

Agenda Item No: 7 (f)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

15th December 2015

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

Youth Grants 2015 – (Children's Services)

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Cabinet of a proposed new youth grants scheme, administered through YOUTHINC, to support the development of Youth Activities throughout Derbyshire.

2. Information and Analysis

YOUTHINC, Derbyshire's youth offer to young people, was successfully launched on 5th December 2014, and combines all services for young people under 5 headings:

- Something to Do
- Somewhere to Go
- Something to Say
- Something to Learn
- Someone to Talk To

The development of the YOUTHINC web site and increasing social media presence, combined with the targeted youth support agenda, has ensured that we are developing a valuable and accessible service.

To mark the anniversary of the launch of YOUTHINC, it is proposed to develop a new young people's grant-giving scheme in order to support young people's projects throughout the County.

3. Future Proposals

It is proposed to develop a new youth grant funding scheme, to be allocated to support young people's projects and to enable work to be developed at a local level to meet emerging priorities.

The proposed budget for this funding for 2015-16 is £50,000.

In order to ensure the sustainability of this scheme beyond the originally identified budget, it is proposed to utilise the existing 'Red Book' youth funds along with any further income streams from young people (i.e. subscriptions where applied). 'Red Book' money is funding that was previously raised and held by individual youth projects, raised through local fundraising, subscription monies and running coffee bars in centres.

It is proposed that the funding be used to promote and support the priorities of the DYC as listed at Appendix 1, and that this funding is allocated to support county-wide initiatives as well as to enable work being developed at a local level in order to meet emerging priorities.

Over 14,000 young people took part in 'Make Your Mark' 2014, which highlighted the top five issues of priority to young people in Derbyshire. It is essential that young people are a central focus to the spending of this funding, and it is envisaged that the Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC) and local Youth Forums are involved in decisions to ensure that spending is in line with the priorities outlined through 'Make your Mark' (see Appendix 1).

3.1 Name and Principles of Grant Scheme

Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC) has suggested 3 possible names for this grant scheme:

- Positive Outcome Grant
- Youthinc - we grant
- Grant it – Give it

Following discussions within DYC, the preferred name for the scheme was 'Youthinc – We Grant'.

DYC also agreed it is essential that young people are central to the spending of this funding, and it is envisaged that the Derbyshire Youth Council will lead on the approval and allocation of this funding underneath the YOUTHINC branding.

DYC has developed the following guiding principles in order to ensure that any funding allocated to them would be spent to maximise impact.

- **Ensure that projects / campaigns supported through funding are accessible**
- **Consider how many people it is going to impact**
- **Consider the lifespan of the project – how long will it last?**
- **Consider value for money – look at other ways this could be delivered and other people who could deliver it**
- **Think about the long-term impact of the funding**

- **Be clear about what the money is being spent on**

DYC agreed that before funding is spent, they would scrutinise the project to ensure it was within these principles and there was a clear evidence base and justification for the spending.

There should be clear and measurable outcomes identified for projects prior to the allocation of any funding allocation which will be open to scrutiny by DYC when projects are completed.

4. Financial Considerations

The proposed budget for the Youth Grants for 2015-16 is £50,000.

It is recognised that this funding is to support initiatives within the 2015-16 financial period. Should there be unallocated resources at the end of 2015-16, it is recommended that this should be transferred to an earmarked reserve to enable projects to be sustained beyond March 2016.

A robust allocation process is crucial to ensure the fair and appropriate allocation of funding available. The grant allocation process will require all local funding to be considered by the local Youth Forum with county-wide projects needing approval from Derbyshire Youth Council. Funding will not be allocated without a completed application form which would previously have been scrutinised by the Youth Forum. The Youth Forum may request further information before making a recommendation and will ensure that there are clear outcomes identified before funding is allocated.

The application process will be managed through the Locality structure, with responsibility delegated to the Youth Forum coordinator to ensure that young people are involved in making recommendations as to how funding should be allocated. The Local Youth Forum will make recommendations regarding the allocation of funding for consideration and determination by the Head of Service for Localities.

It is anticipated that funding allocated would be a maximum of approximately £1,500 per application. It is proposed that local Youth Forums report on grant funding to DYC and this will be compiled into a formal Cabinet report in order to provide regular updates of funding allocation and outcomes. It is proposed that these reports are submitted retrospectively and that spending is determined through a local decision-making process in order to streamline the decision-making process and timeframe.

5. Human Resources Considerations

Not applicable

6. Other Considerations

None

7. Key Decisions

No

8. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No

9. Background Papers

Available from Bish Sharif, Head of Service - Services for Teenagers.

10. Officer's Recommendation

- To approve the development of a new youth grant-giving scheme administered through YOUTHINC
- To approve the new name for the young people's grant scheme – 'Youthinc – We Grant'
- To agree that any underspend in the 2015/16 financial year can be held in an earmarked reserve for use in future financial years.

Ian Johnson
Strategic Director for Children's Services

Appendix 1

Issues identified through 'Make Your Mark'.

The top 5 issues identified as priorities in Derbyshire were:

1. **Everyone should be paid at least the Living Wage** of £7.65 per hour (£8.80 in London). Anyone who works, regardless of age, should have a decent standard of living.
2. **Bring back exam re-sits in Maths and English** in English schools, and help us achieve our potential.
3. **Work Experience.** We should have the chance to do at least a week's placement, at a place of our choosing. We should have access to professionals who inspire us.
4. **Euthanasia.** With the assistance of a doctor and working within strict rules, terminally-ill and extremely sick people should have the right to end their own life.
5. **A curriculum to prepare us for life.** Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education, and politics.

The National campaign, as chosen in the House of Commons debate on 14th November was:

Everyone should be paid at least the Living Wage of £7.65 per hour (£8.80 in London). Anyone who works, regardless of age, should have a decent standard of living.

And a devolved issue for the England campaign is:

Mental health services should be improved with our help. We should all learn about common mental health issues at school and negative stereotypes should be challenged.

Bish Sharif
Head of Service – Services for Teenagers