

Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on Thursday 28th March 2012.

BG

Subject:

Youth Opportunities Funding

Summary statement:

The report informs Bradford South Area Committee of the applications for Youth Opportunities Fund underspend for each Ward and the decisions of the Area Youth Opportunities Fund Ward Panels. These decisions will be subject to "Better Use Of Budget" process and timescales. The report also outlines proposed changes and presents recommendations regarding the application process for Youth Opportunity Funding - financial year 13/14.

Kath Tunstall
Strategic Director – Children's Services
Report Contact:
Pete Sims
Senior Youth Work Manager
Phone: (01274) 437198
E-mail: pete.sims@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio: Cllr Ralph Berry
Children and Young People's Services

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

1. SUMMARY

- 1.0 The report informs Bradford South Area Committee of the applications for Youth Opportunities Fund underspend available per Ward and the decisions of the Youth Opportunities Fund Area Panels. The decisions will be subject to “Better Use Of Budget” process and timescales. The report also highlights changes which are recommended for approval relating to; simplifying the application process, making it more accessible/user friendly for future years, in particular, to young people and relevant organisations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) is part of the Early Intervention Grant held by Children’s Services. As part of the remodelling of the Youth Service to demonstrate commitment to the approach to devolution YOF funding of £50,000 was allocated to each Area Committee.
- 2.2 It is available to increase ‘things to do’ for young people organised from within their local neighbourhood. Applications have been made to each Area Committee’s panel of young people and Councillors.

The broad aims of the Funds are to:

- Give a voice and influence to young people, particularly those facing disadvantage, in relation to things to do and convey a powerful message to young people that their needs and aspirations are important;
 - Change the way local authorities and their partners commission and provide activities for young people, especially in deprived neighbourhoods, and to increase the responsiveness of providers to what young people want;
 - Improve things to do in line with what young people want in their neighbourhoods and thereby increase participation in positive activities;
 - Provide opportunities for young people to develop their confidence, knowledge, skills and abilities;
 - Enable young people to gain recognition and accreditation for their participation;
 - Increase the well being of young people through their engagement in activities that have a positive impact on their development;
 - Increase young people’s engagement with services and with decision making processes at local level;
 - Offer young people the opportunity to develop projects that promote and increase entrepreneurial skills;
- 2.3 Applications must be from organisations working with young people aged between 13 and 19 (up to 25 years for young people with disabilities). The young people will need to have been involved in developing the proposals with the support of an

experienced adult within that organisation. This is to ensure that there is adequate support for the implementation of any successful application.

Organisations must be working with young people in the constituency area to be eligible to apply. Applications from organisations and services working with the following groups are particularly encouraged: Looked after young people, vulnerable young people and those at risk and NEET young people.

2.4 Information on the application process was publicised through a wide range of networks by the Youth Service, the Voluntary Sector and Neighbourhood Services.

2.5 A third deadline of Friday 18th February 2013 was agreed to enable further applications to be submitted. The applicants from previous rounds were provided with feedback on their original applications which would assist should they wish to apply in the any future processes.

2.6 The process to determine Youth Opportunities Fund in each Ward, as agreed by Bradford South Area Committee, involved the development of a Youth Opportunities Fund Ward Panel to make decisions on applications.

2.7 The Youth Opportunities Fund Ward panel involved of a group of young people acting as volunteers drawn from each ward who have been supported as decision makers, working alongside their ward elected members. The panel assessed the application forms on the criteria:

- Meet the needs of young people identified through the recent ward planning process
- Contribute to the Constituency priorities for young people
- Have involved young people in the writing of the bid
- Engage with disadvantaged/hard to reach groups of young people
- Will have a positive impact
- Encourage partnership working
- Enable young people to gain outcomes and accreditations
- Are considered good value for money.

There may be applications for District Wide provision or for provision across more than one Area and these have been assessed by the YOF Panel in the Area in which the organisation is based.

The details of applications received including the amounts applied for are contained in Appendix 1.

2.8 The decisions of the YOF Area Panels are contained in Appendix 2.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 As a result of feedback from young people, organisations, elected members and Officers it has been collectively identified that application process for the YOF funding be amended for ease of use, increase applications from organisations and to enable greater involvement of young people in all aspects of the process.

- 3.2 The details of the recommendations for the changes to the YOF application process are in Appendix 3.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 4.2 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 4.3 That Bradford South Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

5.1 Financial

£50,000 was allocated to the Area Committee in 2012/13 to determine which projects should receive funding from Youth Opportunities Fund. The allocation in 2012/14 is £20,000.

5.2 Staffing

Support for the development and implementation of the process to determine the YOF through Area Committees has been provided from within the existing resources of the Youth Service and Area Coordinator's Office.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 6.1 There are no significant risks arising out of the proposed recommendations in this report.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

This work relates directly to statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education and came into effect in June 2012. The Local Authority has a duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19 (and up to 24 years for those with learning difficulties) to improve their well-being. The duty is to practicably secure equality of access for all young people to positive, preventative and early help needed to improve their well-being. This includes youth work and other services and activities that:

- Connect young people with communities so they have a voice in decisions which affect their lives
- Offer safe opportunities in a wide range of activities, to develop a strong sense of belonging, socialise safely, enjoy social mixing, spend time with older people, and develop relationships with adults they trust
- support personal and social development of young people so they build the capabilities they need for learning, work, and the transition to adulthood
- improve young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being;

- help young people at risk of dropping out of learning or not achieving their full potential to engage and attain in education or training; and
- raise young people's aspirations and build resilience

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

8.1.1 The reporting of this funding is the responsibility of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and that those projects and schemes supported will promote fairness and inclusion while supporting Bradford South Area Committee's commitment to equal opportunities for all.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 It is anticipated that the resources available to local organisations will support priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2011-14 and the District's Sustainable Community Strategy.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

8.3.1 It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts will be a consideration in assessing activities.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.4.1 Community safety issues are acknowledged as a key contributor to the quality of life in neighbourhoods. It is anticipated that activity generated through these resources will have a positive impact on community safety issues across the area.

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

8.5.1 Local authorities must take steps to ascertain the views of young people and to take them into account in making decisions about services and activities for them, in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

8.6 TRADE UNION

8.6.1 There are no implications for Trade Unions.

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

8.7.1 The area covered by the recommendations of the YOF panel falls largely within the following wards:

8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

8.8.1 The process for determining projects includes a requirement that successful applications will contribute to addressing priority issues within the Bradford South Committee Action Plan 2011-14.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

9.1 None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That Bradford South Area Committee notes the decisions of the YOF Ward Panels outlined in Appendix 2.

10.2 That Bradford South Area Committee thanks the Bradford South Ward based YOF Panels for assessing applications and making their decisions.

10.2 That the Area Youth Work Team continues to work with the Area Ward based YOF Panels to monitor the development and implementation of the YOF projects.

10.3 That the Senior Youth Work Manager presents reports to future meetings Bradford South Area Committee on the implementation of projects who receive YOF.

10.4 That the Bradford South Area Committee agrees the changes to the YOF application Process as detailed in Appendix 3

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – The details of the number and type of applications including the amounts applied for in Bradford South by Ward.

Appendix 2 – The recommendations of Bradford South Ward Based YOF Panels.

Appendix 3 – The recommendations for changes to YOF application process.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Appendix 1:

YOF Bids in Brief: Ward Based

1.1 Wyke Ward

- One application received; Bradford Youth service

What does the project aim to do?

- **Provide six weeks of Summer Holiday Programme of positive activities, 5 days per week to benefit a minimum of 100 Wyke young people.**

What are the issues the project addresses?

- Providing positive activities for young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and emotional well being
- Promotion of positive life skills and positive behaviours
- Diversion from anti social behaviour and involvement in crime

How will the project improve ‘things to do’ for young people?

A variety of activities will be offered to young people with activities taking place throughout the week.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

100 individual young people will benefit from the project.

How much money is requested from YOF?

£4,156.

1.2 Tong Ward

- One application received; Bradford Youth service

What does the project aim to do?

- **Provide six weeks of Summer Holiday Programme of positive activities, 5 days per week to benefit a minimum of 100 Tong young people.**

What are the issues the project addresses?

- Providing positive activities for young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and emotional well being

- Promotion of positive life skills and positive behaviours
- Diversion from anti social behaviour and involvement in crime

How will the project improve ‘things to do’ for young people?

A variety of activities will be offered to young people with activities taking place throughout the week.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

100 individual young people will benefit from the project.

How much money is requested from YOF?

£4,156.

1.3 Wibsey Ward

- One application received; Bradford Youth service

What does the project aim to do?

- **Provide six weeks of Summer Holiday Programme of positive activities, 5 days per week to benefit a minimum of 100 Wibsey young people.**

What is the issue the project addresses?

- Providing positive activities for young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and emotional well being
- Promotion of positive life skills and positive behaviours
- Diversion from anti social behaviour and involvement in crime

How will the project improve ‘things to do’ for young people?

A variety of activities will be offered to young people with activities taking place throughout the week.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

100 individual young people will benefit from the project.

How much money is requested from YOF?

£4,156.

1.4 Great Horton Ward

- One application received; Bradford Youth service

What does the project aim to do?

- **Provide six weeks 'Summer Holiday Programme' of positive activities, 5 days per week to benefit a minimum of 100 Great Horton young people.**

What is the issue the project addresses?

- Providing positive activities for young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and emotional well being
- Promotion of positive life skills and positive behaviours
- Diversion from anti social behaviour and involvement in crime

How will the project improve 'things to do' for young people?

A variety of activities will be offered to young people with activities taking place throughout the week.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

100 individual young people will benefit from the project.

How much money is requested from YOF?

- £4,156.

1.5 Queensbury Ward

- One application received; Bradford Youth service

What does the project aim to do?

- **Provide six weeks 'Summer Holiday Programme' of positive activities, 5 days per week to benefit a minimum of 100 Queensbury young people.**

What is the issue the project addresses?

- Providing positive activities for young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and emotional well being
- Promotion of positive life skills and positive behaviours
- Diversion from anti social behaviour and involvement in crime

How will the project improve 'things to do' for young people?

A variety of activities will be offered to young people with activities taking place throughout the week.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

100 individual young people will benefit from the project.

How much money is requested from YOF?

- £4,156.

1.6 Royds Ward

Three applications received;

Bradford Youth Service

What does the project aim to do?

- **Provide six weeks 'Summer Holiday Programme' of positive activities, 5 days per week to benefit a minimum of 100 Royds young people.**

What is the issue the project addresses?

- Providing positive activities for young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and emotional well being
- Promotion of positive life skills and positive behaviours
- Diversion from anti social behaviour and involvement in crime

How will the project improve 'things to do' for young people?

A variety of activities will be offered to young people with activities taking place throughout the week.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

100 individual young people will benefit from the project.

How much money is requested from YOF?

- £4,156.

Sandale Community Centre

What does the project aim to do?

- This project aims to increase the length and scope of current provision to keep vulnerable young women off the street and engaged in positive activities during the evening and weekends.

What is the issue the project addresses?

- Reduction of teenage pregnancy
- Increased sexual health
- Dealing with abuse issues and preventing harm

- Drugs and alcohol awareness raising
- Increased self esteem and confidence

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

- 25 individual young women will benefit.

How much money is requested from YOF?

- £1,730.

Eden Project

What does the project aim to do?

- To establish a Mobile Recording Studio that will enable young people to have access to music equipment as well as being able to produce recordings of their own.

How will the project improve 'things to do' for young people?

- Targets young people on the streets and engages them in the creation of and access to music.

How many individual young people will benefit from the project?

- Approximately 50 per week.

How much money is requested from YOF?

- £3,090.

Appendix 2: The recommendations of Bradford South Ward Based YOF Area Panels.

2.1 The recommendations of the Six Ward Based Panels are as follows;

Wyke Ward

The recommendation of the Wyke YOF Panel was to;

- **Agree the application presented to the panel from; Bradford Youth Service**

Tong Ward

The recommendation of the Tong YOF Panel was to;

- **Agree the application presented to the panel from; Bradford Youth Service.**

Wibsey Ward

The recommendation of the Wibsey Panel was to;

- **Agree the application presented to the panel from; Bradford Youth Service. This decision involved all the young people involved and two out of the three members in Wibsey.**

Great Horton Ward

The recommendation of the Great Horton Panel was to;

- **Agree the application presented to the panel from; Bradford Youth Service**

Queensbury Ward

The recommendation of the Queensbury Panel was to;

- **Agree the application presented to the panel from Bradford Youth Service**

Royds Ward

The recommendation of the Queensbury Panel was to;

- **Agree the application presented to the panel from; Bradford Youth Service**
- **Agree the application presented to the panel by; Sandale Community Centre**
- **Reject the application presented to the panel by; Eden Project**

Reason for rejection of Eden Project;

- There was strong feeling by all members of the panel that the project already had a firm base within the Royds / Buttershaw community and that the facilities available at Buttershaw Youth Centre were fully accessible to all. The panel felt that the application was strong but did not meet as need as facilities were already available. The panel members felt that the project was not a priority as access to music faculties was already available within the community. The panel were unanimous in their decision that the application should not receive funding at this time.

Appendix 3 ;

3.1 Recommended ways to simplify the YOF process and make it more young people friendly.

- Create a new Application Form, building on the format used for the Ward Budget allocations.
- On the Application Form – change the reference from ‘Projects’ and instead use ‘Activities’ when detailing the work.
- Have one heading describing the activity rather than several headings asking for similar information.
- That the application process should allow for requests of funding up to a maximum of £2,000 to reflect the decreased availability of the YOF budget, which now stands at £20,000 per annum.
- Allow enough time for young people to be worked with to allow them to make informed and clear decisions regarding their recommendations in relation to which applications should receive funding.
- Ensure that costings, personal details of individual organisations and all organisational background policies, protocols, guidelines, etc are in place.
- Ensure evidence of young people’s involvement in the applications presented by organisations is required on the new form.
- To maintain the process of a representative group of young people working in the six areas alongside identified Ward members to recommend approval or rejection of future applications.