

Information/Discussion Paper

Cheltenham Borough Council

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11 July 2011

Building resilience in providers of community-based youth work

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

1. Background

- 1.1** Members of the committee will be aware that, as part of its 2011-12 budget, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has agreed to focus its resources on young people who are in greatest need and those at risk of not making a successful transition into adulthood. To achieve this, a complete redesign of Young People's services is now taking place which has seen GCC withdraw from direct provision of general services for young people. In Cheltenham, this has affected the following youth centres:
- Whaddon Youth Centre (which is owned and operated by GCC);
 - Oasis Youth Centre (which is owned and operated by GCC);
 - Springbank Resource Centre (which is managed by Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project);
 - Aggs Garden Pavilion (which is owned by Cheltenham Borough Council - CBC);
 - Brizen Youth Centre (which is leased to Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council and managed by the Brizen Management Committee);
 - Naunton Park Pavilion (which is owned by CBC and managed by a management committee);
 - Charlton Kings Youth Centre (which is owned by the trustees of Charlton Kings
- 1.2** GCC has agreed to invest £50k in each of the six Gloucestershire districts in 2011-12 in positive activities for young people, to be delivered by voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.
- 1.3** In its budget agreed on 11th February 2011, the Cheltenham Borough Council agreed to allocate a one-off sum of £50k from its local area agreement performance reward grant to support the sustainable development of additional capacity and expertise within VCS providers of community-based youth work.
- 1.4** This report summarises the processes undertaken and the progress made to allocate both these sums of funding.

2. Gloucestershire County Council funding

- 2.1** GCC has agreed to invest £50k in each of the six Gloucestershire districts in 2011-12 in positive activities for young people, to be delivered by voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.
- 2.2** In addition, to the GCC funding, the following partners have also agreed to contribute funding:
- Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership and the Stronger Communities Partnership have agreed to allocate £5k to enable statutory organisations to deliver positive activities with young people.
 - Cheltenham Health and Wellbeing Partnership has provisionally agreed to allocate £5k to enable groups to promote healthy lifestyles with young people.
- 2.3** This gives a total fund of £60k in Cheltenham.
- 2.4** In mid-May, Gloucestershire County Council published the criteria that districts would comply with for the allocation of the GCC funds. These were discussed at a meeting of Cheltenham Children and Young People's partnership on 20 May and a draft commissioning brief was prepared and discussed at the joint county and 6 district event "It's not all ping-pong and chocolate" held on 13 June.
- 2.5** Consultation on the draft brief has also taken place with the voluntary and community sector that organised their own consultation session, the Cheltenham Children and Young People's partnership on 8 July and the Social and Community sub-group.
- 2.6** The revised draft brief is attached as **appendix A** to this report and comments from the committee are welcome.
- 2.7** Cheltenham Borough Council will lead the allocation process and make the decisions about which projects will be supported. It will seek advice and support from the Cheltenham Children and Young People's Partnership and the Social and Community O+S working Group.
- 2.8** Following this meeting and incorporation of changes, the brief will be sent to the county council for endorsement and then taken to the borough council's cabinet on 26th July for final agreement. Once agreed, the brief will be published and applications will be sought from providers across the borough. The closing date will be Friday 9th September. The intention is that the recommendations will be made to the borough council's cabinet that meets on 27th September with successful applicants being notified shortly afterwards.
- 2.9** In the meantime, we are encouraging organisations to review the provision of youth activities in their particular neighbourhoods to ensure that bids come forward that can evidence need and demand.
- 2.10** In recognition that direct funding will not reach providers until after the summer months, the Community Safety and Stronger Communities Partnerships have agreed to set aside a proportion of their community safety fund to support communities where there might be emerging issues with anti-social behaviour. Applications will be handled speedily and will be assessed by the anti-social behaviour working group that will meet regularly throughout the summer.

3. Cheltenham Borough Council funding

- 3.1** The council adopted a commissioning approach to allocating the £50k funding which will go to support the sustainable development of additional capacity and expertise within VCS providers of community-based youth work. As part of this, the council worked with the Cheltenham Children and Young People's Partnership to define what we wanted to achieve with the funding and then undertake a process to identify a delivery partner(s) who could provide these at best value. As a result a commissioning brief was produced that set out the desired outputs and outcomes.
- 3.2** To progress the commissioning process, CBC advertised the brief widely and gave 8 weeks for interested parties the opportunity for to submit an expression of interest. The documents were also circulated to existing providers of community-based youth work and organisations that provide support for these organisations in order that they could set out their views on the proposed outcomes and the degree in which they met areas of need and gaps in existing support.
- 3.3** Four expressions of interest were received:
- Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA);
 - Gloucestershire Enterprises Ltd;
 - County Community Projects;
 - Third Sector Services.
- 3.4** All four proposals were assessed to have strengths as well as areas where we would like more information. There were also areas where the individual proposals complemented each other and where we would like the organisations to work together to pool expertise and capacity. All four were invited to work up and submit more detailed proposals with a closing date of Friday 24 June.
- 3.5** Three detailed proposals were received from:
- Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA) which includes working with Third Sector Services;
 - Gloucestershire Enterprises Ltd;
 - County Community Projects.
- 3.6** Representatives from the three organisations were invited to take part in a question and answer session with members from the Social and Community sub-group, the chair of the Cheltenham Children and Young People's partnership and the Cllr. Sudbury as cabinet lead on Tuesday 5 July. A verbal update on the assessment process will be made at the meeting.
- 3.7** A recommendation about the most suitable provider will be made to the borough council's cabinet that meets on 26th July with the successful applicant being notified shortly afterwards.
- 3.8** The expectation is that this new relationship will begin to develop over the summer so that the provider is in a position to support VCS projects to apply for funding through the GCC fund.

Report author	Contact officer: Richard Gibson, Policy and Partnerships Manager richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 235354
Appendices	A draft brief "Commissioning of positive activities for young people's in Cheltenham"
Background information	None