

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE**

6 May 2014

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

Evaluation of Endowment Pilot for Children in Care

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval for the use of a Creative Councils grant, in accordance with the terms and expectations of the grant, to enable expert input into the evaluation of the Uni-fi endowment pilot, and development of a full business case and operational model for its implementation.

2. Information and Analysis

Uni-fi is a Derbyshire County Council initiative that is improving outcomes for children in care by transforming the relationship between the council and the children it cares for. It is devising and testing new ideas and approaches. This has been made possible by participation in a national programme called Creative Councils, led by Nesta, which worked with 6 councils across the country to develop and implement radical innovations that address a long-term challenge that matter in local government. Being part of the programme has provided both financial support for our work, but also access to a range of expert input to shape and guide our journey.

As part of the Uni-fi programme, an endowment to awaken ambition and support young people's own goals and plans for their development and lives has been created, and is currently being piloted with 20 children in care. The ambition for the endowment is that each young person in care receives a financial endowment to liberate ambition and aspiration and to make possible all that might, for example, be available to the child of a middle-class family in Derbyshire. It seeks to replicate normal parenting approaches to providing financial support to children. The endowment would not be tied to any particular experience or pathway. Each young person would be encouraged, alongside their significant adults, to think about how they might like to spend it, with a view to supporting them in achieving their own goals.

The ambition for the endowment is that young people would be provided with the following financial support.

Age	Amount per year	Total
Years 4-6	£1k	£3k
Years 7-11	£2k	£10k

Age 17-18	£3k	£6k
On leaving care	£8 or 10k (one off)	£8 or 10k

The endowment pilot was designed by carers and social workers, and it is testing for one year with each young person being granted £2,000, to sit with their key adult. With support from Nesta, a feasibility study to think about how they might fund a much bigger endowment over a longer period of time was commissioned. The feasibility study suggests that it might be possible for the endowment to be self-funding if it provided a model to prevent needs and behaviour escalating, particularly for young people with behavioural, education and social difficulties. By reducing the costs of higher intensity placement and supporting higher level special educational needs, it may be possible to enable the endowment to be scaled to all Derbyshire children in care, but a more detailed evaluation and business case is needed.

The remainder of the grant from Nesta was provided to support the evaluation, implementation and scaling of the innovation. As such, a further £32,000 of the Creative Councils grant is requested to be used to formally evaluate the endowment pilot, develop financial models for scaling the endowment for all children in care, and establish an operational delivery model for the endowment.

3. Financial Considerations

A grant of £142,000 was provided by Nesta in support of the development, evaluation and implementation of innovations as part of the Creative Councils programme. The innovations identified in the grant conditions are: the endowment for children in care, evaluation of mentoring, social pedagogy development and sharing of learning with other authorities. The use of £32,000 of the remaining grant is proposed within this report in support of the development of the endowment for children in care.

4. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, legal & human rights, property and transport considerations.

5. Background Papers

None

6. Key Decision?

No.

7. Call-in

It is not required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report.

8. Strategic Director's Recommendation

It is recommended that the Creative Councils grant, provided by Nesta, be used to fund expert input to formally evaluate the endowment pilot, develop financial models for scaling the endowment for all children in care, and establish an operational delivery model for the endowment, in accordance with the terms of the grant.

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