

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet – 26th July 2011

Building resilience in providers of community-based youth work

Accountable member	Cabinet Member Housing and Safety
Accountable officer	Richard Gibson, Policy and Partnerships Manager
Accountable scrutiny committee	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Ward(s) affected	all
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>Gloucestershire County Council 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. This report seeks cabinet approval for a commissioning brief that will set out how the funding will be allocated in Cheltenham.</p> <p>Alongside the county council's funding, Cheltenham Borough Council has 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. This report updates cabinet on the progress of the commissioning exercise undertaken to allocate the funding.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet approves the commissioning brief to allocate the county council's funding as set out in appendix 2.</p> <p>Cabinet agrees to allocate borough council's sum of £50k (subject to contract), further details to be reported verbally at the Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Commissioning to enter into any necessary documentation in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.</p>
Financial implications	<p>In its out-turn report agreed at council on 27th June 2011, the 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</p> <p>Contact officer: Andrew Sherbourne Principal Accounting Technician E-mail: andrew.sherbourne@cheltenham.gov.uk Tel no: 01242 264337</p>

Legal implications	<p>A contract will be prepared for the borough council's funding to ensure that the selected provider will deliver the required outcomes.</p> <p>The payment of the grants allocated as part of the county council's funding will not generally require much in the way of formal documentation. However, written agreements will be used to document these grants, based on the Community Giving Grant template, with necessary adaptations for any small grants.</p> <p>Contact officer: Nicolas Wheatley E-mail: nicolas.wheatley@tewkesbury.gov.uk Tel no: 01684 272695</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	None
Key risks	If funding is allocated to an organisation that subsequently goes onto use the funding on a fraudulent basis.
Corporate and community plan Implications	<p>The proposed allocations set out in appendix 1 will enable the council to deliver on the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham has a clean and well maintained environment; • Cheltenham's natural and built environment is enhanced and protected; • Our residents enjoy a strong sense of community.
Environmental and climate change implications	None identified

1. Background

- 1.1 The unprecedented financial crisis has resulted in huge cuts in public expenditure. 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 will see GCC withdraw from direct provision of general services for young people. In Cheltenham, this will affect 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 Youth & Community Centre).
- 1.2 The residual GCC funding is proposed to be targeted on prevention services aimed at young people in greatest need.
- 1.3 GCC have 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.
- 1.4 In addition, to the GCC funding, the following partners have also agreed to contribute funding to support the direct delivery of youth activities:
- 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.
- 1.5 This gives a total fund of £60k in Cheltenham to support the direct delivery of youth activities. The draft commissioning brief for this funding is set out in **appendix 2**.
- 1.6 In terms of the county's £50k 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.
- 1.7 Given that the county's funding will go on one-off direct provision with VCS providers, the borough council is keen to build up their capacity so that they are better equipped to adapt to the financial challenges. It wishes to see a bottom-up community development approach to youth work that builds on existing community resources and expertise within the voluntary sector and bolsters this through the use of volunteers.
- 1.8 In its budget agreed on 11th February 2011 and the out-turn report agreed on 27th June 2011, the 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.

2. Commissioning of positive activities for young people in Cheltenham – GCC funding

- 2.1** The draft commissioning brief for allocating the county council's funding is attached as appendix 2. This sets out the overall outcome that the funding will be used for which will be as follows

Young people are able to access a programme of activities, across the whole borough of Cheltenham that makes a positive difference to them, their health and wellbeing and the communities they live in.

- 2.2** 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.
- 2.3** Once the brief has been agreed, arrangements will be put in place to manage the bidding process. This will go live on Thursday 28th July and applications will have to be received by Monday 5th September which gives nearly 6 weeks for applicants to put their proposals together.
- 2.4** From 5th September onwards, an assessment panel, which will include the Cabinet Member for Housing and Safety, the Chair of the Cheltenham Children and Young People's Partnership, 1 representative from the Social and Community working group, 1 representative from the Safer, Stronger and Health and Wellbeing Partnerships and 1 young persons representative will assess all submitted applications.
- 2.5** The intention is that the panel makes recommendations to the borough council's cabinet that meets on 27th September 2011. Successful applicants will be notified shortly afterwards.

3. Building resilience in providers of community-based youth work – CBC funding

- 3.1** The council adopted a commissioning approach to allocating its £50k. 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** The four organisations were asked to submit a detailed proposal to set out more detail with regard to the following issues:
- How will they spend the money
 - How will this meet the defined outcomes
 - How will VCS providers access the service
 - How will the proposal support equal access across the borough.

- 3.5** We were also keen that the organisations consider how they can best work together to pool expertise and capacity.
- 3.6** Three detailed proposals were subsequently received from:
- Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA) incorporating Third Sector Services
 - Gloucestershire Enterprises Ltd
 - County Community Projects.
- 3.7** On 5th July, the three organisations were asked to attend an question and answer session with elected members from the Social and Community O+S Committee sub-group and the Chair of the Cheltenham Children and Young People's Partnership. The outcomes from this session will be reported verbally to the cabinet meeting.

4. Consultation and feedback

- 4.1** The Cheltenham Children and Young People's partnership has been heavily involved in both the exercise to alloacte the council's funding and in defining the commissioning brief for the county council's funding. In addition, a sub-group from Social and Community O+S Committee has met a couple of times to review progress and a VCS organised group has reviewed and commented on the draft commissioning brief for the county funding.

5. Performance management –monitoring and review

- 5.1** For the borough council's funding, a contract will be prepared to ensure that the selected provider will deliver the required outcomes, with monitoring and review provisions as appropriate
- 5.2** For the county council's funding, once approved, the council will enter into written agreements with the succesful applicants which are based on the community giving grant template. This specifies that the grant recipient will submit a project monitoring report, summarising the project achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt to the grant administrator on completion of the project.

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Appendices	1. Risk assessment 2. GCC commissioning brief.
Background information	

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	I	L	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	If the withdrawal of universal youth services in Cheltenham is not mitigated with services to support vulnerable young people and support for providers of youth services, we may see an increase in youth-related crime.	Policy and Partnerships Manager	Jan 2011	3	3	9	reduce	Effective commissioning of the county council's £50k funding and the borough council's £50k funding, plus gaining additional funding from other partners'	31-Mar-12	Policy and Partnerships Manager	Divisional risk register