



Notice of meeting of

Decision Session - Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services

To: Councillor Runciman (Executive Member)

Date: Monday, 25 January 2010

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Calling In

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

10.00 am on Friday 22 January 2010 if an item is called in before a decision is taken, or

4.00pm on Wednesday 27 January 2010 if an item is called in after a decision has been taken.

Items called in will be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee.

Any written representations in respect of the items on the agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00 pm on Thursday 21 January 2010**.

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

- 2. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 4)
To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session of the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services held on 12 January 2010.

- 3. Public Participation**
At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is **Friday 22 January 2010 at 5.00 pm.**

Members of the public may register to speak on:-

- An item on the agenda
- An issue within the Executive Member's remit
- An item that has been published on the Information Log since the last session.

- 4. Revenue Budget Estimates 2010/11** (Pages 5 - 38)
This report is part of the consultation on the 2010/11 budget process. The report provides details of proposed growth and savings within the Children and Young People's service area. Full details of the budget will be considered by the Executive on 16 February 2010 and then Budget Council on 25 February 2010. The report seeks the comments of the Executive Member on the proposals put forward.

- 5. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Information Log

No items have been published on the Information Log since the last decision session.

Democracy Officer:

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

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Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	DECISION SESSION - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
DATE	12 JANUARY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR RUNCIMAN (EXECUTIVE MEMBER)

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Executive Member was invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests she might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services Decision Session held on 8 December 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

18. 21ST CENTURY LEARNING: 21ST CENTURY LIBRARIES - TAKING THE VISION FORWARD

The Executive Member received a report that sought approval for new staffing structures for the Library and Archive Service and the Adult and Community Education Service. It was noted that some of the issues in the report related to the portfolios of both the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services and the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion. The report was due to be considered by the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion at a decision session immediately following this meeting.

RESOLVED: That, in view of the overlap in the decision-making required, this matter be considered jointly with the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion at the decision session following this meeting.

REASON: To enable full consideration to be given to the proposals and a decision to be taken by both portfolio holders.

Cllr Runciman - Executive Member Children and Young People's Services
[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.10 pm].

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Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services**25 January 2010**

Joint report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services and the Director of Resources

REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2010/11**Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report presents the 2010/11 budget proposals for Children & Young People's Services. It includes:
 - The revenue budget for 2009/10 (Annex 1) to show the original budgets.
 - The base budget for 2010/11 including the 2009/10 budget rolled forward and adjusted.
 - The cost of pay and price increases, increments and settlement of pay and grading appeals for the portfolio.
 - Budget service pressure costs and savings proposals for the portfolio area (Annexes 2 and 3).
 - Fees and Charges proposals (Annex 4).
 - Residential Homes, Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances (Annex 5).
- 2 Budget Council will be held on 25 February 2010 and will make decisions on the overall budget for the council. In order to facilitate the decision making process the Executive are meeting on 16 February 2010 to consider the preferences identified by the individual portfolio Executive Members and the results of the consultation exercise.
- 3 The Executive Member is therefore asked to consider the budget proposals included in this report and identify their preferences, including the proposals in Annexes 2 and 3 that will be considered by the Executive as part of the intended budget. The Executive Member is invited to provide comments on the budget proposals in this report.

Background

- 4 The Council's 2010/11 budget is being developed within the constraints of an extremely challenging financial climate. An extensive transformational programme has begun which will promote efficient delivery of services whilst at the same time ensuring funding is available for investment in key areas across the Council.
- 5 The 2009/10 revenue budget monitoring process has identified areas of activity that currently have insufficient capacity to deal with the increased demands on those services. In addition consideration has been given to the Council's top priorities, and the need to ensure that key front line areas of activity, particularly those in respect of

adults and children, can continue to be provided. From this analysis, specific areas of investment will be proposed within the Councils 2010/11 budget, in particular within the following areas:

- Adult Social Care
- Children's Social Care
- Waste Management

- 6 The proposed budget for 2010/11 reflects the need to direct investment into these areas in order that planning and monitoring of service delivery and improvement can take place against an adequate resourcing platform.
- 7 In addition, the Council recognises that adequate provision needs to be created within the budget to ensure that the continuing financial impact of the economic downturn can be contained effectively. Following detailed review of economic pressures both on front line services and the Council's Treasury Management function, it is proposed that in the region of £3m will be set aside within the budget to contain the impact of these pressures.
- 8 In order to create the financial capacity to enable adequate investment in these priority areas the budget strategy has been based around certain key financial management principles. A fundamental maxim of the strategy is that Directorates have been made clearly responsible for the robust and effective self-management of their existing financial resources and that restraint has been expected in putting forward for additional growth in budget to be funded corporately
- 9 Directorates have been expected to contain their net expenditure within clearly defined and strictly enforced cash limits with a clear expectation that Directorates self manage all non-exceptional budget pressures within this cash limit. These pressures include the anticipated cost of the pay award and any incremental increases due in year. Explicitly linked to self-management within defined cash limits has been the requirement for directorates to demonstrate the re-allocation of budgets in order to contain internal financial pressures.
- 10 As part of the development of the budget, the council's transformation programme has also been robustly reviewed in view of the need to create capacity to invest in priority areas. A realistic acceleration of efficiency savings will be included within the corporate budget proposals in order to ensure that the additional financial capacity introduced in this budget is based around a challenging but realistic approach to driving out efficiency savings across the organisation. However, it must be stressed that achievement of these efficiencies will not be easy to deliver, but they are essential in order to deliver investment into priority areas. The scale and pace of the transformation process in coming years will be critical to the council maintaining financial stability. In addition, clearly with the future pressures on public spending, combined with known forecast increased pressures in children's care, adult care and waste management, the council will face the need to both achieve significant transformational change, and review the overall type and level of service provision in coming years.
- 11 In particular, the Executive Member will be aware of significant pressures within the Children's Social Care, Home to School Transport and Grant Income budgets. It is however recognised that reviews of service activity need to take place in order to

develop and implement mitigation plans that will constrain the impact of these financial pressures.

- 12 The Director of Resources' report '2010/11 Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Planning 2011/12 to 2013/14' was adopted by the Executive on 15 December 2009. This paper is the result of ongoing work against this agreed framework.

Local Government Finance Settlement

- 13 The Local Government Finance settlement for 2008/09 also included indicative figures for 2010/11 that enabled the Council to consider future budget issues. The provisional settlement for 2010/11 gives an increase in formula grant of £1.090m (+2.51%).

Schools Funding Settlement

- 14 For schools funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), 2010/11 is the third year of a DCSF three-year budget period. For 2010/11, therefore, the DSG allocation for York will be based on the December 2007 announcement, updated for changes in pupil numbers.
- 15 The DSG is ring-fenced for funding the provision of education for pupils in schools (maintained, PRUs, PVI nurseries or externally purchased places). As such it covers funding delegated to individual LA maintained schools through the LMS Funding Formula and funding for other pupil provision which is retained centrally by the LA (e.g. SEN, Early Years, PRUs etc.). It is distributed according to a formula that guarantees a minimum per pupil increase for each authority (2.9% in 2010/11). Additional funding is then allocated based on Ministers' priorities. For 2010/11 personalised learning was identified as a priority.
- 16 The LA itself cannot use the DSG for any purpose other than schools block funding, although with the permission of the Schools Forum limited contributions can be made to the following areas:
 - Combined budgets supporting Every Child Matters objectives where there is a clear educational benefit.
 - Prudential borrowing, where overall net savings to the Schools Budget can be demonstrated.
 - Some SEN transport costs, again only when there is a net Schools Budget saving.
- 17 There are also strict limits (Central Expenditure Limits) on the amount of the DSG that the LA can retain to fund pupil costs outside mainstream schools e.g. SEN, Out of City Placements, Early Years, PRUs, Behavioural Support etc.
- 18 The headline figures from the DSG settlement show that for 2010/11 York's increase in DSG is estimated at £4.307m (+4.4%) giving a sum of £4,103 per pupil (+4.2%). For 2010/11 this includes additional funding (above the minimum 2.9% per pupil) of £1,145k that has been allocated to York for Personalised Learning at KS3 and in primary schools.

- 19 Despite these increases though, York's actual funding level is still at the lower end nationally, 23rd lowest out of 149 LAs. This means that if York received the national average funding in 2010/11 there would be an extra £295 for every pupil or £6.630m in total. This would be enough to give an extra £292k to every secondary school and £62k extra to every primary school. This is also the equivalent of an additional 168 teachers or 306 additional classroom assistants.

Budget Proposals for Children & Young People's Services

- 20 A summary of the budget proposals is shown in table 1 below. Further details on individual elements are presented in the subsequent paragraphs.

Table 1: Proposed Children & Young People's Services Budget 2010/11	Para Ref	Schools Budget (DSG) £000	General Fund £000	Children's Services Total £000
2009/10 Original Budget (see Annex 1)		87,865	29,855	117,720
2009/10 In Year Recurring Amendments:				
Transition Team Co-ordinator			+ 20	+20
Sanderson Court Caretaking			- 4	- 4
Area Based Grant Income Transfer			+ 4,173	+ 4,173
Pay Award Budget Allocation			+ 310	+ 310
One-Off Growth in 2009/10 Budget:				
YPO Dividend			- 79	- 79
Home to School Transport			- 50	- 50
Full Year Effect of 2009/10 Growth:				
Personalised Learning in Schools		+ 1,145		+ 1,145
Nursery Education Funding		+ 230		+ 230
Full Year Effect of 2009/10 Savings:				
Adult Education Centre Relocation			- 4	- 4
Finance Team Staffing Efficiencies			- 7	- 7
TDU Management Responsibilities			- 15	- 15
Early Years SLAs		- 6		- 6
Venture Fund Repayments		- 121		- 121
2010/11 Base Budget	21	89,113	34,199	123,312
Schools Minimum Funding Requirement	22-24	+ 2,928		+ 2,928
Provision for Pay Increases (not schools)	25	+ 193	+ 1,043	+ 1,236
Provision for Price Increases (not schools)	26	+ 114	+ 47	+ 161
Fees & Charges Increases	27-28		- 53	- 53
Service Pressure Proposals (Annex 2)	29-31	+ 350	+ 2,468	+ 2,818
Savings Proposals (Annex 3)	32-34	- 688	- 1,359	- 2,047
2010/11 Total Proposed Budget		92,010	36,345	128,355
Funding Available within the DSG	35	91,905		
DSG Budget Gap	36	105		

2010/11 Base Budget (£123,312k)

- 21 This represents the latest 2009/10 budget approved by and reported to Members, updated for the full year effect of decisions taken in the 2009/10 budget and amendments during 2009/10, e.g. supplementary estimates.

Schools Minimum Funding Requirement (+£2,928k)

- 22 The DCSF have confirmed that the MFG will continue to deliver a minimum per pupil increase for all schools until at least 31 March 2011. They have estimated average school level pay and price inflation over the 2008-11 period at 3.1% per year. The DCSF have then assumed that each school can make an efficiency gain of 1% for each of the years, reflecting the substantial improvement in efficiency they expect to be achieved across the schools sector and the public sector as a whole. The result is an MFG for all schools set at 2.1% for 2010/11. The estimated amount required to deliver the MFG for all York schools is £2,928k in 2010/11.
- 23 The minimum guarantee applies to the funding provided by the council to schools via the LMS Funding Formula. The actual way the guarantee is calculated for an individual school varies depending on the type of school (primary, secondary or special) and the size of the school (separate arrangements apply to schools with fewer than 75 pupils).
- 24 Central Expenditure Limit (CEL) regulations determine the minimum total size of the Individual Schools Budget¹ (ISB). For 2010/11 an additional £1,145k will need to be allocated to schools over and above the £2,928k required to deliver the MFG in order to meet the CEL limit. In setting the 3-year Schools Budget strategy in 2008/09 it has already been agreed to target this additional sum at Personalised Learning in schools and the LMS Funding Formula for 2010/11 reflects this.

Provisional Pay Increases (excluding schools) (+£1,236k)

- 25 These calculations are based on a pay increase for Local Government staff of 1.0% (from 1 April 2010) and Teaching staff of 2.3% (from 1 September 2010) at a cost of £275k. The teaching staff increase has already been agreed but negotiations for the 2010/11 Local Government settlement have not yet started, although there is pressure from the Treasury that increases are kept to a minimal level. In addition, growth of £347k is included for the net costs of staff increments after allowing for new starters at the lower point of the grade, £250k for the estimated cost of successful pay & grading appeals, and £364k for the previously reported shortfall on the allowances budget.

Provisional Price Inflation (excluding schools) (+£161k)

- 26 The budget proposes that, due to the underlying low rate of inflation, there is a general price freeze on most budgets. The amount allowed for price inflation is to fund known price increases, e.g. contract payments, and is net of any inflationary allowance included in on-going grants supporting core services. The proposed budget specifically includes an allowance for a 2.0% increase in Nursery Education Funding that was agreed as part of the 3-year strategy, and is funded from the DSG.

¹ The ISB is the total amount of funding available to distribute to schools through the LMS Funding Formula

Increases in Foster & Adoption allowances of between 1.0% and 2.8% are also proposed (see paragraphs 37-49 for more details).

Fees & Charges and Traded Services (-£53k)

- 27 The budget proposes that most Fees & Charges are increased by 2.5%, except where there are nationally set charges. These are then rounded up or down as appropriate to create sensible figures. The majority of internal services that trade with schools are also increasing their charges by 2.5%. Where increases in charges (external or school traded services) are proposed in excess of 2.5% the additional income is either reflected in the savings totals offered or being used to address existing budget shortfalls.
- 28 A schedule of proposed Youth Service fees and charges is shown at Annex 4. For Adult Education and the Music & Performing Arts Service, charges are set for each academic year. The budgets for 2010/11 have been set based on a 2.5% increase plus any specific savings targets set out in Annex 3. If necessary, further details will be presented to the Executive Member prior to September 2010.

Service Pressure Proposals (+£2,818k)

- 29 A range of options for service pressure proposals has been considered and in view of the overall available resources it is proposed that only those proposals shown in Annexes 2a and 2b are included as the preferred options for Children & Young People's Services. The proposals put forward are the result of a rigorous assessment process, which included looking at the risk to customers, schools and staff, legislative requirements, proven customer demand and the council's corporate objectives.
- 30 Members should note that even if all of the items identified at Annex 2a are funded the directorate will still need to manage some significant budget pressures in 2010/11, in particular:
- Music service income, where pupil numbers have fallen significantly and the impact of the current financial climate is being felt.
 - Resourcing the potentially significant project management and associated revenue costs of a bid for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) capital funding.
 - Managing within reduced government grant allocations for services such as School Improvement, Adult Education and the Children's Fund.
 - Resourcing the additional workload involved in handling the transfer of c£20m of post 16 pupil funding from the LSC to the council from April 2010.
- 31 The Executive will decide on 16 February 2010 whether or not to set a general contingency to provide possible funding for such items for 2010/11.

Savings Proposals (-£2,047k)

- 32 Members will be aware that the 2009/10 budget savings were significant, and that all directorates are operating within a tight financial environment. The council has also engaged in an efficiency programme, More For York, which had an initial target of generating £15m of budget savings over three years. In addition to those savings

included in the efficiency programme directorates have looked at other areas within their control.

- 33 In seeking to achieve savings for the 2010/11 budget, directorates have examined budgets with a view to identifying savings that have a minimum impact on the services provided to the public, schools, customers and the wider council, and are not already included in the blueprints for More For York. They have therefore concentrated on initiatives that:
- Reflect directorate priorities and plans;
 - Improve quality and efficiency;
 - Take advantage of ongoing service and/or Best Value reviews;
 - Generate income;
 - Address budgetary underspends;
 - Improve cash flow and interest earnings;
 - Generate savings from the technical and financial administration functions of the council.
- 34 Annexes 3a and 3b show the full list of savings proposals for Children & Young People's Services.

Funding Available within the DSG (£91,905k)

- 35 The funding available includes an initial estimate of the 2010/11 DSG allocation of £92,259k less an estimated deficit carry forward from 2009/10 of £354k (based on the 2nd budget monitor for 2009/10 reported in December). This estimate will be updated once the provisional results of the annual schools and early years census are known later this month.

Balancing the Schools Budget & DSG

- 36 Table 1 at paragraph 20 shows that there is still a budget gap within the Schools Budget of £105k at the time of writing this report. Further work will be undertaken in consultation with the Schools Forum to identify options for bridging this gap. At its budget meeting on 25 February the Executive will be updated on the outcome of the discussions with and comments of the Schools Forum.

Standard charges for the use of Residential Homes and Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances

- 37 Annex 5 sets out the proposed level of charges to other local authorities for the use of services within the Children and Families portfolio for residential care homes. The annex also lists proposed foster care, sharing care, adoption, residence order and special guardianship weekly allowances for 2010/11.

Standard Weekly Charges For Residential Care Homes (Annex 5a)

- 38 A source of income for Children & Families is derived from charges to other local authorities for purchasing services e.g. North Yorkshire Social Services Department who purchase residential and day care places for individuals who continue to be their

responsibility. Many of this group of people are either resident in, or regular users of, residential and non-residential services.

- 39 There is a requirement for the directorate to set these standard charges both to charge other authorities and to set the maximum charge payable by residents.

Minimum Payment For Foster Carers (Annex 5b)

- 40 A basic allowance is paid for each child/young person in a placement. Payments are calculated on a weekly basis according to the age of the child. The Government sets statutory minimum weekly allowances for foster carers. The weekly allowances set out at Annex 5b have all been increased by 1% or higher if necessary to match the national minimum levels. In practice this has led to rises of between 1% and 2.8%.
- 41 Foster carers are also paid a weekly carer's skill premium. These premiums are calculated with reference to an appraisal of the carer's skill level. It is proposed to increase these premiums by 1%.
- 42 The Placement Strategy for Looked After Children established a specialist scheme that enhances the recruitment and retention of foster carers, who look after young people with exceptional needs in relation to their emotional and behavioural difficulties or severe disability. Foster carers are specifically selected for the new scheme to be matched with specific young people. It is also proposed that the weekly carer fee for the care of the young people on this scheme be increased by 1%. This is incorporated into the shaded area at the foot of the lower table in Annex 5b.

Additional Foster Carers Weekly Allowances (Annex 5c)

- 43 In addition to the allowances detailed above further allowances are paid to foster carers. A further weeks allowance is payable for birthdays and Christmas, and a further three weeks allowance will be payable for holidays taken during the year. Additional allowances are shown in Annex 5c. Again it is proposed that the allowances are uplifted by 1%.

Weekly Adoption Allowances and Residence Order Allowances (Annex 5d)

- 44 A weekly allowance is not paid in all cases of adoption, only in certain financial circumstances, or when a disabled child is adopted or possibly to encourage the adopter to take a sibling of a child already adopted. To determine whether an allowance should be paid to an adopter a financial assessment is carried out, using the DCSF suggested assessment model.
- 45 A small number of children in our care are subject to residence orders that replaced custodianship in 1991. A residency order means that the birth parents retain parental responsibility but the carer gains parental rights. As with adoption, a financial assessment of the carer is undertaken to determine whether an allowance should be given.

Sharing Care & Sitting Service Allowances (Annex 5e)

- 46 Sharing care is provided for disabled children who attend a temporary carer on either a day care or overnight basis, in order to give the parent or regular carer a break. The sitting service provides for temporary carers to look after children in their own homes. It is proposed to increase sharing care and sitting service allowances by 1%. Annex 8e shows the revised allowances for 2010/11.

Special Guardianship Allowances (Annex 5f)

- 39 47 A Special Guardianship Order allows carers to gain parental responsibility and enables them to override the parental responsibility of others (such as the child's birth parent) in day-to-day matters. Under legislation, Special Guardians must be offered support services, including financial support, if requested, subject to the same financial assessment as adopters. The allowances for Special Guardians are set at the same rate as the Foster Care weekly allowances; however, an amount equivalent to the Child Benefit entitlement will be deducted from the allowance before it is paid. Annex 8f shows the revised allowances for 2010/11.

Care Leavers Weekly Accommodation Allowance

- 48 In addition to the allowances shown in Annex 5, a weekly accommodation allowance is paid to Care Leavers. The 2009/10 allowance was £51 per week; increasing this by 1% and rounding up would result in a revised allowance of £52 per week for 2010/11. However, this may change as the allowance must be higher than the Job Seeker's allowance, which has not yet been confirmed for 2010/11.

Rounding

- 49 The figures shown for all weekly allowances contained in Annex 5 have been rounded to the nearest figure in whole pence that can be divided exactly by 7. This is done so that the weekly allowances can easily be converted into daily amounts when processing payments.

Consultation

- 50 This paper forms part of the council's budget consultation. The other streams being undertaken include a public consultation leaflet circulated city wide (results should be known prior to the meeting of the Executive), a public meeting where participants debated savings and growth proposals attended by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, and a further session with the business communities of the city. The budget proposals have been discussed with affected key staff and in meetings with Trade Union representatives.
- 51 In relation to the specific proposals within this report that affect schools, there have been regular reports to the Schools Forum and updates for headteachers as budget issues have developed. In addition, this report has been circulated to members of the Schools Forum and any further comments received will be made available at least prior to the meeting of the Executive on 16 February.

Options

- 52 As part of the consultation process the Executive Member is asked for their comments or alternative suggestions on the proposals shown in Annexes 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Analysis

- 53 All the analysis is provided in the body of the report and the annexes.

Corporate Priorities

- 54 The budget represents the opportunity to reprioritise resources towards corporate priority areas. In formulating savings and growth proposals the directorate has paid particular attention to the impact that each proposal will have on the delivery of corporate priorities.

Implications

- 55 The implications are:

- Financial - The financial implications are dealt with in the body of the report.
- Human Resources - Implications are identified against each of the individual savings and service pressure proposals listed in annexes 2 and 3 where appropriate. In summary though, the savings proposed in Annex 3 equate to the loss of 18 fte posts, although some of these are part time posts and a number are currently vacant. In addition some proposals may lead to reduced hours or changes to patterns of work. The service pressure proposals at Annex 2 include 2 fte of additional posts. Where requested HR has been involved in the development of the budget proposals and has worked with local managers to identify the HR implications of the proposals. HR implications will be managed in accordance with established council change management procedures.
- Equalities – An equalities impact assessment has been carried out for the items included within the proposed budget. The results of this assessment have been used in the prioritisation of both the savings and the growth proposals.
- Legal - The standard weekly charges for residential care homes as shown in Annex 5a must be amended in line with the National Assistance Act 1948. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Information Service book shows that “residents in accommodation managed by the local authority are expected to pay at the maximum, the ‘standard’ charge fixed by the local authority (section 22(2) of the 1948 Act), or where the resident satisfies the authority that he/she is unable to pay the standard fixed rate, a lower rate based upon the resident’s ability to pay.” The relevant items of legislation regarding the allowances paid to carers as shown in Annexes 5b to 5e are The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations 1991 and The Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005.”
- Crime and Disorder - there are no specific crime and disorder implications to this report.
- Information Technology - there are no information technology implications to this report.

- Property - there are no property implications to this report.

Risk Management

- 56 Key reporting mechanisms to Members on budget matters will continue to be through mid-year monitoring reports and the final Revenue Outturn report for the year. The format/timing of these reports has recently been considered by the Council's Management Team but as a minimum they will report on forecast out-turn compared to budgets and will also address the progress made on investments and savings included within the budgets.
- 57 The budget setting process always entails a degree of risk as managers attempt to assess known and uncertain future events. This year has demonstrated the difficulty of achieving this. As with any budget the key to mitigating risk is prompt monitoring and appropriate management control. As such updated figures and revised corrective actions will be monitored via Directorate Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and the monitor reports during the year.

Recommendations

- 58 The Executive Member is invited to consider whether the budget proposals are in line with the council's priorities.
- 59 The Executive Member is asked to consider the budget proposals which have been prepared by Officers for Children & Young People's Services for 2010/11 contained in this report and listed below, and provide comments to be submitted to the Budget Executive on 16 February 2010.
- 2010/11 Base Budget as set out in paragraphs 20 to 26
 - Service Pressure Proposals as set out in Annex 2
 - Savings Proposals as set out in Annex 3
 - Fees and Charges as set out in Annex 4
 - Residential Homes and Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances as set out at Annex 5

Reason: As part of the consultation on the Children & Young People's Services budget for 2010/11.

Contact Details Author:	Chief Officers Responsible for the Report:		
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	Report Approved	√	Date 18 January 2010
Specialist Implications Officer: Mark Bennett, LCCS HR Manager, Tel: 01904 554518			
Wards Affected:		All	√
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Annex 1 - 2009/10 Original Budgets

Annex 2 - Service Pressure Proposals

Annex 3 - Savings Proposals

Annex 4 - Fees & Charges Schedules

**Annex 5 - Residential Homes, Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence
Order Weekly Allowances**

Background Papers

2010/11 Budget Files

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement - December 2007

Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement 2008-11 – December 2007

LEARNING, CULTURE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**SERVICE PLAN****CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - SUMMARY**

<u>DETAILED EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>COST CENTRE EXPENDITURE</u>	
	2009/10 BUDGET £'000		2009/10 BUDGET £'000
Employees	22,374	Children & Families	14,731
Premises	4,739	Lifelong Learning & Culture	331
Transport	3,219	Partnerships & Early Intervention	4,655
Supplies & Services	15,289	Resource Management	7,288
Miscellaneous		School Improvement & Staff Development	4,454
- Recharges	7,320	School Funding & Contracts	86,261
- Delegated / Devolved	95,188	Dedicated Schools Grant	(87,865)
- Other	4,067		
Capital Financing	7,405		
GROSS EXPENDITURE	159,599		
Income	(129,745)		
NET EXPENDITURE	29,855	NET EXPENDITURE	29,855

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Children & Young People's Services - General Fund Service Pressure Proposals - 2010/11

Brief Description	Net Cost	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>CHILDREN & FAMILIES</u>		
<u>Children's Social Care</u>		
<u>CG01 - Looked After Children Increase</u>		
As previously reported to Members, the number of Looked After Children (LAC) in York continues to increase. In March 2008 the number was 166, but by December 2009 it had risen to 225. It is estimated that growth of £1,657k will be required in 2010/11 to manage this significant increase, and cover the consequent pressures on a range of social care budgets. In addition, the existing arrangement for accommodating and supporting 16/17 year olds who present as homeless have very recently been challenged by a House of Lords ruling. The Lords ruling suggests that where there are more than one category of need (i.e. a roof over their head) then the young people should be considered 'in need of accommodation' under S20 of the Children Act 1989 (Looked After). This means that where 16-17 year olds have previously been accommodated under housing legislation, unless they were clearly identified as extremely vulnerable, now all 16-17 years will be assessed with the presumption that care services should be provided under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Work is on-going between LCCS and HASS but there is a potential additional GF cost that could be in excess of £500k. In order to mitigate these pressures we are looking to review the overall efficiency of the service, and a More for York Blueprint is therefore being developed with the aim of generating savings of £600k.	1,557	1,557
<u>CG02 - Integrated Children's System Support Post Grant</u>		
This is a key system that requires supporting on an on-going basis. DCSF grant ceased in 2009/10 and additional funding is required to maintain this important post.	40	40
<u>Youth Offending Team</u>		
<u>CG03 - YOT Budget Stabilisation</u>		
This bid is to secure provision of statutory youth justice services, compliance with National Standards, requirements of HM Inspectorate of Probation, Youth Justice Board/CAA Capacity & Capability review, and conditions of YJB grant. Current resources are inadequate to fund these core demands, and the shortfall has been met through (a) expenditure of reserves, now depleted and (b) short-term funding now expired (most significantly LPSA2) and (c) efficiencies. Although technically a growth bid, this is in fact a bid to stabilise the YOT ability to deliver statutory services and involves no expansion. The sum requested is net of a further £90k of efficiency savings expected to be made by the service in 2010/11.	90	90
<u>PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION</u>		
<u>Children's Trust Unit</u>		
<u>CG04 - Training & Development Grant</u>		
The cost of the training and development team has been part funded by grant which ended in 2008/09. The service has been funded from a carry forward of grant in 2009/10 but this will no longer be available from 2010/11	30	30
<u>Extended Services</u>		
<u>CG05 - Extended Schools Grant Shortfall</u>		
A shortfall in external grant resources to support the Extended Services team in 2010/11. Discussions are in place with schools to explore the potential to retain a greater proportion of the grant centrally from 2011/12 which could reduce this pressure in future years.	180	180

Brief Description	Net Cost	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>Young People's Service</u>		
<u>CG06 - Youth Service Grant Reductions</u> Youth provision previously funded by grant but now regarded as key elements of the youth service.	39	39
<u>CG07 - Youth Service Premises Costs</u> The service continues to be responsible for a number of buildings for which it no longer holds the budget. The original intention had been to facilitate local community management of these buildings that has not proved possible.	15	15
<u>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</u>		
<u>Access Services</u>		
<u>CG08 - Home To School Transport</u> Members will be aware of the significant pressures being experienced within this budget in 2009/10. This growth item provides the additional resources required to deal with the higher cost of providing transport and escorts for SEN pupils, rising fuel costs, impact of the increase in the LAC population, overspend in discretionary transport due in part to successful appeals, and an increase in mainstream transport costs due to over optimistic savings assumptions.	431	431
<u>CG09 - Primary School Admissions</u> A new statutory requirement for the local authority to administer primary admissions. This funding would support the additional staffing required.	25	25
<u>Human Resources</u>		
<u>CG10 - Independent Safeguarding Authority</u> A new statutory requirement for all staff who have contact with children to be registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) by October 2013, at a cost of £64 per registration. All new appointments need to be registered immediately with existing staff on a phased basis over 5 years.	42	42
<u>CG11 - School Workforce Census</u> A new DCSF requirement from 2010/11 for which no staffing resource is available within the existing HR team. In the first year of the new survey the equivalent of a full time post will be required for 9 months to set up new systems, with a 0.5 fte post required on an ongoing basis.	19	10

Recurring Bids Total	2,468	2,459
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One-off Bids Total	0	0
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Children & Young People's Services - DSG Service Pressure Proposals - 2010/11

Brief Description	Net Cost	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>CHILDREN & FAMILIES</u>		
<u>Special Educational Needs Service</u>		
<u>CG12 - External Placements</u>		
Based on the current position projected forward, which includes the planned ending of some placements, plus an amount for new unknown placements during 2010/11.	250	250
<u>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT</u>		
<u>Behaviour Support Service</u>		
<u>CG13 - Behaviour Support Service - Demand Pressures</u>		
In setting the 3 year schools budget strategy, the Schools Forum have already agreed to provide additional for the service. This additional £100k reflects the current level of demand and expenditure in 2009/10 and projected forward. Further work being undertaken on a review of the Behaviour Support Service management and staffing structure may reduce this requirement in the future but is included as a separate savings proposal at Annex 3b.	100	100

Recurring Bids Total	350	350
One-off Bids Total	0	0

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Children & Young People's Services - General Fund Savings Proposals - 2010/11

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>DIRECTORATE WIDE SAVINGS</u>		
<u>CS01 - Staff Vacancy Factor</u> Increase the vacancy factor on non-frontline staffing budgets by 1.0% (from the current 4.0% up to 5.0%)	75	75
<u>CS02 - Reduction In Office Budgets</u> A cut in all directorate general office expenses, equipment, travel and subsistence budgets by 5%.	25	25
<u>CHILDREN & FAMILIES</u>		
<u>Children's Social Care</u>		
<u>CS03 - Recruitment Advertising Budget Reduction</u> A 30% reduction in the budget.	10	10
<u>CS04 - The Glen Staffing Efficiencies</u> Existing arrangements allow for a reduction in staffing budgets with no impact on existing staff.	70	70
<u>CS05 - External Grant Reprioritisation</u> Reprioritisation of activity within a number of external grant streams towards core services.	30	0
<u>Education Welfare Service</u>		
<u>CS07 - Review of EWS & Behaviour Support Service Management Arrangements</u> The potential for savings being generated from the development of greater integration of these services - supported by the planned implementation of a new 'Front Door' for children's services.	15	15
<u>Local Safeguarding Children Board</u>		
<u>CS08 - Efficiency Savings</u> A review of budget headings shows that efficiency savings can be made to reflect small changes in activity levels and procedures which have not previously been reflected in budget setting.	5	0
<u>LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE</u>		
<u>Adult & Community Education</u>		
<u>CS09 - Adult Education Staffing Restructure</u> The revised staffing structure agreed at the Children & Young People's Services Executive Member Decision Making Meeting on 12 January 2010 generates a significant saving.	65	65
<u>Arts & Culture</u>		
<u>CS10 - Music Service Revised Staffing Model</u> A new business model for the Peripatetic Music Service involving new patterns of service delivery to schools and to members of the public will also introduce new terms and conditions for all teachers in the service from September 2010.	35	75
<u>CS11 - Arts Consultants: Cease Service to Schools</u> The saving would be generated from making the 3 consultants posts redundant and removing the curriculum support currently provided to schools. However, we would want to continue to make cultural opportunities and activities available to young people, and the saving is therefore net of funding to appoint staffing to undertake project work to increase the range of cultural opportunities available to young people.	100	100

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION</u>		
<u>Children's Trust Unit</u>		
<u>CS12 - Reduce CYC Contribution to the Children's Trust</u> The trust will manage this reduction by utilising the Think Family Grant to support an element of salary costs.	6	6
<u>CS13 - TDU Staffing Saving</u> Vacant TDU manager post being covered at lower grade, and temporary reduction in hours of Support Service co-ordinator post, pending planned restructure.	20	20
<u>Early Years & Children's Centres</u>		
<u>CS14 - Cease Funding Health Service Posts From ICC Grant</u> This would remove council funding for 3.8 posts based at Children's Centres. Instead, as in other LA areas, we would look to health colleagues to provide support from within their mainstream services.	120	120
<u>CS15 - Reduced Posts In Proposed ICC Structure for 2010/11</u> As part of the phased implementation of Integrated Children's Centres the original budget plans included increased investment of £400k in 2010/11. In light of the budget pressures being faced it is felt that this investment could now be reduced to £270k in 2010/11 without significantly compromising the overall aims of the centres.	130	130
<u>Young People's Service</u>		
<u>CS16 - Additional Hours Moratorium</u> Additional hours will not be allocated to cover holidays, sickness etc. This may mean some youth work sessions will not run.	21	21
<u>CS17 - Reduced use of Mobile Phones</u> Essential use only will be made the normal practice.	4	4
<u>CS18 - Delete Curriculum & Accreditation Co-ordinator</u> The current vacancy will be left unfilled.	20	20
<u>CS19 - Delete Quality Assurance & Voluntary Services Liaison Post</u> Delete a 0.5fte post. The current postholder is on secondment until 31/03/2011; issue to be re-addressed well before then.	22	22
<u>CS20 - Review Information, Advice & Guidance Posts</u> This could result in redundancy for one member of staff.	25	25
<u>CS21 - Review Administration Posts Including MIS</u> This could result in 1.5 fte posts being made redundant.	30	30
<u>CS22 - Review Training Coordination</u> This could result in a 0.5 fte redundancy.	19	19
<u>CS23 - Cease CYC Subsidy for Momentum on 2 Wheels Project</u> If replacement external funding cannot be found this would result in the project having to cease. This could result in a redundancy.	18	18
<u>CS24 - Connexions External Budget Reduction</u> Reduce external commissioning and bought in service budget (currently £200k).	15	15
<u>CS25 - Review Locality Team Structure</u> Current vacancy for Team Leader post to be left unfilled.	52	52
<u>CS26 - Review of YOT & Young People's Service Management Arrangements</u> Deletion of 1 fte management post. This could result in a redundancy.	31	62

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</u>		
<u>Access Services</u>		
<u>CS27 - Access Officer Post Deletion</u> This would require a restructure of the existing staffing establishment, taking account of the changes proposed in the Behaviour Support Service review.	18	18
<u>Finance</u>		
<u>CS28 - Finance Service Operational Budgets</u> Includes cuts in training, staff travel, car allowances, printing, IT hardware, conference expenses and subscriptions. This will mean we will no longer be able to support a trainee accounting technician (the current trainee is coming to the end of his training programme). Schools will stop receiving funding and other financial information in hard copy. We will no longer be a member of organisations such as f40.	11	11
<u>CS29 - Finance Service Staffing Reductions</u> A 0.5fte post was deleted in 2009/10 and the full year effect of this is higher than originally estimated. In addition the service currently retains a small budget to help support the significant peak in workload at the time of the annual school funding and closedown cycle. It is proposed to remove this budget and take advantage of the new flexible working arrangements that the service is currently trialling as part of the "Office of the Future" pilot.	8	8
<u>CS30 - School Business Service Charges to Schools</u> There is a continuing increase in the level of buy in from schools to the School Business Support Service, particularly for dedicated School Business Manager support. The saving is net of the additional staffing capacity required to deliver the increased hours of support in schools. Due to the high regard in which the service is currently held by schools, and an expansion of the range of support available to schools, it should also be possible to increase unit charges to all schools by 4%.	20	20
<u>ICT Client Services</u>		
<u>CS31 - Learning Platform Grant Utilisation</u> Reduce the base budget provision for the directorate and schools learning platform service by charging elements of the new infrastructure requirements against the DCSF Harnessing Technology capital grant in 2010/11.	40	
<u>Management Information Service</u>		
<u>CS32 - MIS Income Generation</u> Increased income from the sale of school level management and performance information to schools. In addition the new information requirements to support the integrated children's centres can be charged to the new ICC grant but will be delivered within existing staffing resources.	21	21
<u>Planning & Resources</u>		
<u>CS33 - Reductions in Project Management Capacity.</u> The potential to delete 2fte posts supporting capital schemes is being explored. This reflects the steadily reducing schools capital programme now that the main secondary school schemes and children's centres are nearing completion.	45	45

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>Strategic Management</u>		
<u>CS34 - Delete LCCS Development Fund</u> Remove the remaining balance on the development fund.	6	6
<u>CS35 - Beacon Status Bid Budget cut</u> Remove the full budget. The budget supports Beacon and other award bids.	2	2
<u>CS36 - Delete Graduate Trainee Post</u> Delete the post once the current cohort of trainees have passed through the directorate.	7	30
<u>CS37 - Restructuring of Directorate PA Support</u> A reorganisation of support to the Management Team is proposed that will lead to the deletion of one post.	20	20
<u>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT</u>		
<u>Educational Development Service</u>		
<u>CS38 - Delete 0.6 fte Administrator Post</u> Reorganisation of administrative support with the reduction of a 0.6 fte post.	3	8
<u>CS39 - Delete 0.5 fte Advisor Post</u> One advisor post was reduced to 0.5 fte from September 2009 as part of 2009/10 budget process. The intention is to reduce the advisory team by another 0.5 for 10-11 from Sept 10.	20	34
<u>CS40 - Delete Curriculum Consultant Post</u> The proposal is to delete one consultant post, and reorganise the remaining team roles. The gross saving is £54k, less £10k to allow for some lead teacher support to be funded instead.	44	44
<u>CS41 - Supplies & Services Budgets - Further Reductions</u> Reduced use of taxis, and discontinue paying certain IT costs for staff.	7	7
<u>CS42 - Discontinue Summer School For Able, Gifted & Talented Pupils</u> Cancel the summer school for AG&T pupils. Provision for these pupils in future will be from classroom learning, ASTs or lead teachers	13	13
<u>CS43 - Delete Residential Conference</u> Replace residential conference with 2 days of non-residential conferences saving on accommodation costs.	3	3
<u>CS44 - Reduce Service Bought in from NYBEP</u> School Improvement currently buys in a service from NYBEP. It is proposed to reduce the amount commissioned from £40k to £25k.	15	15
<u>CS45 - Reduce Budget for SEN, ICT & PSHCE Support to Schools</u> Reduce the £132k budget for schools support and project funding under these three headings.	35	60
<u>CS46 - Reduce Number of External School Improvement Partners</u> Replace an external SIP with a Principal Adviser fulfilling the role instead.	10	10
<u>CS47 - Utilise Existing Consultant to Deliver "Every Child A Talker" From Within Grant Funding</u> A grant of £112k is being provided in 2010/11 to deliver this project. The LA can retain an amount to fund central costs, and this proposal deploys an existing member of staff for part of this role.	25	25
<u>CS48 - Reduce One-to-one External Consultancy</u> A reduction from 3 days to 2 days, with the remainder being picked up by the Principal Advisers.	13	13

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>School Governance Service</u>		
<u>CS49 - Governance Service Efficiency Savings</u>		
A number of small efficiencies including; deleting the temporary staffing budget (£3k), further reductions in the stationary budget (£2k) and an increased proportion of management costs being charged to the clerking service (£6k).	10	10
Recurring Savings Total	1,284	1,422
One-off Savings Total	75	0

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Children & Young People's Services - DSG Savings Proposals - 2010/11

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>DIRECTORATE WIDE SAVINGS</u>		
<u>CS01 - Staff Vacancy Factor</u> Increase the vacancy factor on non-frontline staffing budgets by 1.0% (from the current 4.0% up to 5.0%)	16	16
<u>CS02 - Reduction In Office Budgets</u> A cut in all directorate general office expenses, equipment, travel and subsistence budgets by 5%.	7	7
<u>CHILDREN & FAMILIES</u>		
<u>Special Educational Needs Service</u>		
<u>CS50 - Cease Speech, Language & Communication Needs Project</u> This proposal entails a withdrawal of Local Authority funding for the Speech, Language and Communication Needs projects at three primary schools.	19	19
<u>CS51 - Limetrees CAMHS Teaching Income</u> Increased income from other LAs for CAMHS teaching at Limetrees. This proposal would move the service towards being more self-sufficient in that the income would pay for a greater proportion of the service provided.	5	5
<u>PARTNERSHIPS & EARLY INTERVENTION</u>		
<u>Early Years & Children's Centres</u>		
<u>CS52 - Nursery Education Funding Pathfinder Grant</u> It should be possible to continue to use an element of the grant being provided to extend the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds as a contribution to the increased demand the pathfinder has generated within the base budget.	200	0
<u>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</u>		
<u>Strategic Management</u>		
<u>CS53 - Delete LCCS Development Fund</u> Remove the remaining balance on the development fund.	3	3
<u>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT</u>		
<u>Behaviour Support Service</u>		
<u>CS54 - Review of EWS & Behaviour Support Service Management Arrangements</u> The potential for savings being generated from the development of greater integration of these services - supported by the planned implementation of a new 'Front Door' for children's services.	15	15
<u>CS55 - Cease Skills Centre Horticulture Course</u> This course is currently bought in at an annual cost of £55k. The course would not be renewed from Autumn 2010, so the full saving would not be generated until 2011/12.	27	55
<u>CS56 - Delete 0.5 fte Teaching Assistant Post</u> Delete a vacant 0.5 fte post.	13	13
<u>Traveller & Ethnic Minority Service</u>		
<u>CS57 - Replace 2 Teachers with 2 Teaching Assistants</u> Delete two teacher posts and replace with 2 TA posts with a small increase in overall hours. Could result in one redundancy.	29	29

Brief Description	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>SCHOOL FUNDING & CONTRACTS</u>		
<u>School Funding</u>		
<u>CS59 - Schools Pay & Grading Contingency</u>		
The remaining balance within the contingency budget was intended to be allocated to schools following the outcome of the appeals process. It is now proposed that no further allocations are made. Schools will be asked to fund the cost of their own appeals by using the savings they will have made from the difference between the pay award assumed in the LMS Funding formula for 2009/10 & 2010/11 of 2.5%, and the actual or expected pay awards for these years of 1%.	354	0
Recurring Savings Total	134	162
One-off Savings Total	554	0

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO - FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11

		CURRENT CHARGE 2009/10	PLUS 2.5% INCREASE	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE
<u>YOUTH SERVICE</u>		£	£	£	%
HIRE OF YOUTH CENTRE					
	Hourly Charge				
	Youth Groups with similar aims to Youth Service	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
	Other Voluntary and Community Groups	4.95	5.07	5.10	3.03%
	Private Bookings	10.00	10.25	10.30	3.00%
ZOO SKATE PARK					
	Per Session	1.75	1.79	1.80	2.86%

Youth Service Fees & Charges

			Budget 2007/08	Increase	Proposed Budget 2008/09
Area 1 Moor Lane Premises	H642/6301	Room Hire	3,640	180	3,820
Area 2 Kingswater Premises	H643/6301	Room Hire	1,030	50	1,080
Area 4 68 Centre Premises	H645/6301	Room Hire	1,030	50	1,080
Temporary Premises	H647/6301	Room Hire	4,120	210	4,330
Duke of Edinburgh	H672/6300	Fees & Charges	4,210	210	4,420
Zoo Skate Park	H685/6300	Fees & Charges	6,640	330	6,970
Zoo Skate Park	H685/6204	Sales	300	20	320
			<u>20,970</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>22,020</u>

STANDARD CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

Type of Service		Current Weekly Charge 2009/10 £	Proposed Weekly Charge 2010/11 £
I.	Residential Homes		
	Residential Homes for Children with Learning Disabilities (The Glen)	2,728.44	2,796.65
	Residential Home for Children (19 Wenlock Terrace)	2,718.84	2,786.81

FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 4 APRIL 2010

Age	Current Weekly Allowance 2009/10 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £
0-4	£108.01	£111.02
5-10	£119.00	£122.01
11-15	£137.06	£140.00
16-17	£166.74	£168.35

Skills Premium

Skill Level	Current Weekly Allowance 2009/10 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £
2	29.54	29.82
3	59.07	59.64
4	118.14	119.28
Teenagers with emotional or behavioural difficulties/severely disabled children (Specific scheme)	340.62	343.98

ADDITIONAL FOSTER CARERS ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 4 APRIL 2010

	Current Allowance 2009/10 £	Proposed Allowance 2010/11 £
Children attending Boarding School	50% of scale allowance during term time	
Children in hospital or otherwise unexpectedly absent	First four weeks - full scale allowance	
Children unemployed on DSS allowance	Approved weekly allowance less prevailing	
Children who are working	The foster parents of working children will have their allowance reduced by the amount the child contributes towards his/her keep. The amount being subject to negotiation between the foster parents, the child and the social worker	
School Clothing Grants:		
Primary School	Up to 91.66	Up to 92.58
Secondary School	Up to 192.43	Up to 194.35
On Starting Employment Grant	Up to 387.09	Up to 390.96
Christmas and Birthday Allowance	1 x weekly rate	
Holiday Allowance	Up to 3 x weekly rate	
Initial Clothing/Placement Allowance	Up to 5 x weekly rate	
Miscellaneous Allowance	Increase as other allowances by 2.5%	
Foster Carer Mileage Rate	37.4p per mile	37.8p per mile

ADOPTION ALLOWANCES
RESIDENCE ORDER ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 4 APRIL 2010

Age	Current Weekly Allowance 2009/10 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £
0-4	59.78	60.38
5-10	72.94	73.67
11-12	83.09	83.92
13-15	89.39	90.28
16+	119.42	120.61

SHARING CARE ALLOWANCES
SITTING SERVICE ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 4 APRIL 2010

Time Band	Standard Sharing Care Proposed Weekly Allowance 2009/10 £	Standard Sharing Care Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £	Allowance paid to carer of child with additional health needs (i.e. std allow. + 70% enhancement) Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £	Allowance paid to carer of child with more complex care needs (i.e. std allow. + 60% enhancement) Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £
0-4 hours	16.44	16.60	28.22 (i.e. 16.60 + 11.62)	26.56 (i.e. 16.6 + 9.96)
4-8 hours	24.59	24.84	42.23 (i.e. 24.84 + 17.39)	39.74 (i.e. 24.84 + 14.90)
8-12 hours	32.81	33.14	56.34 (i.e. 33.14 + 23.20)	53.02 (i.e. 33.14 + 19.88)
12-24 hours	49.18	49.67	84.44 (i.e. 49.67 + 34.77)	79.47 (i.e. 49.67 + 29.80)

SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ALLOWANCES
PAYABLE FROM 4 APRIL 2010

Age	Current Weekly Allowance 2009/10 £	Proposed Weekly Allowance 2010/11 £
0-4	£108.01	£111.02
5-10	£119.00	£122.01
11-15	£137.06	£140.00
16-17	£166.74	£168.35

Note: An amount equivalent to the Child Benefit entitlement will be deducted from this allowance.

DECISION SESSION – EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES

MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2010

Annex of Additional Comments received since the agenda was published

Comments refer to agenda item 4 – Revenue Budget Estimates 2010/11

RECEIVED FROM	COMMENTS
<p>Phil Martinez (School teacher)</p>	<p>This is my first foray into the world of politics so excuse me if I'm not directing my attention to the correct people.</p> <p>I am writing concerning an agenda item at the forthcoming meeting titled 'Decision session - executive member for children and young people's services'. This is a budget review which contains within it a proposal to remove the three arts consultants from their posts.</p> <p>As a school teacher in York for over 11 years, I and my colleagues have benefited greatly from the work they have done with my school, as well as other schools in the city, giving our children great social skills, and chance to pursue a variety of interests outside of the usual 'sitting in your seat' lessons. I feel that removal of these posts would lead to a reduction in arts provision within schools, in a city which prides itself in the vibrancy of its young people.</p> <p>I believe it will lead to a reduction because these are not subjects that the majority of teachers feel confident with, and without this full time support, I believe they will fall by the wayside. This would be a great shame.</p> <p>As I mentioned earlier, I am unsure if I have contacted the correct people to ensure my message reaches the correct ears, but I would hope that you would endeavour to forward this to the relevant people.</p>
<p>Bill Schofield (on behalf of the Governors of Knavesmire Primary School)</p>	<p>Could I place on record the objection of the Governors of Knavesmire Primary School to cuts planned in forthcoming budgets of the Arts Services.</p> <p>As Chair of Governors I have been informed of the potential cuts and deadline for submissions on 20th January 2010 and unfortunately a full and measured response is not possible at this stage. I hope you will accept that this brief response will be an adequate submission for the meeting on 25th January 2010.</p> <p>I believe that any decision to discuss possible budget cuts should have an appropriate response time whereby service users and partners will have an opportunity to raise concerns or approve such measures. This is clearly not the case presently and as such, would hope you note.</p>

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	<p>Knivesmire Primary School is an “outstanding” school and is in an outstanding local education authority. This position has not come about by accident; there has been a great deal of investment in the “added value” areas of education, the areas where pupils use creativity, imagination and significant life skills to improve personal self worth and confidence.</p> <p>Knivesmire Primary School has attended many of the Live Arts events organised by the Arts Service including Dance Festivals and Music Events where I have personally seen excellent productions. These events have obviously been prepared with great dedication and time input (much of which is voluntary by teachers, support staff and parents). Such events are part of the considerable investment that the Arts Service has in the young people of York.</p> <p>Knivesmire Primary School is also an active use of authority music services which I understand are also under threat.</p> <p>In my time as a Chair, I have seen School events such as Carol Services and Summer Performances improve from having individual musicians to a range of skilled and competent musical performers who have gone on to represent secondary school in orchestra and musical groups.</p> <p>The use of creative arts has supported a very well organised PET scheme in conjunction with the Theatre Royal which the School has been involved with for some years. The level of creative input has had a significant impact upon the children’s education and fits well with the Government’s Five Outcomes, across many strands.</p> <p>I believe that any decision to make swingeing cuts within such a vital area as the Arts, without appropriate consultation and forethought is misguided.</p> <p>I will personally be Chairing a Full Governing Body meeting on Monday evening, but would appreciate any opportunity for myself or a representative to address the members to reinforce our objections to the threat of budget cuts.</p> <p>It is a fact of life that public services are facing a future of reduced funding, but my experience is that appropriate appraisal of the situation involving all parties has the potential for better outcomes than any rush to cut “soft options”.</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to put forward a brief response to the members and would once again reiterate the Governing Body’s objection to such budget cuts.</p> <p>Chair of Governors Knivesmire School Parent Governor Millthorpe School Parent Representative to City of York Scrutiny Committee on Education.</p>

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<p>Carol Weston (Headteacher Knavesmire Primary School)</p>	<p>The staff were all devastated to learn yesterday that the three Arts Consultants Posts were proposed to be made redundant in the savings proposals to be discussed at the Meeting of Executive Members on Monday 25th January.</p> <p>We have been working very closely with the Arts Service for the past six years and cannot praise them highly enough. The work they have done with the school and the opportunities they have offered have had a significant impact on the school and its pupils. I would put our work in the arts as the single biggest factor in improving academic attainment and achieving 'outstanding' in our Ofsted Inspection (Nov 2007). Our involvement with the Arts Consultants has the aim not only of improving academic attainment but also developing the excellence and enjoyment agenda. We have used this work as a springboard for cross-curricular themes in their widest sense and last year re wrote the entire curriculum. Our work with the consultants had given us the confidence and the necessary expertise to do this and we are now extremely pleased with the result. All the opportunities that the arts service is able to offer – from the Viking Festival, Drama Festival, Dance Festival and Music Festival to Live Arts Weeks are an integral part of our curriculum.</p> <p>With the introduction of the new Primary Curriculum in September 2011 and the longer term aim of the Government to have a cultural entitlement for every pupil the proposal to cut three key posts would seem short sighted. The consultants will be key to driving both initiatives.</p> <p>Everyone who visits our school comments on how confident, enthusiastic and articulate our children are. They enjoy school and are always keen to sing the praises of all the work they have done with the arts service. This is as a direct result of the input they get from all the arts service staff who are a dedicated and committed team who enthuse all who work with them. The school values highly their input, support, expertise and the variety and extent of opportunities offered both in the past and in the future.</p> <p>Carol Weston and all the staff and children of Knavesmire Primary School</p>
<p>Liz Wilson (Chief Executive York Theatre Royal)</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to add to your deliberations about proposed cuts to Children & Young People's Services. I am writing on behalf of York Theatre Royal to support the value and benefit of the Arts Consultants in the Arts Education Service.</p> <p>The Theatre Royal has been privileged to be able to work alongside the Arts Education Consultants for a number of years. In particular we value highly the professional expertise of Colin Jackson, the Drama Consultant, and what his practitioner knowledge and skills add to Council's body of knowledge. Colin has supported the City's schools in recognising the role of Drama in improving delivery across all areas of the curriculum. He has been able to do this as a trusted member of staff at the City Council. We know through our work in schools in York that teachers value the role that Drama plays in not only the Creativity and Literacy Agendas but also in Whole School Improvement. Colin has been instrumental in devising and delivering with schools on the ways in which Drama</p>

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	<p>can support all learning styles for children and young people and in doing so has improved the value of education in the city.</p> <p>The Theatre Royal has benefited from Colin's professional input in our PET Programme with schools, helping us to identify the schools that could really benefit from our service and supporting schools and teachers in recognising the enormous benefits that arise from working with the Theatre Royal's Education team through the incorporation of Drama activity in the delivery of the whole curriculum. This has been possible because of the practitioner skills of Colin Jackson and his ability to speak from a position of knowledge about the tangible and positive benefits to teachers and pupils. It would be a great loss to schools and children and young people if the City Council was to lose this expertise from within its staff.</p> <p>I know that you will give this proposal your fullest consideration and I hope that we have been able to add to your debate.</p> <p>Thank you once again for giving the Theatre Royal the opportunity to contribute.</p>
<p>Bruce Cole (Fellow in Community Music University of York)</p>	<p>As a member of the university music staff who arranges placements for students in schools I feel this would be a tragic loss to the community and the creative opportunities offered to York's young people.</p> <p>Like all activities, the arts need adequate and professional co-ordination.</p> <p>As one who is involved in arts education at a national level, I have come to regard York's provision in this field as exemplary - as, indeed, have the postgraduate teachers we attract from all over the world. Whilst I appreciate that the Council has a responsibility to manage the public finances I do hope it is able to do so without making a casualty of the excellent arts provision it has so effectively built up.</p>
<p>Chris Bartram (Senior Lecturer in Music York St John University)</p>	<p>I have heard with dismay the recent news that the two community arts posts and three arts consultants' posts at the City of York may be made redundant in the near future. To be sure, we are facing extremely difficult financial times, but with respect this is a crazy and ill-thought out response.</p> <p>I worked for City of York for many years as a music peripatetic, primary school teacher and trainer. I am currently Senior Lecturer in Music at York St John University. As a freelance worker, I was recently involved in the national Wider Opportunities initiative (Open University/Trinity College London), and am currently a Facilitator for Singup, the National Music Manifesto singing programme. For the last 10 years I have also delivered music, dance and drama projects for many of the North's top arts education/community organisations working in the York area, including Opera North, Jessie's Fund, the National Centre for Early Music, York Theatre Royal, Accessible Arts and Musicleader. With this background I believe I am able to make a detailed professional assessment of the current situation of music education, both nationally and particularly here in York.</p>

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	<p>At the beginning of this century, after much hard work, the National Music Manifesto, a lobby of key musicians working in all areas of music in the UK, persuaded Government to fund music to the tune of £332 million, which finally enabled professionals to come together and begin to create first class music in education and community for children and young people in the UK. It was at last being recognised and accepted by Government that music and the arts are not an "extra", but an essential part of a true and lasting education.</p> <p>Dance and drama, which in the 21st Century increasingly interact and cross-fertilise with music to create exciting and vibrant art, are just as important as music to the full and lasting wider education of our children, and need to be valued as such.</p> <p>The decision to axe these posts as suggested in agenda item CS11 is a disastrous and short-sighted one for the City of York. There is no true "saving" to be made in educational and cultural terms. Whilst the redundancies may save a relatively little amount of money for this financial year, in my considered opinion they will put arts education and community arts in York back decades just at the moment when we were poised to make a massive leap forward. Indeed, it will cost far more money than the savings being made from the redundancies to return York's arts education to the point it is at now.</p> <p>I know well, and have worked with, the consultants and community arts officers who currently hold these posts and I value them as high quality, dedicated professionals. I hope that the City of York does too. I cannot believe there is not another way to save money without losing these valuable - and valued - posts, and I urge those concerned to abolish this proposal immediately,</p>
<p>Dr. Liz Mellor (Reader in Music and Applied Arts C4C:CETL Research Fellow Faculty of Arts York St. John University)</p>	<p>I am writing in my professional position as Reader in Music and Applied Arts at York St. John University, and Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Council Representative for the National Association of Music Educators (NAME) in response to the proposed:</p> <p>Arts and Culture Briefing: Proposed Budget Reductions review of the budget for 2009/2010:</p> <p>REF: "CS11 - Arts Consultants: Cease Service to Schools The saving would be generated from making the 3 consultants posts redundant and removing the curriculum support currently provided to schools. However, we would want to continue to make cultural opportunities and activities available to young people, and the saving is therefore net of funding to appoint staffing to undertake project work to increase the range of cultural opportunities available to young people."</p> <p>COMMENT FOR CONSIDERATION I have worked closely with the Arts Support Service in York and have witnessed the high quality of work within this service, especially with regard to Music / Tim Brooks support for schools.</p>

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	<p>Whilst I can understand the call for cuts within the current economy, I feel this review is untimely and inappropriately focused towards arts provision given the propitious social, emotional and learning afforded by the arts, learning which is highly valued by pupils and teachers and which gives opportunity for leadership, contribution to the cultural life of the City and Community, and contributes to the cultural capital of the Creative Industries within the City.</p> <p>Recent research in the arts, and with respect to music, shows its importance, not only for itself, but in developing a range of neuroscientific and psycho-social benefits.</p> <p>I can't think that cutting this service in the Government's proclaimed YEAR OF MUSIC 2010 would show the current council in a good light.</p> <p>It is essential that advisors in this area are in post to maintain an overview of Arts Provision in schools and to support teachers in both their classrooms and provide opportunities for pupils beyond this. This is especially perspicuous given recent cuts in the Arts in Initial Teacher Education. Teachers in schools need the support of their LEA Arts Services.</p> <p>Personally, I have been involved with Music in terms Gifted/ Talented, Wider Opportunities, Sing Up, Arts Mark, Late Music Festival, Best of the Bands, Arts Award and Music Leader. This needs careful co-ordination rather than one-off project facilitation for the work to continue in a sustained fashion. Opportunities afforded by these experiences have been distinctive, unique and highly valued by participants, parents and students building bridges across learning communities.</p> <p>I have welcome Tim Brook's in put in his role as Arts Consultant showing how this service can model links with LEA and University Learning and Teaching in my lecturing in Music Education at both York St John University, York University and NAME.</p> <p>This is a service which has modelled aspects of excellence in the Arts and which is highly regarded within the National Arts Community.</p> <p>Please record my strong protest towards this proposed budget review. I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of developments.</p> <p>Dr. Liz Mellor, Reader in Music and Applied Arts, C4C:CETL Research Fellow, Faculty of Arts, York St. John University</p>
Molly Newton	I am writing in my professional capacity as Music Co-ordinator at Haxby Road Primary School and as former Head of Music and Expressive Arts at Lowfield School. I also work as a practitioner for Sing Up. I am currently on maternity leave and have only just heard about the proposed budget reductions at the council.

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<p>(Music Co-ordinator Haxby Road Primary School and practitioner for Sing Up)</p>	<p>Arts and Culture Briefing: Proposed Budget Reductions review of the budget for 2009/2010:</p> <p>I have worked in York as a music and drama specialist for almost ten years and have benefited hugely from the consistently high quality of work within the arts and culture service, especially with regard to Music and Drama (Tim Brooks and Colin Jackson) and their support for schools.</p> <p>Given the current economic climate I can understand the need for the council to review its expenditure, however, to make these posts redundant is a cut the council cannot afford to make. The day to day service provided by the consultants within schools is essential and could not even begin to be replaced by project facilitators or similar.</p> <p>For example the Music NLG meetings have always been well attended and appreciated by music specialists. It has given rise to many professional development opportunities as well as an avenue to access help and support. Tim has helped with the many and varied issues that occur within music education as well as providing training and advice about new curriculum developments, resources and equipment.</p> <p>When making the difficult transition from working in Secondary education to Primary, Tim Brooks was there to: a) recommend me for the job in the first place and; b) help and advise me after I decided to take it. He was only able to do that because he knows me and knows my skills and abilities. The fact the Haxby Road Primary School is one of the few primary schools in York to have a specialist music teacher on the staff is down to Tim. He knows and understands the importance of music education at every level.</p> <p>Because Tim and Colin have worked for so long with the schools and young people in York they have built relationships with them which are invaluable. They have a knowledge base which can only be built up after working day in and day out with teachers and young people across the city. They have a passion which is infectious and an ability to inspire staff and students alike.</p> <p>As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter I am currently on maternity leave due to return to work in September. I cannot imagine going back to work and doing my job without the support of the consultants and especially Tim.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the cessation of these posts. Please record my strong protest towards this proposed budget review. I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of developments.</p> <p>The Hon. Mrs. Molly Newton</p>
<p>Ishbel Herd (Music Teacher 'Sing Up' Coordinator)</p>	<p>I am writing to voice my extreme objection to the proposal to make 3 Arts Consultant Posts redundant.</p> <p>At present, I am working with 'Sing Up' and am covering Molly Newton's maternity leave at Haxby Road school. Prior to that I was Assistant Headteacher at Lowfield School (until 2007) and Head of KS3 at York High School for the following two years.</p>

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	<p>I have worked with Colin, Edward and Tim on a number of occasions and have always been totally impressed by their talents, enthusiasm, the way in which they work with children and the results they get from them.</p> <p>York's 'Beacon Council' status is due, in part, to the forward thinking of the team of consultants. The council is often at the cutting edge of new educational ideas and the Arts Consultants have a very important role to play.</p> <p>I organised two 'SEAL' days for YHS Y7 pupils in 2008. They were highly successful and very highly praised by the CYC. Other authorities have requested our input in helping to organise similar days. The success of the two days was due, in no small part, to the input of the Arts consultants.</p> <p>York is a beacon authority because of the work undertaken by people like Tim, Ed and Colin.</p> <p>I have been involved for many years in the Battle of / Best of the Bands and the Music Festival. I have seen the sheer delight on the faces of the pupils who have had the opportunity to perform on the Grand Opera House stage. I know it is a totally unforgettable experience for them and one which will affect them for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>To lose the support and input of the consultants would be a sad, sad day for the City of York and a tragedy for the hundreds of pupils who would miss out on life changing opportunities were the posts to be made redundant.</p> <p>I would urge the City Council to reconsider this cutback and keep York at the forefront of Arts Education in the UK.</p>
John Haslam	<p>a. The service could look at higher/more flexible pricing/more creative ways of delivering services and look at the concept of delivery for profit.</p> <p>b. The service could look at better models for delivery and find best practice re. success and return on investment and should involve children in more cultural activities including school assemblies, lunchtime performances and PTA/fundraising/open evening events.</p> <p>c. The service could look at marketing and pricing its way out of financial problems before cost cutting its way out.</p> <p>d. The service should to retain its consultants.</p> <p>e. The service could look at using the successful bid for volunteering in order to support mentoring in the arts across age groups possibly alongside Arts Award.</p> <p>f. Most importantly, it might be beneficial for the service to establish its breakeven targets e.g. Numbers of children in ensembles in Arts Centres or numbers of children being taught in groups at what price or ticket price at a festival or concert and organise a meeting of parents to explain this as part of a celebration of the Arts event. Throw the problem back at parents to market the service and get other parents and children on-side OR ELSE possibly lose it. I think most parents will be very upset if the fab work of the consultants goes when parents could have done something about it.</p>

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Lucy Goulden	<p>I am writing in response to the news about possible cuts to the Arts Education Consultants. As a parent with 2 children at Knavesmire Primary School, I am very concerned about this as all the children benefit so much from the services it provides.</p> <p>Initiatives such as the drama festival and PET project are a much needed confidence boost for children who may not be as academic as their peers and make the arts accessible to all.</p> <p>Live Arts activities enrich school life, the children and staff benefit enormously from workshops held by artists.</p> <p>It would be a huge disappointment to the school community to lose these valuable services. Please take these comments into consideration when you come to making your final decision.</p>
Philippa Nesbitt (Performing Arts Teacher) and Mr S Gumn (Headteacher) Burnholme Community College	<p>This letter is written in response to the e mail I received about the current financial proposals which affect the Arts Education Services. As a school we have benefited greatly from the work and support that all three consultants have offered. It is truly devastating that York will be far poorer in the Arts Division if this proposal is carried out. In my opinion, it is very detrimental to sever the strong links that have been made between local schools as this will only put the children at a huge disadvantage. It is my belief that York has always been instrumental in promoting the Arts which has been the responsibility of the three consultants who show nothing but commitment, dedication and enthusiasm. Although I understand the financial constraints that are apparent at the moment, in my opinion, the three consultants who work in this area are irreplaceable and I believe that the funding saved will never compensate for their skills and expertise.</p>
Samantha Buckley (Subject Leader for Music Canon Lee Specialist Arts College)	<p>I am writing in my capacity as Subject Leader for Music at Canon Lee Specialist Arts College in response to the proposals of cuts in the community arts budget including the loss of the Arts Consultants posts.</p> <p>Over the past 8 years I have worked extensively with the Music Consultant Tim Brookes and cannot emphasise enough how vital curriculum support is for the Arts. We are by nature usually the lowest staffed subject areas in schools and therefore collaborative work, planning, reviewing and standardisation are difficult to achieve. Working with a network of other music teachers through our consultant and with his support over the years has provided invaluable experience and development for many of us.</p> <p>Tim has involved my school and my students in many additional festivals, workshops, AGT sessions and other opportunities which have enhanced our curriculum and both enthused students and without doubt improved their attainment. The quality of these would not be met if they were organised by a non-specialist.</p> <p>The links with feeder primary schools where there are not necessarily subject specialists is also a vital part of these consultants posts. They offer much needed support for both curriculum and extra curricular areas including the wider opportunities scheme.</p>

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	<p>I have been asked to add that our Subject Leader for Drama also feels strongly about these posts as she has appreciated Colin Jackson's support and expertise on many occasions. As a single person department for some years Colin worked alongside Jenny developing the curriculum and offering support and ideas for behaviour management. Again, this role would not be effectively delivered by a non specialist – or worse still not at all.</p> <p>My final concern is the implications of the restructuring of the Music service. We enjoy an excellent and collaborative relationship with our peripatetic music teachers. Our students need consistency and quality teaching. I have grave concerns about the potential impact of lessons being disrupted or cancelled as the skills students learn in these lessons are the foundation of our extra curricular programme and this leads more students being passionate about music and wanting to continue studying to a higher level. Many of my students begin their musical career with an arts service teacher and go on to further and higher education and ultimately employment in this field. I sincerely hope that my thoughts are read and taken into due consideration.</p>
<p>Andy Herbert (Headteacher Fishergate Primary School)</p>	<p>I am very concerned to hear about the proposals to reduce the budget for Arts Education resulting in the loss of both Community Arts posts and Arts Consultants whose work has been of great value to all schools over recent years.</p> <p>As a primary school which has worked really hard to develop a creative and holistic view of the educational provision for all the children, Fishergate School will feel the loss of this important service if it is forced to take these drastic cuts in funding. At a time when all primary schools are looking closely at developing the creative and artistic curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils and meet the demands of the new Primary Curriculum expected soon, I feel this decision is short-sighted and will have a negative impact on the lives of the children across the City of York.</p> <p>Over recent years, Fishergate School has used the Arts and Culture service to greatly enhance the quality of learning for its pupils. Last year we took part in the PET project in partnership with the Theatre Royal and this had a tremendous impact on the quality of teaching and learning, leaving a lasting legacy of skills for teachers to use in the future. Under these proposed cuts, such a rich and creative partnership will be under threat. Fishergate School has worked very closely with Tim Brooks as Music Consultant to develop the scale and quality of music in the school. His support through in service training for our Music Leader, support for after school Music Technology Clubs and modeling of teaching in the school has been hugely valuable. This positive and supportive relationship will be under threat.</p> <p>Colin Jackson is well known to many schools as Drama Consultant. The model of support he has set up and used in many schools to develop drama techniques that can be used across the curriculum, is one that I have copied in developing the skills of my staff. Colin's work with schools has been greatly valued and appreciated and has developed the skills of teachers across the City.</p>

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	<p>Fishergate has taken part in several high profile partnership events in the recent past, working with such bodies as the National Centre for Early Music, Sing Up, Grand Opera House and Theatre Royal. I am dismayed that the positive impact on the learning gained through such partnerships will be lost under cost cutting measures at a time when schools are asked to work in partnerships and intensely inspected by Ofsted to see that this is happening. Having had an Inspection this week I know this aspect is rigorously investigated under the new Ofsted Framework.</p> <p>We live in a world where success in schools is measured by progress in narrow aspects of the primary curriculum. It is vital that schools maintain the broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum which supports all children and meets their needs in an increasingly diverse cultural community. I would strongly ask that these proposed decisions to reduce spending be reviewed carefully for the benefit of the children in York. It is only by preserving such experiences for our children that they will grow up as creative and confident learners who have a broad range of skills and interests that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.</p>
<p>Cluny Macpherson (Regional Director designate Arts Council England)</p>	<p>Arts Council England has been incredibly supportive of the use of the arts in children and young people work in York and has often held York up as an exemplar of good practice. We welcomed the commitment made by the authority to ensure that children and young people should have a basic cultural offer of 5 hours a week and we have been impressed by the progress made to date.</p> <p>York has excelled in its delivery of Artsmark to schools with 58% of schools having achieving an Artsmark award and the authority currently holds an Arts Award training license. Your arts education consultants are qualified Arts Award trainers, and one is an Artsmark validator. This capacity within City of York Council represents a significant investment which could soon be lost.</p> <p>We have been impressed with the apparent momentum that is driving forward the innovative use of the arts to deliver against core CYP outcomes in York, which is why it is all the more disappointing to hear that you are prepared to stop this work in it's tracks. Much of this work has been financially supported by Arts Council England with at least £30k of funding in the last year to support various CYP arts initiatives. We are currently in the process of seeking to allocate further internal funds to support innovative working with children and young people in the region, with York being considered as a possible beneficiary. We have now put this decision on hold while we await your decision on the future of the service.</p> <p>Clearly, choosing to make these cuts may be perceived as a sign of diminished commitment to working creatively with young people, which is likely to result in the authority attracting less funding from partners such as ourselves in the future. Naturally we will not fund any activity that was previously provided by City of York Council children's and young peoples services.</p> <p>On a more general note, Arts Council England invests in the region of £1.3m in York annually. We do so partly</p>

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	<p>because of the excellent relationship we have with the authority and the understanding we have of the commitment to the arts that exists within the members and officers of the authority. We acknowledge that the economic circumstances surrounding difficult decisions like this one are exceptional, but when we come to make some inevitably difficult decisions in our own forthcoming investment strategy, it will be those authorities that are still committed to the arts that stand more chance of attracting investment than those that don't.</p> <p>We are disappointed that as your key development partner in creative approaches to this area of work, you have chosen not to consult us earlier in your deliberations about the future of the service. Had you done so we would have had more chance to illustrate the disproportionately negative impact these cuts will have on the lives of children and young people in York, when compared to the short term fiscal benefits you may achieve. We would have welcomed the opportunity to work with you to help to ensure that this excellent work carries on into the future.</p>
<p>Rupert Griffiths (Headteacher St Oswald's Primary School)</p>	<p>As Headteacher at St Oswald's Primary School I wish to express my very serious concerns about the proposed changes to the Arts Education Service, and also about the manner in which these proposals have been reached.</p> <p>I am absolutely convinced of the crucial role of the Arts for all our children in promoting effective learning and developing self-esteem. In short, the Arts are central to delivering the Every Child Matters outcome that all children should 'Enjoy and Achieve.'</p> <p>For this reason, at St Oswald's we have made developing outstanding Arts provision a key priority in our current school improvement plan. A measure of our success in doing this is that this academic year we have been able to submit an application to the Arts Council for Artsmark Gold. There is absolutely no doubt that we would not have been in a position to make this application or, more importantly, to celebrate the achievements that it represents, without the significant input that we have had from the CYC arts consultants. Both the Drama consultant and the Dance consultant have carried out sustained work with the staff and pupils which have had a real, lasting impact in terms of improving the provision that we can offer. They have also enabled us to develop other partnerships which are further enhancing this (such as the school's participation in York Theatre Royal's Partnership in Education and Theatre project).</p> <p>These developments form a central part of our wider aim, to create a curriculum which gives exciting, meaningful learning opportunities for all of our children. This is something which I know many schools are seeking to do at this time. It anticipates the changes to the national curriculum which will come in 2011 and which, I believe, are motivated by similar aims. Without a genuine commitment to and support for Arts education I believe it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to deliver the new curriculum effectively and to make the most of the real opportunities that it presents for making a difference to primary education.</p> <p>Another aspect of the proposed changes which particularly concerns me is the threat to the excellent range of cultural opportunities which are currently available to our children. Events such as the Schools' Drama Festival, Dance Festival and Viking Festival provide an invaluable opportunity not only for schools to celebrate their own</p>

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	<p>achievements, but also to demonstrate the high value that we as a Local Authority, or indeed as a City, place on the Arts and on young people's achievements and aspirations. At St Oswald's our pupils' participation in these events has helped to give considerable impetus to our drive to develop outstanding Arts provision. Needless to say, it has also been a source of great pride and enjoyment for our school, our pupils and their parents.</p> <p>I have worked as a Headteacher in York for over six years now. For me the standard of support and opportunities provided by the Arts Education Service has been one of the key factors in creating the real sense of pride and community that I believe exists in this Local Authority. I would be very sad to see this compromised, and, more importantly, I think it would impact directly on the children and families that we serve.</p> <p>Finally, I feel I must express my disquiet at the manner in which these proposals have been put forward. I am not aware that there has been any real attempt to consult those who will be most directly affected (i.e. schools). It seems wrong that we should only have been given an opportunity to have our say on such a significant matter at the eleventh hour thanks to the efforts of the Arts consultants themselves. Once again this does not accord well with the ethos of consultation and working together with schools which I believe is an essential part of City of York LA's continuing success.</p> <p>I do hope that you will take my views and those of other headteachers into account when discussing these proposals.</p>
<p>Kevin ? – (Co-Director Inspired Youth)</p>	<p>I am co-Director and Founder of Inspired Youth, a not-for-profit social enterprise, specializing in high impact media projects which engage and inspire young people. We believe in the value of the impact our projects and indeed all high quality arts opportunities created for young people which encourage personal development, confidence building and raising aspirations through creativity.</p> <p>In the light of the current cut proposals I would have to say that in our experience, the City Of York Councils Consultants are a really key part of creating successful arts / culture projects in partnership with Schools, Pupil Referral Centres and other youth groups.</p> <p>As well as creating inroads for high quality artists to collaborate with schools, their expertise and knowledge of the curriculum makes the process of creating projects relevant and enables us as artists to map our projects outcomes to young peoples ongoing program of learning.</p> <p>We have developed several projects and partnerships with the consultants and it is hard to envisage how those projects could have ever taken place otherwise. As well as initiation of projects the collaboration and supportive structure they provide empowers us as artists to do what we do best as practitioners. For small</p>

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	<p>businesses like ours these projects help keep us afloat and create opportunities to enrich the cultural and artistic experiences of our young people. A complete cut of the entire CONSULTANT team seems extreme and would threaten to undo so much of the work that has already taken place in building partnerships and for example challenges such as providing a well structured and well supported Cultural Entitlement Offer.</p> <p>Surely there is a creative alternative such as reducing the number of cuts, leaving posts to ensure the continued development of relationships between organisations such as ourselves that have been built with schools such as York High. Or a cut in the hours so the roles can be maintained.</p> <p>It would be easy for officials to underestimate the impact of these proposed cuts. I would have to question how difficult it would be for good quality freelance artists and small company's such as Inspired Youth to forge relationships with Schools without the help and support of the Arts and Culture team. Not only do they ensure that new partnerships are happening but they make sure that the quality is up to the mark both in terms of the practitioners and the learning process.</p> <p>In addition the Arts Action York team have been fundamental in empowering many disadvantaged and hard to reach groups to experience good quality arts and media community projects. Again their team works hard to ensure projects run smoothly, are well planned and underpinned by good practise and strong partnership working. Arts Action York and Inspired Youth have worked on projects such as 'Exploring Experiences of Learning' with Students from Traveller families, enabling such projects to take place and become a success. These projects would otherwise be very difficult to establish and it seems very extreme to conduct such an extreme cut.</p> <p>With the Governments introduction of the cultural entitlement these cuts create massive gaps in making the delivery possible and are surely going to dumb down the level of quality with the provision of this offer.</p> <p>When Every Child Matters, do these proposed cuts dilute young peoples entitlement to a high quality range of arts, media and cultural opportunities?</p> <p>I propose there are more constructive and creative solutions than those that are on the table and that really the passing of these proposals will be a huge loss.</p>
<p>Judith Rigg (Headteacher Copmanthorpe Primary School)</p>	<p>As a school that has benefitted from the arts consultancy in York, I wanted to outline my concerns at withdrawing this funding at this time.</p> <p>2011 marks the introduction of the new Primary Curriculum with the opportunity for re-invigorating and revising the current Foundation curriculum subjects. Where is the expertise going to be found if these positions are taken</p>

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	<p>away with their remit for injecting creativity into the curriculum? Schools have been criticised for focussing on literacy and maths at risk to developing subjects such as art, music and cross-curriculum links.</p> <p>Our school has gained the Gold Artsmark twice through the focus that the arts consultants have given us to enrich our curriculum as well as the expertise to help us to put these Artsmarks together. More importantly, our children have benefitted from the arts curriculum that we have been able to give to children through the focus on the arts. Come and look at some of the work that the children have done in school.</p> <p>We are preparing children for future learning. Removing the arts consultants means that some children who do not have opportunity to do art, music at home will have little chance of this opportunity for enrichment and creativity. As no doubt school budgets will shortly be cut, neither will schools be able to furnish these extras either. Please think again about children of today, the arts are needed to sustain and further future learning. Are they to be just for the elite in York?</p>
<p>Sheena Powley (Headteacher Lord Deramore's VC Primary School)</p>	<p>I would like to represent the views of Lord Deramore's Primary School in expressing our sadness and great concern at the proposed budget cuts to the Arts Education Service.</p> <p>This is a greatly valued service and has contributed to the creative development of many pupils at Lord Deramore's over the years.</p> <p>As a Head teacher I have recently received support in applying for Arts Mark Gold, something I would not have considered had it not been for the involvement of the Arts Service and the opportunities that Colin Jackson has given Lord Deramore's. In fact as I type this letter I reflect on the many events, projects, festivals and concerts I have had the pleasure to be involved in and have felt great pride in being part of such a creative learning City. It is this fabulous creativity that will be sacrificed.</p> <p>I look forward to developing our creative curriculum even further in light of the Rose Review and had hoped that I would be working with the Arts consultants to develop some exciting ideas we have had as a school team. I can honestly say that the impact of taking part in the annual music festival has given our school orchestra the confidence to take part in other concerts and school events. We have won the Harrogate Festival trophy for three consecutive years for our recorder groups. Tim Brooks has led staff training, inspired a creative violin opportunity and given us support in developing new ideas.</p> <p>I conclude by saying I have great respect for the skills and talents of this particular service and know that they have played a significant part in the success of Lord Deramore's.</p>

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Emma Melling	<p>It is with great sadness that I hear cuts in such valued services as Community Arts and Arts Education are being considered. Without these, those who need the opportunity to express themselves most will struggle further and the quietest voices will yet again go unheard. This goes against the grain of every working practice in our field. Whilst it is difficult to quantify the value of such services, those who see the impact of this work know that for disadvantaged groups, they are core part of successful interventions to support positive life choices.</p>
Helen Cadbury (Freelance Arts Educational Consultant)	<p>I am writing to express my dismay at the budget cuts and redundancies proposed for the arts consultants in schools and for the community arts team. It is unthinkable to completely decimate the expertise in this city which has been built up over several years both in schools' provision and in the community. At a time when young people are allegedly being consulted about cultural provision and when the government has laid down expectations of children's cultural entitlement, this sends out a message that this city simply isn't interested in the arts and culture, and it's not interested in what young people need and want. These are not luxuries. The arts are part of what makes us human and civilised. Through engagement in the arts and culture young people learn team work, presentation skills, problem solving, communication: all transferable skills in the 21st century workplace. The work of the consultants has contributed significantly over the years to York schools being among the best in the country. They have ensured that our children experience excellence in creative learning, whatever their background - if it's in school it's for everyone, not just the privileged few. The community arts teams have accessed those most marginalised in our city, offered them positive activities, motivation and learning in an accessible, engaging and professional manner. These are the people who go out there and do the work, they don't spend their time in endless pointless meetings, they spend them working with the clients. If you throw all this away now, you will find it impossible to build again in the future and York will be the poorer for a long time to come.</p>
Amelia Kasmi (Yorkshire Youth and Music Sing Up Area Leader)	<p>My name is Amelia Kasmi and I am the Sing Up Area Leader for Yorkshire. My role is to provide schools opportunities to engage with the National Singing Programme and to give staff working in schools training and development to lead singing in schools.</p> <p>The success of this work which is publicly funded is dependant on working in partnership and in the case of York (a city famous for its arts and culture provision) Tim Brooks has enabled schools who might otherwise not have benefited from this programme to be involved. Without his position, it is unfeasible for schools to access quality provision for music, which helps to raise attainment across the curriculum as well as transform the lives of the young people involved.</p> <p>The loss of this service will, without doubt jeopardise the success and sustainability of all the work and expertise taking place and being shared in York currently.</p> <p>Music projects not only give children access to make music for music's sake, but also develop and embed skills that are transferable and essential. Like sport, music inspires and motivates and without an expert within the city</p>

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	<p>working with schools to support them, the delivery of provision may not be guaranteed.</p> <p>I do hope that you will take these comments on board.</p>
<p>Karen Boardman (Headteacher, St Barnabas CE Primary School)</p>	<p>I would like you to pass on my concern and unhappiness about the proposed cuts to the Arts Service, particularly the loss of consultants' posts.</p> <p>As a Gold Arts Mark school we have had a tremendous support from this service over the years and feel that it has benefited the children enormously. We believe that the Arts can facilitate so much learning and development which has a huge impact on the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy. Through the 'Arts' children of all abilities develop self confidence, creativity, self esteem, team work, resilience and can learn how to express themselves in ways other than writing. I will never forget one particular looked after child who had had a tremendous amount of difficulty in her short life and struggled in many areas of the curriculum. When taking part in drama, dance and music, she totally lost herself in it and the sheer joy on her face was something that will stay with me forever.</p> <p>This kind of work we have done with children and our achievement of the Gold Artsmark has been as a result of support and encouragement from our Arts Consultants. The Drama festival and dance festival have been highlights of our year and made our whole school community so proud.</p> <p>I understand why budgets need to be cut but I urge decision makers to consider the impact of these cuts to the Arts service on children and young people in York.</p>
<p>Ruth McCartney (Senior Advisor - The Voices Foundation)</p>	<p>I wish to respond in writing to my absolute horror at the proposed cuts of the three important arts education consultants. While my children have mainly been involved with Tim Brooks for music, they have also had direction from Colin Jackson too. The massive support one of my sons has had from Tim Brooks, out of school hours, has allowed him to partake in Battle of the Bands, Tim's Gifted Musicians concerts leading to national competitions for the Rotary, all from Tim Brook's support. Tim's input has been enormous and this is for one child. I am aware that he gives every child a chance to improve. Tim has gone far beyond even the support and care of another of my son's senior schools in ensuring he was safe in all concerts and festivals he arranged. Tim personally arranged a medically safe environment for each venue in which he played. No other consultant has played such an important role in not only the subject of music but also in caring for the wellbeing of a child with severe medical issues.</p> <p>I feel it is a big mistake for the council to remove consultants whose work involves very many children and teenagers whose talents are not always academic. These subjects are inclusive more than any other subject. A non-academic child can shine and excel in the arts where they are unable to achieve such a high standard with the written word. Behavioural problems, emotional issues and social "dilemmas" can be addressed from guidance, exploration and experience in these areas of the arts and specifically from these consultants in York. Classical music is very much skill based as is the curriculum music in schools and as a senior advisor for the</p>

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	<p>Voices Foundation and as York's facilitator for Sing Up, the recent improvements in curriculum music within schools in York are very obvious. Tim Brooks allows music to open doors for so many of York's teenagers. Does that happen with the RE consultants, Geography consultants, History and Languages consultants? I would be interested to know what the criteria was for choosing the arts</p> <p>As the government is currently pouring money into the arts because it is aware of the inclusive benefits I can't believe York Council can be so blinkered. Perhaps some members of York council were not fortunate enough to have a good music education or "gave up" when it became a challenge and in which case were not able to benefit as York's children do from the current input in and out of school. Our valuable arts consultants have made it possible for many teenagers to have a focus, to shine in an area they never would have experienced without the input of these talented consultants, be it classical or rock music, drama or dance. They are what makes York's education worth having. The festival's in York will cease I assume without the backing of these organisers who are able to motivate and facilitate in an area where many adults feel they failed at school in the past. They are giving York teachers the training they should have had at teacher training college. York would certainly not be where it is today without the extremely valuable work of these consultants.</p> <p>When I was at school the standard of practical music was significantly higher in my school than I have found so far in York senior schools. There are more individually qualified pupils in York's schools today but the more practical elements of playing together still need the extra support and regular opportunities which Tim and the arts service provide by way of festivals and bigger events which individual schools are not able to organise. South Tyneside, where I acquired my musical experience and musical discipline, had some very dedicated leaders who were prepared to put everything into the children with whom they worked. Had I not been trained to such a very standard up to age 18 I would not be able to work in the field I do now. University practical music (Ripon College) did not come remotely close to the standard of that I experienced from teachers and consultants who worked out of school hours and in school for my benefit. That training from such a dedicated team allowed me so much more than my colleagues from other Education Authorities. I urge you to reconsider which consultants should be removed. Perhaps reorganise one consultant for the umbrella term of "humanities" instead of the separate consultants for RE, history, Geography, PHSE, one consultant for all of the technologies perhaps? I hope you consider this proposal wisely.</p>
<p>Dr Tim Lucas (York St John University)</p>	<p>I would just like to register my horror at hearing about the potential redundancies concerning the arts services in York. I write as a tutor on the PGCE programme at York St. John University and as school governor of Clifton Green Primary School.</p> <p>I feel that the proposed cuts are extremely shortsighted and I feel such sadness that a service that has had so much impact upon education in York has been deemed not to be needed.</p> <p>Clifton Green Primary School has recently been recognised by OFSTED as an outstanding school. The rise in</p>

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	<p>standards and aspirations of the children has been due to hard working staff who have recognised that the Arts can be used to motivate and inspire pupils. The Arts have been a major feature of school improvement within what is recognised as a 'difficult' area. This has resulted in children being exposed to a rich programme of arts education which has in turn sparked off a desire to read and write and develop a wealth of skills to equip them for life, employment and success in the future.</p> <p>To deny children of this wealth of experience is unacceptable. I would urge any of you in any doubt of the value of the York Arts team to arrange a meeting with Sheila Audsley the Headteacher to see at first hand the truth of impact of this service has had on the lives and achievement of the pupils.</p> <p>Please do all you can to stop the shortsightedness of a short term budget plan to have such a detrimental effect on the long term future of York's children. Your help is much appreciated.</p>
<p>Clare Clarke (Music Teacher, Dringhouses & Wheldrake Schools)</p>	<p>Apologies for missing the deadline, I hope my views will still be considered as I was unaware of these proposals until this afternoon. I am writing to let you know how important it is to have a dedicated arts consultancy team. I have been teaching for 15 years and have held several music coordinator posts in schools over the years, mainly in Camden, and now in York. I cannot imagine not having a music consultant in an education authority.</p> <p>Music is quite an isolating subject to teach. In primary schools especially there is sometimes only one person who teaches music and with the PPA provision, that teacher is often not even a full time member of staff at that school. Music is a large subject encompassing class music lessons and private instrumental lessons. There is very little budget, especially for classroom music and often issues to do with space, time & equipment.</p> <p>Although everyone agrees that music is a good thing, and would like their school to provide varied musical opportunities, in practice it can be a difficult subject to argue for in the face of all the other pressures that schools are under. It is also a subject which presents unique challenges in teaching.</p> <p>All this means it is important to be part of a larger team outside your immediate school which is what the music advisory service provides. I have been teaching music in York school for the last 2 years after a career break. I have found the music advisory service invaluable in that time for the following reasons: I have regularly attended courses either run by or recommended by the service and I have benefitted from help with my ICT skills so my schools can take part in an online music sharing platform. I have met and shared ideas with other people who do the same job in different schools, and been able to borrow equipment which my schools could not afford to buy. I am kept up to date via email with any relevant courses or events which my schools can join in. These events such as the music festival are vital for raising the profile & take up of music in schools. Most importantly I have felt that there is a team behind me that I can call upon for help or support and which coordinates a wider musical project which my schools are part of. The music consultant does an excellent job of keeping a large and very varied staff in touch and provides all kinds of opportunities for people to improve their own practice and to support each other.</p> <p>Music is a fragile subject in an over- crowded curriculum. The fact that it exists at all let alone flourishes in so many places is down, often, to sheer willpower, enthusiasm and hard work. In York this has until now been channelled into a coordinated effort and music teachers have had the benefit of excellent support.</p>

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	<p>Although my experience is with music, my comments are equally relevant to all the arts subjects. Obviously, savings have to be made from somewhere, but to have an education authority this size with no arts coordination is shocking. Arts coordinators are not a luxury but vital champions of the subjects that really add to quality of life. The loss of the arts consultancy team will have a real impact on my own work and that of many other people and a detrimental effect on the young people in York's schools. Thank you for taking the time to read this</p>
<p>Ann McKeown (Headteacher ~ Huntington Community Primary School)</p>	<p>My apologies for this late response, I hope that it will be accepted for the meeting this evening.</p> <p>I would like to make the following contribution to the discussion...</p> <p>As a Headteacher in York since 1998, in two schools, I have worked closely with the Arts Service over a number of years. I was therefore shocked and dismayed to learn of the proposed cuts to this excellent service which has at its core a team of dedicated, hard working and highly skilled professionals.</p> <p>I have always found the Arts Service to be responsive to schools' needs, reflective and self evaluative in its service delivery. This is a consistently high quality service which is greatly valued by myself, and I know, other Headteacher colleagues in the city. It makes a very important contribution to the lives of many children and young people, provides expertise in schools which we may not otherwise have and contributes to/impacts on the broader lives of our families and the wider city through, for example, excellent Dance, Drama and Music Festivals in citywide venues.</p> <p>I have no doubt that many schools in York which have achieved Artsmark status from the Arts Council of England would not have done so without the help, support, advice and guidance of members of the Arts Education team.</p> <p>I would urge the decision makers to re-consider any proposed cuts to the Arts Service which is excellent and should be retained to ensure that the children and young people of York continue to have the widest possible opportunity to access high quality Arts Education through the curriculum support in schools as an entitlement.</p> <p>I am unable to attend the meeting this evening but am happy to provide any further information, if this would be helpful, to ensure that those charged with making this decision do so with the widest evidence base possible.</p>
<p>Janet Butler</p>	<p>I was unable to meet the deadline due to work last week but I would like to express my concern about the proposed cuts as a teacher and as a parent. As a Wider Opps tutor and Music teacher in Primary Schools I have often sought the advice and support of Tim Brooks. He has also advised me on many issues such as resources and ICT. I have found his curriculum support groups a very useful means of keeping up with curriculum issues and an invaluable source of support from colleagues. My children have also benefitted from many live arts projects in their schools. I was particularly impressed with a Drama workshop my daughter attended led by Colin Jackson.</p>

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	A project based approach will not provide teachers with a year round source of support and advice and the quality of Arts provision in schools can only suffer.
<p>Em Whitfield Brooks</p> <p>(Vocal Force Advisor – Sing Up)</p>	<p>I am writing to express my concern and dismay at the proposed cuts to your Arts and Culture service.</p> <p>In an earlier phase of my career I was employed by Gill Cooper to run singing projects in York primary schools, and was commissioned by her and the then music consultant David Ashworth to create a teachers singing resource pack, which is still widely used in York primary schools and all over the country.</p> <p>More recently as Advisor for Vocal Force, the workforce development networking programme of the national singing campaign Sing Up, I worked with current music consultant Tim Brooks, who was our key partner in the successful establishment of a teachers network supporting singing across the curriculum. Our aim is to give teachers and TAs the skills they need to work confidently with singing in and out of the classroom. There is a huge amount of research that speaks of the benefits of singing to children and their teachers, both in terms of improving their learning and concentration as well as increasing their confidence and social skills.</p> <p>We worked in partnership with other York organisations - York St Johns, York University, NCEM and others - but our central link to all those organisations as well as all the teachers in the city came through the support we had from Tim Brooks, who was strategically placed to ensure that our training programme was a success. York was the first city in the country to roll out this pioneering programme, and the York Vocal Force has benefitted teachers from every York primary school, as well, of course, as their many pupils. It is down to the continuing support of your music consultant that the Singing Squads and other networking sessions in the city continue to this day, even though the Vocal Force funding ran out months ago. Our aim was always to create a sustainable impact, and this has been possible because of the support Tim Brooks has given the programme.</p> <p>It seems a strange, sorry and shortsighted move to make, to get rid of all three of your arts consultants, who do such brilliant work, operating strategically from the very centre of the city and giving support to all the many projects and programmes, both in and out of schools, that benefit the children and teachers of York. Sustainability is the aim of us all; we want the work we do to last long beyond the specific funding of a certain programme or project - and if you decide to cut these posts, you will be shooting a hole through that possibility in one fell swoop.</p> <p>I do hope you and your colleagues will reconsider this decision.</p>
Maggie Smales	I have been forwarded an email about the proposed cuts in the arts service for York. I want to express my dismay at this proposition.

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(Head of Drama – Joseph Rowntree School)	<p>I have no doubt that the contribution that is made by the service to the cultural opportunities in the city is widely valuable. Most of all the contribution that their work makes to achieving the council's objective for 'Learning without walls' is, I think, instrumental.</p> <p>As a teacher of Drama and involved with many of the Arts events in the city as both participant, and in my professional duties as a teacher, I have felt both pride and privilege, in having access to a wide range of cultural opportunities.</p> <p>There are so many examples I could cite of the ways in which their work has enhanced my students' education. We are regularly engaged in projects that mean students have the benefit of working with practitioners and in a professional context. As I write, I have students rehearsing in preparation for performances that will be shown as part of the York Viking Festival. Another group are working with the Theatre Royal on Platform 11 project. I am certain that many of my students who have gone on to be successful in arts or related industries would identify the opportunities that were offered to them that extended their horizons beyond the classroom were instrumental in developing their aspirations.</p> <p>The consultants have successfully created a really vibrant arts community in our city which we should be proud of, and strive to support and develop, rather than cut. It is interesting that the type of work that is being introduced with the new Diploma in Creative and Media is very similar to that which we have been able to offer to many of our GCSE and A level students. We have been ahead of the game!</p> <p>It would be naive to imagine that no sacrifices must be made when times get tough, but to lose a service that has provided so much for the community of York and which could continue to maintain the vibrancy of arts activities in our region which has a substantial arts sector as part of the region's economy.</p>
Ralph Bateman	<p>I am writing to you to express my concern at the proposition to cease funding the consultant post in music. I have worked with Tim Brooks on a number of projects, and am well aware of the difference he has made, particularly in drawing together various music education organisations within the city, and extending the opportunities available for young musicians of all standards. I have no doubt that without the energy and vision that comes from having a central figure such as Tim, many of the projects he has started will wither, and music education in York will be the poorer for it. To remove provision from a group of citizens who mostly are not of an age to vote appears to be an unfair way of saving money. These are my personal views and do not represent the official opinions of this institution, although I would not be surprised if they were also the views of many of my colleagues. I urge you to oppose or at least reduce the severity of these cuts.</p> <p>University Director of Music, York St John University</p>

[Statement from one of the Arts Action Officers]

I undertook extensive consultations in 8 developing childrens centres across York using initial grant monies from ACE and then secured £50K from childrens services to create emmas post - a community arts programme then ensued across York and this work led on to a successful bid to ACE for (30K) to develop the INVOLVE programme. This work also attracted funding from neighbourhood teams and wards etc.

This whole initiative was a fantastic example of our cross council working and was recognised by the leaders of Childrens Centres across the country, ACE and was showcased at NALGAO conference to other local authorities.

It is acknowledged as a ground breaking approach to using community arts within childrens centres within areas of identified deprivation to raise the profile of the range of family services and increase participation in the arts which in turn created a sense of ownership, pride and community cohesion within these areas. In addition to giving very young children opportunities for learning and giving them a voice, the programme created volunteering opportunities, learning opportunities for targeted families including those currently unemployed, homeless or living in travelling communities.

It also puts York at the forefront of developments within the cultural offer to the under 5s. This work is on-going and we are continuing to create and strengthen partnerships with cultural providers and childrens service providers across York. The next step being to award partnership grants (ACE funded) to increase and support work with under 5s and their families who will be given access to the arts in York, often for the first time.

THIS WORK WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT ARTS ACTION YORK and it essentially levered £100,000 K into this area of work from budgets other than arts and culture and I have no doubt would continue to grow and attract attention and external funding should the infrastructure remain.

[Further statement from Arts Action Officers]

For six years ARTS ACTION YORK have run an extensive programme of arts with a vast number and range of community groups and statutory services across the City of York. We have run highly successful pilot projects and instigated innovative and nationally recognised initiatives,.

We have targeted grass root groups in the community and have many stories of individuals of all ages whose life, health and economic circumstances have benefited from our work. We have worked in the areas of deprivation such as Bell Farm, Clifton and Tang Hall.

Our work has increased understanding of the power and value of creativity in raising self esteem, skill levels and confidence in individuals and proven the benefit to communities in reducing tensions between ages and raised young peoples pride in their neighbourhoods by involving them in public art projects.

We have created volunteer opportunities and paid work for many.

WE have done this work without using a single penny of City of York Council monies aside from our salaries, we have levered in in kind contributions and hundreds of thousands in funding from external funders and other organisations which have committed time and money to this worthwhile arts programme, hence benefiting York's residents, in many cases the most vulnerable .

Some comments from participants in 2 of my most recent projects;-

comments from isolated adults suffering mental health distress

I found it most enjoyable as it took my mind off other things.

I have found the workshops full of peace and calm.

I enjoyed learning new techniques, it was interesting to share ideas with others.

I like to do things that are therapeutic and found the workshops easy going and friendly.

I found it very therapeutic and relaxing.

The project really helped me cope with my anxiety.

It took the voices away.

I enjoyed meeting others and having company.

It gave structure and activity to my day. Most enjoyable.

It allowed me to follow an interest away from home with new people which makes it relaxing and sociable.

It gave me a chance to be with others in a group with good dynamics.

It was good to have the freedom to express myself in a safe environment.

I think it would be good to carry on with these creative workshops , they have huge benefits to people struggling with mental health issues.

Thank you for organising this.

I feel anxious before I arrive, but it really helps me calm down.

comments from adults and young people who are carers

Being with other carers in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere was wonderful.

- Good to have time to be creative and relax in that time.

- It gave me a sense of focus for a few hours.
- I lost life's worries and woes in drawing.
- Being around friendly and helpful people, good company. Words are like food, they fill people up.
- Informative and friendly atmosphere, a wonderful and stimulating project.
- My world as a carer was very small, since attending these sessions and meeting these kind people my world has grown, along with my confidence.
- It has helped me to care better for my husband, I found that I had more patience with him, as a result of coming here to the art project.
- The opportunity to be creative led to me being more relaxed all week.

Comments from staff;

- We identified particular skills being developed in individual young carers - they gained confidence and pride. Everyone was able to participate in some way. We had better than usual attendance (particularly 12 to 15 age group) which shows how much they enjoyed it!
- The project helped to boost confidence levels for carers and spark renewed interest in art activities.
- For some carers the exhibition opening was the first time they had attended a carers centre social event.
- One carer commented how it had helped them have more patience in their caring role.
- I've really enjoyed working with this lovely group of caring people. They have produced some really special work.
It focused the participants attention on to their own sense of identity and what is important to them aside from their predominant concern of the well being of another. This project gave the carers a respite from the role of care giver and gave them space to explore their inner life.
- Some outcomes achieved far exceeded expectations such as one group member who reported having regained her confidence and having her motivation returned to her through this project.
- The sessions which brought adult and young carers together provided opportunities for wonderful inter generational interaction and an opportunity for all to try digital drawing with light as well as traditional media.
- This has been one of the most exciting projects I have ever been involved in The young carers were so generous with their personal efforts and contributions.
- This was a really fantastic opportunity for York carers who have never participated in the big draw before and have limited opportunities for creative activity and space just for them.
It was really rewarding to see the young carers helping the elderly carers with their drawings and the technology - and each seemed to understand one another's needs and obviously felt comfortable and happy in each others company.

[Further statement from Arts Action Officers]

For six years ARTS ACTION YORK have run an extensive programme of arts with a vast number and range of community groups and statutory services across the City of York. We have run highly successful pilot projects and instigated innovative and nationally recognised initiatives.

We have targeted grass root groups in the community and have many stories of individuals of all ages whose life, health and economic circumstances have benefited from our work. We have worked in the areas of deprivation such as Bell Farm, Clifton and Tang Hall.

Our work has increased understanding of the power and value of creativity in raising self esteem, skill levels and confidence in individuals and proven the benefit to communities in reducing tensions between ages and raised young peoples pride in their neighbourhoods by involving them in public art projects.

We have created volunteer opportunities and paid work for many.

WE have done this work without using a single penny of City of York Council monies aside from our salaries, we have levered in in kind contributions and hundreds of thousands in funding from external funders and other organisations which have committed time and money to this worthwhile arts programme, hence benefiting York's residents, in many cases the most vulnerable .

Some comments from participants in 2 of my most recent projects:-

comments from isolated adults suffering mental health distress

I found it most enjoyable as it took my mind off other things.

I have found the workshops full of peace and calm.

I enjoyed learning new techniques, it was interesting to share ideas with others.

I like to do things that are therapeutic and found the workshops easy going and friendly.

I found it very therapeutic and relaxing.

The project really helped me cope with my anxiety.

It took the voices away.

I enjoyed meeting others and having company.

It gave structure and activity to my day. Most enjoyable.

It allowed me to follow an interest away from home with new people which makes it relaxing and sociable.

It gave me a chance to be with others in a group with good dynamics.

It was good to have the freedom to express myself in a safe environment.

I think it would be good to carry on with these creative workshops , they have huge benefits to people struggling with mental health issues.

Thank you for organising this.

I feel anxious before I arrive, but it really helps me calm down.

comments from adults and young people who are carers

Being with other carers in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere was wonderful.

- Good to have time to be creative and relax in that time.

- It gave me a sense of focus for a few hours.
- I lost life's worries and woes in drawing.
- Being around friendly and helpful people, good company. Words are like food, they fill people up.
- Informative and friendly atmosphere, a wonderful and stimulating project.
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