- 1.3 Through consultation with The Bath and North East Somerset In Care Council, it has been identified that there is a lack of understanding of in care issues in schools, both among fellow pupils and staff. This is considered to be a major barrier to Children in Care making good progress in school. We wish to address this through a Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) project for schools, which will include the production of a short DVD together with a range of other support packages. We would like £10,000 to develop these resources. There is a

great deal of support for this work see the partnership paper Appendix 1 for details.

- 1.4 Through consultation with Voluntary Sector Youth Groups we have identified that the Youth Enablement Fund is very popular and gaining a lot of local interest, with the first two rounds allocating almost £90,000. We would like to add the remaining budget £13,000 to this process so the third round would have approx. £45,000 to allocate.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

- 2.1 Only £2,000 is used to support swimming and the remaining funding is used to support the two projects identified below.
- 2.2 That is £10,000 is allocated to support the Looked after Children PSHE Project
- 2.3 That is £13,000 is allocated to support the Youth Enablement Grant process in February 2012

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for this work other than a change of use of funding already allocated in 2010.
- 3.2 Bath Spa University has committed £10,000 to the Looked After Children PSHE Project

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- *Building communities where people feel safe and secure*
- *Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people*
- *Sustainable growth*

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Bath and North East Somerset In Care Council has identified a lack of understanding of in care issues in schools, both among fellow pupils and staff, as a major barrier to Children in Care making good progress in school. Common problems are bullying, the impact of comments, feelings of insecurity and low expectations. The consequence of this and other social factors is that children in care are among the very lowest performing groups at Key Stage 4 both nationally and locally.
- 5.2 In response to this, the In Care Council is working with the Bath and North East Somerset Virtual School for Children in Care, Bath Spa University Centre for Education Policy in Practice, ASDAN, the PSHE Association, Vision Works, the Who Cares Trust and the NUT to produce a teaching pack for schools. This will comprise a series of around five Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons aimed at children in Year 5 and another series aimed at children in Year 9

- 5.3 The lessons will be based on filmed short scenarios devised and scripted by the In Care Council. Each scenario will exemplify a problem children in care can face in school and will be the stimulus for class discussion and learning. Ideas for lesson activities will be generated by the In Care Council and turned into lesson plans by Vision Works and the PSHE Association. The scenarios will also be used to produce a training pack for school staff.
- 5.4 Through the Youth Service Review changes to the Youth Service mean that there are areas within Bath & North East Somerset that have predominantly targeted provision, or do not have access to statutory youth provision. There are also areas where youth provision is sporadic, or provided by groups who have limited funding in the present economic climate and are therefore decreasing their open access hours.
- 5.5 The Youth Enablement Fund is a Small Grants programme that enables voluntary sector groups to apply for funding to deliver youth provision in Bath & North East Somerset. Groups complete a straightforward application form (Please see web link as listed at the bottom of this report) and decisions to allocate funding are made by a Panel. The Funding Panel is supported and Chaired by The Principal Youth Officer, other members include: a Finance Officer, up to 2 young people, and a representative from the Voluntary Sector. Grants of up to £5k are available, and recipients are supported throughout the process by the Voluntary Sector Development Worker, which has enabled several new/developing groups/charities to access this funding.
- 5.6 The Small Grants programme has received 43 applications to date. 22 groups have received funding for a total of 24 projects, and a total of £89,539 has been either spent or allocated to date. Information detailing the grants awarded in the September and November rounds can be found in the Appendix 4.
- 5.7 The success of this funding programme, and feedback from a number of voluntary sector organisations, mean that we are confident that we will receive a large number of applications in February, and we can therefore be confident that additional funds of £13,000 would be allocated if made available. This would also mean that money available in the February 2012 round would replicate the amounts allocated in previous funding rounds.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 Equality Impact statement has been carried out using the corporate guidelines for the Virtual School for Children in Care – this PSHE Project forms part of that work – and the duty upon the Council under the Equality Act 2011 has been fully considered. This process identified no adverse impacts on protected characteristics. The Equalities Impact Assessment is identified through this process. The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.
- 7.2 A proportionate Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out using the corporate guidelines and the duty upon the Council under the Equality Act 2011

has been fully considered. This process identified no adverse impacts on protected characteristics. The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 3.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 This PSHE Project was initiated by the Bath and North East Somerset In Care Council. In its role as corporate parent, it is appropriate for the Bath and North East Somerset Council to support the In Care Council in their work in promoting a better understanding of the lives and needs of young people in care.
- 8.2 The Youth Enablement Fund Small Grants programme has provided grants to the voluntary sector in Bath and North East Somerset, resulting in developed youth provision in the region. There is a robust system in place for decision-making, safeguarding, monitoring, and on-going support, and to date, following Panel decisions, we have only received positive support from the Voluntary youth sector regarding this process. The decision-making Panel includes young people and the voluntary sector, so we can feel confident that the views of those who will benefit from the grants are taken into consideration throughout the decision-making process.
- 8.3 There continues to be a lot of interest in the funding scheme, including groups who have been awarded funding for youth consultation and hope to apply for funding projects requested by young people during the consultation. Additional funding for this project would enable us to award a similar amount of grant funding in the February round, and would further develop youth provision in Bath and North East Somerset.
- 8.4 The Youth Service is delivering a core “Youth Offer” to young people in the area however as part of the Localisms Bill we are also supporting and enabling new provision to be set up by local people and supporting and working in partnership with larger organisations to deliver a wider youth offer to meet needs and fill in gaps in provision. A slightly larger Youth Enablement Grants fund will enable us to continue to support this work into 2012.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 For the recommendation that is £10,000 is allocated to support the Looked after Children PSHE Project

Sponsorship from organisations involved with the project – Bath Spa University is committing £10000 to this project; other organisations are devoting a considerable amount of support ‘in kind’, particularly through giving time to the project without charge. Sponsorship from charities such as the Who Cares Trust – these charities have other significant financial commitments, so we decided not to pursue this option.

- 9.2 For the recommendation that £13,000 is allocated to support the Youth Enablement Grant process in February 2012

If the decision is not supported then The Youth Enablement Fund will stand as it is but the third round will have a smaller funding pot to give out in February, however the work will be limited.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 In Care Council; through In Care Council meetings throughout 2011.

10.2 Members of staff, young people, Trade Union and the Voluntary Sector Youth Groups, as key stakeholders were consulted about the Youth Enablement Fund as part of the Youth Service Review during 2010 / 11.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Looked after children and the support / enablement of the Voluntary Sector are both important areas of work to support in the future and help to meet some of the key corporate priorities.

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer and Tim Richens as the Section 151 Officer have been consulted. (Divisional Director Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication

12.2 Ashley Ayre Director of Children's Services and Tony Parker Divisional Director Learning and Inclusion Service has approved this report to be taken forward.

12.3 Cllr Nathan Hartley has had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it to go to the Cabinet.

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Sponsoring Cabinet Member	<i>Councillor Nathan Hartley</i>
Background papers	The Youth Enablement Fund Information is held on a Council web page The web link is: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/communityandliving/fundingcommissioning/performanceaward/Pages/youthenablementfund.aspx
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	