

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 15 June 2021
Commissioning Youth Work 2021

Accountable member	Cllr Flo Clucas, Cabinet Member Safety & Communities
Accountable officer	Darren Knight, Executive Director – People & Change
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>A fund of £55,000 has been established through collaboration between Cheltenham Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Homes, NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and the parish councils of Charlton Kings and Up Hatherley. The partners involved recognised the negative impact on the lives of young people and on the wider community of the limited availability of universal youth provision, so have joined forces to commission additional universal youth work in Cheltenham. This forms part of our commitment to collective investment through No Child Left Behind, to help all young people to thrive.</p> <p>Applications were invited for a single provider, or partnership of providers to offer a programme of primarily detached youth work across the borough, for 12 months from July 2021. Provision will be delivered across the borough, where it is needed, but to meet the requirements of some of the funding partners, the work must include delivery and benefit to young people in Charlton Kings, Up Hatherley, Oakley, The Moors and the town centre. The provision in these named areas will be open to all young people.</p>
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the decision to grant £55,000 from the Commissioning Youth Work Fund to Inspire to Aspire C.I.C to carry out a programme of detached youth work across the borough for 12 months from July 2021 • Delegates authority to the Executive Director of People and Change to agree the terms of and sign the grant agreement, in consultation with the Cabinet Member Safety and Communities. • Recommends to Council that the grant of £20,000 to Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival in 2020, which could not go ahead, is approved to be used as the council's contribution to the Commissioning Youth Work Fund as part of the financial out turn report.

Financial implications	<p>£35,000 of the total £55,000 grant is made up of contributions from partners (Cheltenham Borough Homes, NHS Gloucestershire CCG, Charlton Kings Parish Council and Up Hatherley Parish Council). For Cheltenham Borough Council's contribution, £20,000 has been identified through under spend from the Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival 2020, which could not take place and it is recommended that Cabinet recommends to Council that this sum be approved for this purpose through the financial out turn report.</p> <p>Contact officer: Gemma Bell, gemma.bell@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264124</p>
Legal implications	<p>The Council has power under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 to provide this grant. A template grant agreement has been prepared by One Legal and will need to be completed with Inspire to Aspire CIC. One Legal can assist with its completion.</p> <p>Due to the local nature of this grant, it is highly unlikely that this will be considered to be a subsidy pursuant to the subsidy control regime. This regime replaced state aid when the transition period for the UK leaving the EU expired at 11pm on 31.12.2020</p> <p>Contact officer: One Legal, legalservices@onelegal.gov.uk, 01684 272696</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>There no HR implications to be considered</p> <p>Contact officer: Clare Jones, Clare.Jones@publicagroup.uk 01242 264364</p>
Key risks	See risk assessment attached as appendix 1
Corporate and community plan Implications	Investing to build resilient communities
Environmental and climate change implications	None
Property/Asset Implications	<p>There are no property/asset implications to be considered.</p> <p>Contact officer: Dominic Stead, Domonic.Stead@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264151</p>

1. Background

1.1 In January 2021, the C5 Parish Councils Group discussed the negative impact on young people and communities of the limited provision of universal youth work. Two of the parish councils have since committed funds of £5000 each towards the establishment of a Commissioning Youth Work Fund. This has been matched by £5000 from Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH), £20,000 from the NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and £20,000 from Cheltenham Borough Council, subject to approval. Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council was involved in the initial planning meetings but was not finally in a position to contribute to the fund this year. It will, however, along with other Cheltenham parish councils, monitor progress and review its position for 2022/23.

1.2 The funding contributions are as follows:

Organisation	Amount
Cheltenham Borough Council	£20,000
NHS Gloucestershire CCG funding – part of £100k grant	£20,000
Cheltenham Borough Homes	£5000
Up Hatherley Parish Council	£5000
Charlton Kings Parish Council	£5000
Total	£55,000

1.3 The fund was open for applications from 1 April until 11 May 2021. The application guidelines outlined the outcome for the fund which was that young people in Cheltenham should have access to a range of places to go and things to do, delivered through sustained, high quality and effective youth work practice. The recommended method of delivery is primarily detached youth work, meaning it can happen on the street where young people are at both geographically and developmentally, although buildings can also be used.

1.4 This additional youth work should complement existing provision and be:

- Universal, in that it is open to all young people as opposed to being targeted intervention
- Ideally delivered by one organisation, or a partnership of organisations;
- High quality and delivered by skilled, qualified youth workers (with support from trained volunteers), who are employed by an organisation experienced in delivering youth work.
- Delivered across the borough, where it is needed (including assurance of delivery and benefit to young people in the areas listed below under paragraph 1.5);
- Diversionary, offering young people a different experience, led by their needs and wants. Some of the provision should include opportunities for creative or cultural expression;
- Considering ways to reduce health inequalities and support the mental wellbeing of the young people engaged with;
- Reflective of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) community agreement, in that the provision should be based on our key themes of being strengths-based, and based on kindness and

empathy.

1.5 The target cohort is young people aged 11-18 who are at risk of engaging in risky behaviour, including anti-social behaviour and getting drawn into other criminal activity. Provision should be available borough wide, but there must be demonstrable direct benefit to young people in Charlton Kings parish council area, Up Hatherley Parish Council area, Oakley, the Moors and the town centre to meet the requirements of the funding from the parish councils and CBH. Other hotspot areas for delivery will be identified through liaison with partners including the Police, schools, social prescribing link workers, parish councils and Cheltenham Borough Homes.

1.6 6 applications were received, and the panel (made of up Councillor Flo Clucas, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Caroline Walker from CBH, representatives of Up Hatherley and Charlton Kings Parish Councils and Richard Gibson and Helen Down from the Strategy and Engagement team) met with 4 of the providers. After scoring each applicant against the assessment criteria, the panel has recommended that the funding should be granted to Inspire to Aspire CIC, which demonstrated expertise and passion for the project, along with a good implementation plan which can be underway in July 2021.

2. Reasons for recommendations

2.1 This fund has resulted from a collaboration between 2 of Cheltenham's parish councils, CBC, CBH and NHS Gloucestershire CCG. Representatives have worked together to agree the criteria for the fund and to collectively recommend a provider to deliver the work.

2.2 The £20,000 contribution from Cheltenham Borough Council towards the total fund of £55,000 comes from the grant allocated to the Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival in 2020, which could not go ahead due to Covid 19. It will be used instead to provide much needed universal, detached youth work to young people across the borough as we come out of lockdown restrictions. The criteria for the fund included the need to include opportunities for creative or cultural expression, whether that is in partnership with another local organisation or can be delivered by the provider directly.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1 6 applications were considered, and 4 applicants were interviewed by the panel. However, Inspire to Aspire scored the highest in the assessment against the criteria set out in the application guidelines.

4. How this initiative contributes to the corporate plan

4.1 This initiative meets the ambition of investing to build resilient communities, as it is an investment in young people, engaging with them where they are and working with them to signpost, support and engage them in positive activities.

5. Consultation and feedback

5.1 The fund was advertised through a media release, social media and emails to local youth work providers through the Cheltenham Youth Work Network.

6. Performance management – monitoring and review

6.1 The council will enter into a grant agreement with the provider, setting out expectations. Monitoring report periods during the 12 month term of the agreement will be agreed with the provider and regular meetings will be held between representatives of the funding partners and the provider to monitor and review progress. The grant will be made in instalments, the first up front and the rest upon receipt of satisfactory monitoring reports.

6.2 It is hoped that the programme can continue beyond the initial 12 months, subject to satisfactory progress and sourcing of future funding. If this is the case, a report will come before Cabinet, outlining the successes of the scheme and asking Cabinet Members to approve its continuation.

Report author	Contact officer: Helen Down, helen.down@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264376
Appendices	1. Risk Assessment
Background information	1. Commissioning Youth Work Fund application guidelines: https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/youth-work-grant

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	Financial risk - that the provider cannot carry out the programme of detached youth work as agreed.	Helen Down	15.06.21	2	2	4		Monthly meetings with the provider and funding released in instalments – the first in advance, the rest upon receipt of progress and monitoring reports submitted by provider.	June 2022	Helen Down	
	Safeguarding risk to young people	Helen Down	15.06.21	2	2	4		Ensuring the provider has effective policies and procedures in place	June 2022	Helen Down	
	Capacity of the provider to meet expectations and for the provider to deliver the programme	Helen Down	15.06.21	2	3	6		Close working with the provider will be ensured through a management group which will meet monthly.	June 2022	Helen Down	
	Future sustainability of the project	Helen Down	15.06.21	2	2	4		Working with the provider to fund raise	June 2022	Helen Down	
<p>Explanatory notes</p> <p>Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)</p> <p>Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6 (1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)</p> <p>Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close</p>											