

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Youth Service Update and Use of Housing Revenue Account Funding</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15 November 2017</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Caroline Parker</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 293587</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on changes to youth services including the use of the Housing Revenue Account's (HRA) annual £250,000 contribution to the budget. The report explains how the money is being spent, projected outcomes for Council tenants and their families and how performance will be monitored. This report was first considered by the Children, Young People and Skills Committee on 13 November.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes this report.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes that a progress report will be prepared for November 2018.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Council Budget for 2017/18 included a proposal for savings to the Youth Service budget because of reductions in the revenue support grant from central Government. The Youth budget funded both in house youth services and services commissioned from external organisations. At the budget Council meeting for 2017/18 it was agreed that the Housing Revenue Account would contribute £250,000 to the Youth Services budget to help maintain services for young people. In addition £100,000 temporary funding was agreed for 2017/18 to allow time for in-house services to be restructured and the re-commissioning of external services.

Youth Participation Team

- 3.2 The Council run youth service has been restructured to achieve budget savings. The Council's Youth Participation Team are continuing to deliver citywide youth participation and advocacy which will support engagement with young people but will also be targeted at more vulnerable groups of young people. In the future detached youth work will be delivered by the Youth Grants Programme.

- 3.3 The Youth Participation Team are developing a model of Youth Voice for young people across the city which enables them to present their views to key decision makers to influence change on a local and national level. This will be made up of a partnership of young people from across the city including the Youth Council, voluntary sector youth providers, and Children in Care Council. The first meeting of young people was held in the October half-term and considered how young people could engage with a Youth Cross Party Working Group. An initial meeting of the Group was held in early September. The aim of the group is to explore longer term arrangements for youth provision across the city and develop a governance model that incorporates the voice of young people. Young people will also be involved in developing a Youth portal to be delivered in partnership with the voluntary sector providers.
- 3.4 The Team also supports the Young Ambassadors programme which recruits and trains young people who are looked after, care leavers and those supported by Social Work, to be used to support recruitment of Families, Children and Learning staff including most recently the new Assistant Director for Social Work. The team are also looking at options to revive the Ask, Report, Change programme (ARC). ARC recruits and trains young people who have experience of living in residential care to visit and peer assess residential placements including private fostering agencies that we commission as a LA. Both young assessors and Young Ambassadors are accredited for their training and involvement in the programmes. The team also aims to tie these groups into additional accreditation opportunities with Youth Arts and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- 3.5 A key role of the Participation Team is to deliver the Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) which supports children and young people aged 8 to 21 who are cared for by the authority and care leavers ensuring their rights are respected. Between July to September 88 children and young people were supported. The Independent Visitors service has moved into the team to increase the independence of this service. The Independent Visiting Service recruit, train and support volunteers who provide a valuable befriending opportunity to children and young people who are in the care of the local authority and may have limited positive adult role models.
- 3.6 The Team also supports young people facing multiple barriers to education to gain formal accreditation outside school through the Youth Arts and Duke of Edinburgh awards. This work is being funded by the Sussex Learning Network as part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme for one year until September 2018. There is potential for the funding to be extended depending on performance and future funding with more information is expected next spring.

#### Youth Grants Programme

- 3.7 The agreements for services commissioned from the voluntary sector Youth Collective were extended until the end of September 2017 to allow time for recommissioning. The new Youth Grants Programme runs from 1st October 2017 to 31st March 2020 with an annual budget of £400,000.

- 3.8 In order to align the programme more closely to HRA objectives, the service specifications were revised to reflect the geographical location and density of council properties within the city to maximise opportunities and improve outcomes for council tenanted households. The focus of the Youth Service Grant programme is to fund projects that support outcomes identified in the Brighton & Hove Youth Work Review 2015, equality outcomes and housing priorities for safe and inclusive neighbourhoods within our estates; using good practice and innovation to add value and maximise resources.
- 3.9 The expected outcomes for the Youth Grants programme include:
- Increase in young people from the targeted areas participating in community activities and feeling they have a voice/stake in their community
  - Young people from the targeted areas reporting an increase in their self-esteem and confidence
  - Increase in school attendance & decrease in school exclusions
  - Increase in young people in education, employment or training.
  - Council house tenants reporting that they are being listened to and anti-social behaviour is being addressed
  - Decrease in reports of young people's antisocial behaviour in the targeted areas.
- 3.10 The three key priorities for council tenants were identified as:
- Improving the social inclusion of young people in communities with council house tenancies
  - The reduction in anti-social behaviour in communities with council house tenancies
  - Supporting young people in communities with council house tenancies to improve their readiness for employment
- 3.11 The Youth Grants Programme was offered in four lots based on service areas and three equalities lots. A map of the service areas and the wards they cover is at appendix one. Providers were asked to bid as part of a partnership arrangement for the four area based lots of:
- Hangleton, Portslade and West Hove
  - Whitehawk and the Deans
  - Moulsecoomb and Patcham
  - Central Hove and Brighton.
- Providers were asked to bid as either a sole provider or as part of a partnership arrangement for the three equalities lots of:
- Supporting young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Unsure of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBTU)
  - Supporting young people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities
  - Supporting young people with disabilities
- 3.12 Bids were considered by a panel including members from Families, Children and Learning, Housing and the Communities, Equality and Third Sector Team. Appendix two includes details of the successful providers for each area and the interventions they will deliver. The providers are required to use a central ICT

(Aspire) system to manage their casework and report on outcomes. The Families, Children & Learning directorate's performance team are working with housing to establish clear methods of recording and reporting on housing tenure within current systems (i.e. Aspire and CareFirst). Funding is subject to an annual review, achievement of defined targets and annual council budget setting in February of each year.

- 3.13 A range of other council services also support young people and are funded separately including the Youth Employability Service, Adolescent Social Work Pod (for high risk young people), Extended Adolescent Service (offering out of hours support for young people and their families), Youth Offending Service, RU-OK (the substance misuse service for young people) and Youth Family Coaches in the Integrated Team for Families. It has been agreed that these services will also monitor and report on the work they do to improve outcomes for young people and their families living in council housing.
- 3.14 Quality assurance and performance will be regularly monitored against key performance indicators and will incorporate a range of client/resident feedback mechanisms. Regular service review meetings with providers will be undertaken in conjunction with housing colleagues to ensure that council tenants benefit from the funding. These discussions will include exploring ways to increase young people's participation in the tenant movement and encouraging young people living in council estates to take up opportunities for work and learning in housing services.
- 3.15 An annual progress report will be timetabled for the Children, Young People and Skills Committee and the Housing and New Homes Committee prior to budget setting each year. As the Youth Grants Programme will be implemented from 1st October 2017 the first progress report will come to Committee in November 2018.

#### Youth Bus

- 3.16 The Youth Bus is being retained for the use of both council and commissioned services to support local delivery and will be reviewed in a year's time. Both are keen to use the bus and detailed work is being done on the arrangements for bookings and insurance.

### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The alternative option considered as part of the budget process was a greater reduction in funding for youth services which would have led to less commissioned services.
- 4.2 The funding arrangements were changed to a grant process rather than a contract following feedback from the market and a change in commissioning requirements.

### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 A Youth Work Review was completed in 2015 which included representatives from the voluntary sector and informed the service specification for the Youth

Grants Programme. A formal consultation targeted at young people was completed as part of the budget process for 2017/18 with users of the service aged under 24 generating over 1,000 responses to an on-line portal. There was also face to face involvement facilitated by youth groups including the in-house youth service with more vulnerable young people. The consultation responses strongly supported continued funding for youth services.

- 5.2 The Council's in-house Participation Team will support and expand the Youth Council and Children in Care Council to ensure young people are consulted on the future delivery and development of services. A Cross Party Group on Youth Service has also been established.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The funding from the Housing Revenue Account will ensure that the Council can continue to offer a citywide range of youth services which will benefit council tenants.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The HRA contribution of £250,000 forms part of the total Youth Service budget of £759,000 for 2017-18; of which £359,000 funds the council's in house Participation Team, with the remaining £400,000 funding the externally delivered Youth Services Grant programme. One off funding of £100,000 from the general fund was allocated for 2017/18 to fund the extension of the Youth Collective projects until the end of September 2017 and to allow time for restructure of council run services.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Name Steve Williams/Monica Brooks Date: 28/09/2017*

### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 507b of the Education Act 1996 places a specific duty on the Council to secure 'as far as reasonably practicable' sufficient educational and recreational activities for the improvement of young people's well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Young people are defined as those aged 13-19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24.
- 7.3 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being issued in 2012 clarifies that it is not prescribed which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. Local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being and personal and social development. They should strive to secure the best possible local offer within available resources. Under the guidance it is for local authorities to determine the mix of open access, targeted, preventative and specialist provision needed to meet local needs and how to integrate all services around young people and decide what facilities are

needed and how to make these available and accessible, wherever possible maximising the utilisation and potential of all local partners' assets.

*Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson*      *Date: 05/10/17*

The HRA is primarily a landlord account, containing income and expenditure arising from the council's housing functions. Department of Environment Circular 8/95 gives advice in relation to the operation of that account. It provides that where amenities benefit the wider community, costs should be shared between the HRA and General Fund. Items specifically mentioned include amenities such as play and other recreational areas, grassed areas and gardens, community centres and play schemes. In each case it is for the local authority to form its own judgment on whether provision should be charged to the HRA or General Fund. Earlier this year, budget council determined that the HRA should contribute £250,000 to Youth Services.

*Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley*      *Date 01/11/17*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 A budget Equalities Impact Assessment was completed as part of the budget process for 2017/18. A full EIA will be completed once the new services are underway and monitoring information is available.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 The Youth Grants Programme has been designed to reflect the geographical location and density of council properties within the city to reduce the need for travel and maximise the sense of community for council tenanted households.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 One of the intended outcomes of the Youth Grants programme is to decrease young people's antisocial behaviour in the targeted areas. Both the Council and commissioned services aim to increase the engagement of young people and help ensure young people feel they have a voice in their community.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

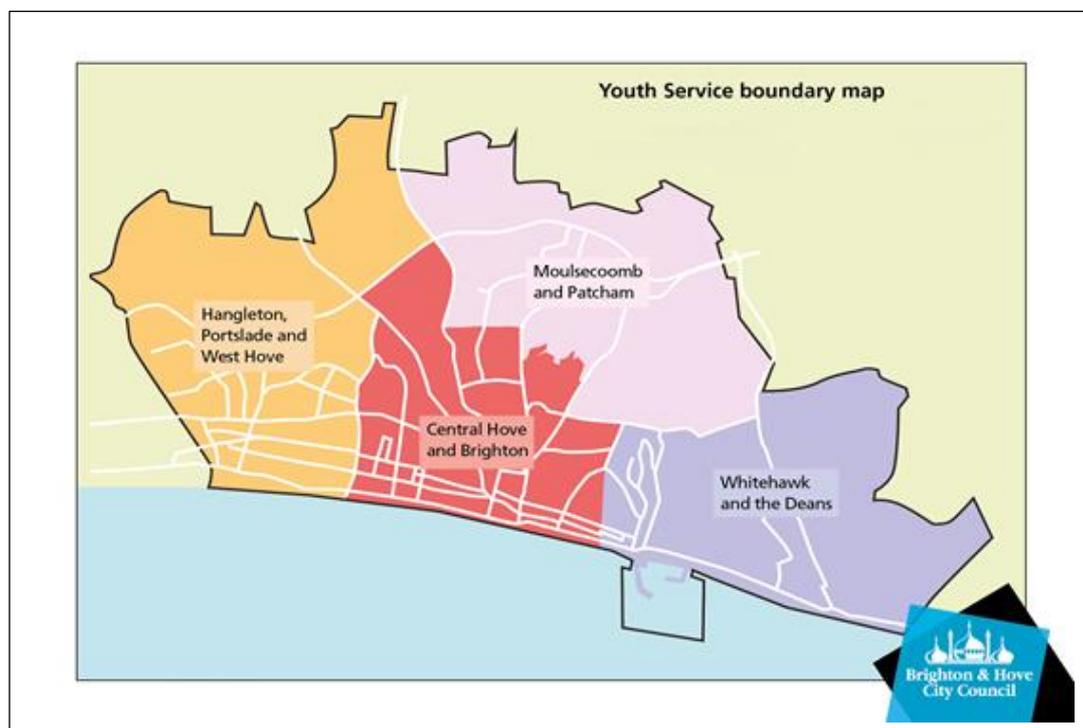
**Appendices:**

1. Youth Grants Programme Service Areas
2. Youth Grants Programme 2017 – 2020

**Documents in Members' Rooms:** None

**Background Documents:** None

## Youth Service Areas



The local wards comprising each of the four geographical areas are:

<p><b>Hangleton, Portslade &amp; West Hove:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Hangleton and Knoll</li> <li>◦ Hove Park</li> <li>◦ North Portslade</li> <li>◦ South Portslade</li> <li>◦ Westbourne</li> <li>◦ Wish</li> </ul>	<p><b>Moulsecoomb &amp; Patcham:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Hollingdean and Stanmer</li> <li>◦ Moulsecoomb and Bevendean</li> <li>◦ Patcham</li> </ul>
<p><b>Central Hove and Brighton:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Brunswick and Adelaide</li> <li>◦ Central Hove</li> <li>◦ Goldsmid</li> <li>◦ Hanover and Elm Grove</li> <li>◦ Preston Park</li> <li>◦ Queen's Park</li> <li>◦ Regency</li> <li>◦ St. Peter's and North Laine</li> <li>◦ Withdean</li> </ul>	<p><b>Whitehawk and the Deans:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ East Brighton</li> <li>◦ Rottingdean Coastal</li> <li>◦ Woodingdean</li> </ul>

## Youth Grants Programme 2017 – 2020

Service Area	Providers	Summary of activities, projects and support	Budget 2017/18 (1/2 year)	Budget 2018/19 and 2019/2020
Hangleton, Portslade and West Hove	<b>The Hangleton &amp; Knoll Project (lead)</b> YMCA (partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Mediation</li> <li>• Group work activities/programmes / project work</li> <li>• Detached youth work</li> <li>• Open access sessions</li> <li>• Safe spaces</li> <li>• Healthy relationships and lifestyle work</li> <li>• Peer support</li> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Young Leaders programme</li> <li>• Pathways to education/ accreditation</li> <li>• Volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• Targeted individual work</li> <li>• Mediation and Housing advice</li> <li>• Counselling</li> <li>• Activity based therapies</li> </ul>	£39,500	£79,000
Whitehawk and The Deans	<b>The Trust for Developing Communities (lead)</b> The Deans Youth Project Impact Initiatives (partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-access youth clubs</li> <li>• Detached youth work</li> <li>• New and challenging activities</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• User led activities</li> <li>• Work with young people with disabilities</li> <li>• Targeted work</li> <li>• Project work</li> <li>• Drop-ins</li> </ul>	£30,500	£61,000

Service Area	Providers	Summary of activities, projects and support	Budget 2017/18 (1/2 year)	Budget 2018/19 and 2019/2020
Moulsecoomb & Patcham	<b>The Trust for Developing Communities (lead)</b> Impact Initiatives, Albion in the Community Extratime, Friends, Families and Travellers, Bevendean Activities Group (partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detached youth work</li> <li>• Open-access youth clubs</li> <li>• New and challenging activities</li> <li>• Special needs clubs</li> <li>• High participation activities</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• BME work</li> <li>• Individual targeted work</li> </ul>	£44,000	£88,000
Central Hove and Brighton	<b>Brighton Youth Centre (lead)</b> Young Peoples Centre, Turner Project, Youth Advice Centre (partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detached youth work</li> <li>• Open-access youth clubs</li> <li>• Participation and project-based work</li> <li>• Special needs support</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Targeted work</li> <li>• Girls group</li> <li>• Young Carers sessions</li> <li>• Weekday drop-in advice service</li> <li>• Activity and youth work session (PRU students)</li> <li>• Adopted Young People's Group</li> <li>• Specialist health work</li> <li>• Casework, inc brief interventions and group work around risk</li> <li>• Arts Workshops and events (gigs)</li> <li>• B.Fest</li> </ul>	£49,500	£99,000

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Providers</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Budget 2017/18 (1/2 year)</b>	<b>Budget 2018/19 and 2019/2020</b>
Equalities: LGBTU	<b>Allsorts Youth Project Ltd</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group work</li> <li>• Individual support</li> <li>• Staff liaison</li> <li>• Joint projects</li> <li>• Training</li> </ul>	£9,500	£19,000
Equalities: BME	<b>Black and Minority Ethnic Young People's Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly drop-in</li> <li>• BME youth engagement</li> <li>• BME Youth Champions</li> <li>• Leadership programme</li> <li>• Holidays and summer activities</li> <li>• Black History Month</li> <li>• Sports development project</li> <li>• BME Communities Collaboration Project</li> <li>• Schools work</li> </ul>	£9,500	£19,000
Equalities: Disabilities	<b>Extratime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts, sports and cultural activities</li> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Drop-in</li> </ul>	£9,500	£19,000
Aspire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to the recording system for voluntary sector projects</li> </ul>	£8,000	£16,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£400,000</b>