

# Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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## Subject:

YOUTH CHEST – BRADFORD SOUTH

## Summary statement:

This report gives a summary of the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) in Bradford 2015/16. It also gives a proposal of how to set out the allocation of small grants to young people in the following year.

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**Portfolio:**  
**Education, Employment and Skills**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Children's Services**



## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives a summary of the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) in Bradford 2015/16. It also gives a proposal of how to set out the allocation of small grants to young people in the following year.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Bradford South Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) has supported youth led applications for grants of up to £2,000. Since 2012 YOF grants have supported several youth groups in Bradford South to provide a range of youth activities.
- 2.2 The Youth Service priorities are now focused on supporting young people to take community action and seeks to support all youth groups with additional resources to assist them in making each ward in Bradford South a safer and cleaner place to live. The Youth Service would like to continue to fund community action that sees young people helping to: reduce isolation, support vulnerable groups, promote community cohesion and provide help in times of need. As a result we would hope to inspire youth groups to provide community action projects such as Christmas meals for the elderly, helping hands for community tidy ups, litter picks, gritting, leaf clearing and other seasonal needs.
- 2.3 In September 2015 a panel of young people and members of Bradford South Area Committee GAG successfully administered a fund of £10,000 which saw several different youth groups awarded grants for community action initiatives and were approved based upon the selection criteria of being; young people led, realistic and cost effective.

## 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### Young People Can in Bradford South

- 3.1 Over the last year young people in Bradford South have built upon the success of recent community action initiatives and have embraced the concept of the *People Can* campaign. Across each of the six wards young people have joined forces with other groups to help make their community safer, cleaner and greener.

As a result of the YOF, over fifty young people aged 11-19 have participated in running community action projects such as: litter picks, celebration events, Christmas meals, coffee afternoons, painting community buildings and promoting volunteering. The total number of volunteering hours for these initiatives is in excess of 150hrs across the constituency. As a result young people's perceptions of Bradford Council Youth Service have started to change from activity provider to capacity builder. Young people have started to talk more positively and with greater commitment about their own role in helping their community to be a better place. Young people have stated that they have enjoyed the feeling of '*doing something practical*' and '*helping others*'.



- 3.2.1 The impact of this support has started to create a better balance towards having a greater number of people feeling empowered and inspired to play an active role in their community. The Youth Service has also started to encourage the development of a number of newly constituted 'Friends of groups'. The Youth Service would like to support these groups to become active and independently identify and respond to the needs of the local community.

### **PLANNING**

- 3.3 Applications to the new 'Youth Chest' will be reviewed by Bradford South Area Committee Grant Advisory Group (GAG) with the support of young people. The application process will be administered by the Bradford South Area Committee GAG with the process mirroring that of the Bradford South Community Chest Fund. This will enable greater access to the fund with the potential for more groups to apply for funding on a regular basis.
- 3.4 Applications will be limited to community and youth groups in Bradford South with a maximum of £500 per application.

### **TIMESCALE**

- 3.5 Applications will be reviewed by Bradford South Area Committee GAG with the support of young people throughout 2016/17.

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 Bradford South has an allocation of £5,000 to be used to fund initiatives which are led by young people and where young people are involved in identifying, agreeing and allocating funds alongside Area Committee members.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

The focus on community action may make the Youth Chest less appealing to some youth groups with potentially fewer groups willing to apply for grants. Youth groups may have limited capacity to deliver community action outside their service remit.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

The Council has a responsibility to co-ordinate and offer support for the Health and Well Being of Young People set down in Statutory Guidance issued in 2012. The duty is to secure equality of access for all young people to the positive, preventative and early help they need to improve their well-being. This includes youth work and other services and activities that:

- Connect young people with communities so they contribute to society including through volunteering and ensure they have a voice in decisions affecting them



- Offer young people opportunities in safe environments so they develop a sense of belonging, socialise safely with their peers, enjoy social mixing, experience time with older people and develop relationships with adults they trust
- Support the personal and social development of young people to build capabilities needed for learning, work and the transition to adulthood
- Improve young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- Help those 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, build resilience and informs their decisions – particularly to address risky behaviours

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Equal Rights legislation has been considered as part of the detailed proposals for the devolution of services. The Youth Service as part of the Council's commitment to the District has a responsibility to ensure that the service is accessible to all young people and that participation in the service reflects this approach.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Youth Service delivery enables local initiatives to be supported, encouraging groups and individuals to undertake activities that improve the social, economic and environmental well being of their communities.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts was a consideration of the Buildings Review.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

A number of youth projects are either directly or indirectly concerned with improving community safety within local communities. The increased involvement of young people in local decision making has the potential to improve community safety. The Youth Service plays a key role in ensuring that young people's voices are heard.

The strengthened approach to the devolution of the Youth Service as will allow for:

- an increased sense of local democracy for both young people and communities
- young people to be more active in democratic, decision-making processes alongside their political representatives
- the voice and influence of young people to remain central, meaningful and paramount in identifying and addressing needs and issues in their communities
- the requirements of the localism/devolution agenda to be met effectively and efficiently



## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no implications for Trade Unions arising from this report.

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Youth Service projects and activities support young people and communities within all the Wards in the area.

## **7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

Youth Service projects and activities support priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2014 -17.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

- 9.1 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 9.2 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 9.3 That Bradford South Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That Bradford South Area Committee notes the potential, for young people in the area to make a positive contribution to embedding aspects of People Can with the support of the Youth Chest.
- 10.2 That the Bradford South Area Committee promotes and uses the 'Youth Chest' as a resource to fund specific pieces of community action that inspire young people to play an active role in their local community.
- 10.3 The Bradford South Grant Advisory Group (GAG) coops up to six young people to participate in the GAG meetings.

## **11. APPENDICES - None**

