

Subject:	Additional Investment in Services for Young People		
Date of Meeting:	18 June 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Caroline Parker	Tel: 01273 293587
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

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 the additional investment in services for young people agreed in the 2018/19 budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the budget Council meeting for 2018/19 it was agreed that £460,000 should be invested in additional services for young people.

Short breaks and day support for young people with learning disabilities (£90,000)

- 3.2 The aim of the funding is to provide additional out-of-school respite provision for disabled children and young people delivered through the three new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) integrated hubs providing support in the early evenings and as appropriate at weekends.
- 3.3 The SEND team are working with the Parent Carer Council (PaCC), Executive Heads of the Hubs, and key stakeholders including Community & Voluntary sector to ensure we make best use of the additional resource. The aim is to be able to start offering Extended Day options from September 2018. A planning event with all key stakeholders for the East and West Hubs was held on 6 June 2018. A similar event will be planned for the SEMH Hub. This is a very exciting development for the city and will not only extend the reach of the curriculum on offer but also enhance and extend the support to disabled young people and their families. The current sites will be extended and adapted to facilitate the extended day which will then more fully utilise the fantastic resources that are on offer on school sites. More families will be supported to have a break.

Independent visitors for Children in Care (£20,000)

- 3.4 The Independent Visitor service co-ordinates a team of 55 volunteers who visit, and befriend children who are in care or who are care leavers. The volunteers will normally visit twice a month and they in turn receive support from two part-time coordinators. This investment will ensure that up to 20 additional visitors will be trained and allocated to support young people. The hours of one of the part time co-ordinators has been extended to allow more time for recruiting, vetting and supporting volunteers. The remaining funding will be spent on expenses for the volunteers.

Additional mental & emotional support for Young People (£70,000)

- 3.5 The School Wellbeing Service and Educational Psychology Service both within Brighton & Hove City Council's Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) are working successfully across the secondary school sector to support schools to better meet the needs of young people with emotional mental health and wellbeing (EMHWP) needs. This has already led to a reduction in referrals to the specialist CAMHS service. During the academic year 2017/18, discussions took place with college principals and their leadership team. They welcomed and directly funded involvement in building their capacity to respond to the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of our learners; and to contribute to staff development to both improve awareness of these needs and how to meet them.
- 3.6 The additional council funding is being used to extend this offer and work consistently with the local Further Education sector in the city to reach the 16-19 age group. This includes a universal Emotional Mental Health & Wellbeing 'Whole College Approach' to complement and co-ordinate the existing practice within the colleges and from other providers. The established model of embedding a Primary Mental Health Worker (2 days per week in each setting) and a link Educational Psychologist (half day per week in each setting) allows for the early involvement of professionals with additional mental health qualifications to co-ordinate strategic development, assessment and training in each setting. This will include creating a college-based co-ordinated weekly triage to establish a pathway and access to internal and local support arrangements and programmes. An additional feature will be hosting a placement of a Trainee Educational Psychologist on a Doctoral Programme in Applied Educational & Child Psychology. This will provide an evidence-informed systematic evaluation and report.

The BHISS Specialist EMHWP Post-16 Team is currently being established and direct work will commence in September 2018. This project is currently being agreed with College Principals to be delivered in the local FE colleges during the academic year 2018/19.

Neighbourhood Youth Work (£90,000):

- 3.8 This funding will be used to provide increased investment in the community and voluntary sector to deliver youth work. The Cross Party Youth Group (CPYG), which includes young people representing various organisations, has developed proposals for how this investment should be allocated to improve outcomes for young people across the city. The young people consulted with a number of

youth organisations to gain their views on city wide youth priorities. This included meetings to gather views from a range of young people and an away day with young people to agree the top priorities. The four top priorities, along with the amount recommended should be available for each was identified as providing services to young people around:

- Mental Health £26,500
- Youth Activities £26,500
- Alcohol and substance misuse £20,500
- Volunteering and work experience £14,500

TOTAL £88,000

- 3.9 The remaining £2000 will be used to fund opportunities for young people from a range of youth groups to come together regularly as one group to inform the Cross Party Working Group agenda and act as a consultation group.
- 3.10 Further consultation is taking place with the equalities groups and more work is being done to agree a simple process for providers to apply for the funding involving young people.
- 3.11 Reduced bus travel for young people, particular for financially disadvantaged young people, was also identified as one of the top priorities; however it was decided not to pursue this via this funding, although the young people are discussing forming a separate action group to lobby Brighton & Hove Bus Company.

Youth Bus (£10,000):

- 3.12 The current youth bus is under-used and we would like to increase its use. Following discussions with the Youth Grant Lead Providers, the Hangleton and Knoll Project has expressed an interest in taking on the ownership of the bus. They will work in partnership with other youth providers across the city, including the council, to make full use of the bus for youth activities. The investment will support the administration, including the community asset transfer and maintenance of the Youth Bus. It is anticipated that the transfer will take place by end of June 2018.

Skills & employment support for Young People with SEND (£90,000):

- 3.13 The council's Youth Employability Service (YES) has been highly successful in ensuring that young people who leave secondary school access education, employment and training and levels of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) are one of the lowest in the country. However, for young people with additional needs, in particular those with special educational needs or a disability and young people who are in care, the percentage who are NEET is higher and some young people who transition successfully are unable to sustain their training or employment. Consultation will be undertaken with the community & voluntary sector regarding the potential for YES to target this group of young people in order to increase the percentage who are able to access sustainable employment.
- 3.14 This work is being undertaken as a partnership between YES and the Supported Employment Team (SET) who have expertise in creating sustainable employment. A working party is being set up involving a range of in-house services, including the

SEND team and the Apprenticeship Team, and representatives from the Voluntary Sector including Amaze, will be included to ensure those with additional needs are targeted and supported. Supported Employment Officers are being recruited and will work with those aged 19-24.

- 3.15 A paper will come to Committee in September on Employment for disabled people and we will update on the offer to young people at that meeting.

Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC) (£50,000):

- 3.16 Over the last 18 months, we have had more UASC young people arrive who have been on the move for a long time, who are highly traumatised and struggle to adjust to life in the UK, particularly as they wait for decisions from the Home Office about their asylum claim. These young people have highly activated fight/flight responses, experience high levels of anxiety and difficulty self-regulating, all of which impact on sleep, appetite and mood. For some young people, existing talking therapies are a good option, however, for an increasing number, especially those with no formal education, talking about their experiences as a way of processing them is not helpful – they are often mistrustful about sharing information, or they do not have the words, in their mother tongue or in English.
- 3.17 The funding will be used to employ an experienced Personal Advisor to undertake development work and hold a small caseload of UASC Care Leavers. The Personal Advisor's work will include supporting existing services to become trauma informed in their practice, and to develop interventions that support the emotional health and wellbeing of UASC. This will involve bidding for additional funding to support the training of arts/music and cultural services staff across the City in trauma informed practice, making their services more accessible to our cohort of young people, and ensuring their needs are well met. The additional funding will also support the development of a mindfulness tool in conjunction with interpreters (of various languages) which young people can use independently, to help with sleep and self-regulation; exploration of the use of canine and equine therapy as alternative to talking therapy (a number of our young Kurdish young men have grown up with horses, making this a beneficial option for them); developing group work and outdoor activities to provide opportunities for young people to get outdoors, explore the area in which they are living, get alongside peers in an informal setting, have some fun and support their emotional health and wellbeing.

Substance Misuse (£40,000):

- 3.18 Following improved integration of support from Families Children & Learning and Public Health through a single adolescent strategy to meet the needs of young people, this investment will support young people who are already struggling with substance misuse or who are at risk of this. The funding will be used to recruit an additional post, with the main remit being to work with schools to help reduce exclusions and support work for parents, thus extending the team's remit in this area.

3. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The proposals for the additional funding were agreed by the Budget Council. The section above outlines proposals for making best use of the funding.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Cross Party Group on Youth Services has developed proposals for the additional Youth Grants funding. There are plans to consult with the Parent Carer Council about short breaks and day support. College principals have been consulted about additional mental and emotional support for young people.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The report sets out progress on additional investment of £460,000 for services for young people across a range of services.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Additional funding of £460,000 was agreed in the 2018/19 budget and is being applied as detailed in this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams

Date: 25 April 2018

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: 4 June 2018

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 The aim of the additional investment is to improve services for young people with protected characteristics including young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, children in care, unaccompanied asylum seekers and vulnerable young people who may be at risk of not achieving good outcomes.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 The additional services will be delivered across the city to reduce the need for travel and maximise the sense of community for young people.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices: None

Documents in Members' Rooms: None

Background Documents: None