

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet - Tuesday 23rd July

Detached Youth Work Grant

Accountable member:

Councillor Victoria Atherstone, Cabinet Member Safety and Communities

Accountable officer:

Tracy Brown, Safeguarding and Partnerships Manager

Ward(s) affected:

All

Key Decision: Yes

Executive summary:

Recognising the importance of youth work to improving the lives of local young people, in recent years, the Council has commissioned a youth work provider who delivered a two-year programme of detached youth work up to June 2023.

Following a review, it was agreed that the responsibility for commissioning future youth work would sit with No Child Left Behind, to draw in additional expertise from partners.

This report sets out a summary of an open bidding process that has recently concluded and a recommendation to award a grant to The Rock to carry out detached youth work from August 2024 – March 2025.

Recommendations: That Cabinet:

- 1. agrees to award The Rock a grant of £41,000 to enable the delivery of a programme of detached youth work in the period August 2024 to March 2025**
 - 2. enters into a grant agreement with The Rock that will set out the terms and conditions for the delivery of the detached youth work., including monitoring against agreed outcomes.**
 - 3. monitors the delivery of the detached youth work project through the No Child Left Behind strategic board and to bring back a report for consideration by Cabinet on completion of the funding period.**
-

1. Implications

1.1 Financial, Property and Asset implications

As per para 2.3, via No Child Left Behind has assembled a grant pot totalling £41,000. This is made up of:

- £24,000 from the Home Office Safer Streets funding*
- £10,000 from NHS Gloucestershire – Strengthening Local Communities Fund*
- £7,000 from Housing Revenue Account (HRA)*

The £24k from Safer Streets fund is subject to an agreement between the council and the Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner with a payment of £6k being paid on a quarterly basis.

The £10,000 from NHS Gloucestershire sits as part of a carry forward on GBD001 R9102 CPN002.

The £7,000 transferred from HRA

Signed off by: Gemma Bell gemma.bell@cheltenham.gov.uk

1.2 Legal implications

The Council has power under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 to provide this grant. The Council should enter into a grant agreement with The Rock, One Legal can assist with the provision and completion of the same.

All financial assistance given by the Council to non-individuals has to comply with the provisions of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (the Act). This replaced state aid when the UK left the EU. In order for financial assistance to be a subsidy, it has to meet 4 criteria; one of which is that an economic advantage is conferred on one or more 'enterprises'. One Legal can assist the Council in its Subsidy Control assessment for this grant.

Signed off by: One Legal, legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

1.3 Environmental and climate change implications

There are no environmental implications to consider for this report. Please see attached impact assessment tool for detail.

Signed off by: [Maizy McCann, Climate Emergency Officer, maizy.mccann@cheltenham.gov.uk]

1.4 Corporate Plan Priorities

This report contributes to the following Corporate Plan Priority:

- Ensuring residents, communities and businesses benefit from Cheltenham's future growth and prosperity.

1.5 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

An equality impact assessment form has been completed for this project. This shows that the proposed detached youth work project has mainly positive benefits against the protected characteristics.

1.6 Performance management – monitoring and review

Following the award of the grant, The Rock will be required to present reports at least twice during the funding period to the No Child Left Behind Strategic Board, this is chaired by Councillor Atherstone. These reports will also be used to report to other funding partners as required. An end of project report will be available publicly.

2 Background

2.1 The Cheltenham Detached Youth Work programme started in July 2021 and finished on 30 June 2023. The programme was delivered by Inspire to Aspire following a grant process. Plans for a continuation of the programme for another year were paused due to a reduction in funding available to deliver the programme. Following a review it was decided that future development of detached youth work in Cheltenham should be led by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Strategic Board as this would allow the NCLB partners to add value and support the programme.

2.2 The NCLB Board agreed that the data around young people's mental health and wellbeing, concerns raised by schools around persistent absence and the issue of criminal exploitation meant it was vital that detached youth work should continue to be delivered. It therefore worked with partners to develop revised guidelines for detached youth work to be delivered in the year 2024-2025

2.3 The NCLB Partnership were able to develop a grant pot of £47,000 to deliver detached youth work in the Borough between February 2024 and March 2025. This was made up of

contributions from:

- £30,000 from the Home Office Safer Streets funding
- £10,000 from NHS Gloucestershire – Strengthening Local Communities Fund
- £7,000 from HRA

2.4 Due to the analysis of need and the requirements of the funding received, revised criteria for the programme were written. The aim of the programme is to enable young people in Cheltenham to have access to high quality and effective youth work practice that is inclusive and easily accessed in a time and place that meets their needs. This year's detached youth work programme will focus on support for 11–18-year-olds who are at risk of engaging in risky behaviour, including anti-social behaviour, and/or getting drawn into other criminal activity. It will also focus on young people who live in St Pauls and the Moors area of St Peters or who gather in the town centre.

2.5 The grant to deliver the programme was initially opened to application in September 2023 however no bids that met the criteria were received. This meant that unfortunately £6,000 less funding was available for the delivery of the programme as it had to be spent by March 2024. This funding however was able to be used to engage with young people about their views of safety in the town, the availability of free time activities in Cheltenham and also build engagement around youth voice in the Town which will inform not just this programme but also wider work.

2.6 Following discussions with partners the grant to deliver the programme was reopened to applications on 22nd May and five weeks were given for responses.

2.7 The opportunity to make a bid was shared widely through partners, press coverage, and social media.

2.8 One bid was received and this was assessed by a panel made up of representatives from Cheltenham Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Homes and GRCC 24th June.

2.9 The panel assessed the bid submitted by The Rock and unanimously agreed they should be awarded the grant based upon the outcomes presented.

3 Reasons for recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet agree the decision of the panel to award the grant to The Rock because their bid offered good understanding of the needs of local young people and demonstrated The Rock's expertise in working with the specified cohort. The bid set out clearly their ambitions for the programme and how they would work with partners to meet the needs of the young people and ensure their delivery was young people centred. The panel noted that a number of partners had submitted endorsements within the bid to support the application.

4 Alternative options considered

4.1 The following options were considered:

1. Commission centre-based youth work activities. This was rejected as there is clear evidence that the most vulnerable young people do not access these kinds of provisions. These kinds of programmes would also be less effective in tackling anti-social behaviour and criminal exploitation than detached youth work.
2. Stop delivery of the programme altogether. This was rejected as anecdotally from partners and through emerging data we can see that young people are struggling post Covid and due to the cost-of-living crisis and need additional support in the community.

5 Consultation and feedback

5.1 Consultation to develop the detached youth work programme and grant criteria have taken place with NCLB partners. Notably with Gloucestershire County Council, Pittville School, All Saints Academy and Gloucestershire Police as well local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations. Several partnership groups have also been consulted including the Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour group, NCLB Delivery Group and The Cheltenham Communities Partnership.

6 Key risks

- 6.1 There is a risk that once awarded the grant, the provider may not be able to deliver the detached youth work outlined in their bid. This has been mitigated through the application and assessment process and the panel is satisfied that The Rock have the capacity and expertise to deliver the project. There will also be a grant agreement in place developed with One Legal and funding released in two parts. There will be regular monitoring of the project.
- 6.2 There is also a risk that anti-social behaviour or criminal activity within the areas of delivery may cause delivery to be impacted. The Rock will be part of the Council's wider NCLB and Clear Hold Build work and will therefore be supported by partners to mitigate this. They will also be authorised to revise plans so that delivery is safe if necessary.

Report author:

Tracy Brown, Safeguarding and Partnerships Manager

Appendices:

- i. Risk Assessment
- ii. Equality Impact Assessment – Screening –(to be included in all Cabinet and Council reports)
- iii. [Climate Change Impact Assessment](#)

Background information:

N/A

Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Risk ref	Risk description	Risk owner	Impact score (1-5)	Likelihood score (1-5)	Initial raw risk score (1 - 25)	Risk response	Controls / Mitigating actions	Control / Action owner	Deadline for controls/ actions
	If the grant recipient is unable to deliver the detached youth work as set out in their bid it will lead to young people not being able to access detached youth work	Tracy Brown	3	2	6	Accept	<p>Application process to ensure capacity</p> <p>A grant agreement will be put in place outlining responsibilities, including monitoring requirements</p> <p>Funding will be released in two parts</p>	<p>Tracy Brown</p> <p>Tracy Brown</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>By 1st August</p> <p>By 1st August</p>
	If the grant recipient does not have the appropriate expertise the detached youth work quality may affect the quality of safety of the delivery	Tracy Brown	3	2	6		<p>Application process required for details of safeguarding policy and previous experience</p> <p>A grant agreement will be put in place outlining responsibilities and the delivery of these will be closely monitored.</p>	<p>Tracy Brown</p> <p>Tracy Brown</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>By 1st August</p>

Risk ref	Risk description	Risk owner	Impact score (1-5)	Likelihood score (1-5)	Initial raw risk score (1 - 25)	Risk response	Controls / Mitigating actions	Control / Action owner	Deadline for controls/ actions
							Funding will be released in two parts	Tracy Brown	By 1 st August
	If anti social behaviour or criminal activity is taking place in the local community it may make the delivery of the provision unsafe for either young people or staff of the grant recipient	Tracy Brown	4	3	12	Reduce	<p>The grant agreement will be clear that the health and safety of staff and participants will be the responsibility of the grant recipient and it will be expected that regular check in meetings with recipient and local police</p> <p>Link provision to the Clear Hold Build project</p>	Tracy Brown	By 1 st August

