

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

York Youth Community Action Pilot for 14-16 year olds

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to
 - (a) inform the Executive Member of the outcomes, impact and lessons learned from the Government funded York Youth Community Action Programme, and
 - (b) seek comment from the Executive Member in terms of the recommendations being made to ensure the legacy of the programme is sustained.

Background

2. In January 2010, York was selected as one of five national areas to run a 15-month 'Youth Community Action' programme to March 2011, aiming to involve 90% of all 4,744 14-16 year olds in volunteering and community action activities. The successful bid, brought together by a citywide partnership of City of York Council (CYC), York Cares, York Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) and Learning City York 14-19 Partnership, was to bring £1.38m to the city, to develop opportunities and infrastructures both in schools and through local community and voluntary sector organisations.
3. Under the new Coalition Government, the programme and funding was terminated early with activities ceasing at end October 2010.
4. In the 10 month programme period (Jan – October 2010), 3547 14-16 year olds completed 26,927 hours of NEW community action and volunteering activity. This involved all 10 state secondary schools, 2 independents, York's Special School and Pupil Referral Unit, along with 21 local community and voluntary sector organisations that delivered opportunities both in and out of school time through 32 different activities. This represents an engagement with and participation from 75% of all 4744 14-16 year olds in York, an average of 7.5 hours volunteering per young person and a total investment of £813,435.
5. We believe we have now developed a strong platform from which to make recommendations to sustain and develop the capacity of community organisations and schools to deliver youth volunteering and community action in the future.

Consultation

6. Consultation for the report's findings and recommendations has taken place with key stakeholders that helped deliver the York Youth Community Action Programme 2010, including York Cares, York Council for Voluntary Service (York CVS), schools, voluntary, statutory and community organisations that delivered activities and opportunities, parents and young people themselves.
7. The recommendations have also been informed by the Volunteering City Working Group, co-ordinated by York CVS, which met on November 30 2010 to develop a shared vision for youth volunteering in the city. Representatives of the voluntary, statutory and private sectors attended.
8. The recommendations have been reported to the multi-agency Volunteering City Strategy Group, set up under the LSP as part of the LAA Delivery Funded project to support the development of volunteering in the city.

Options

9. There is no further grant funding available. The Executive member is requested to comment on and approve the recommendations made in this report to ensure the legacy of the programme is sustained.

Corporate Objectives

10. The activities that took place within the Youth Community Action Programme contributed to the following 'old' LAA targets:
 - NI 6 – Participation in regular volunteering (Inclusive City)
 - NI 7 – Environment for a thriving Third Sector (Inclusive City)
 - NI 110 – Young People's Participation in Positive Activities (City of Culture)
 - The programme also contributed to many of the priorities of York's Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012, specifically with reference to 'Making a Positive Contribution'.
11. Any future activity will contribute to similar priorities, and it is also intended to draw out the impact on raising ambition and self-confidence amongst young people as well as the development of enterprise skills.

Implications

Financial

12. There is no further grant funding to support activity. Any future activity will be sustained as a result of schools embedding volunteering and community action as part of their core business; organisations being commissioned by schools to deliver specific projects or programmes; and/or community groups maintaining engagement with and creating opportunities for young people from their core budgets or by acquiring alternative sources of grant funding.

Equalities

13. Schools and community organisations are committed to providing opportunities in the future for young people who are hard to reach, including those who are disabled or identified as in need of additional services.

Other

14. There are no implications relating to Human Resources, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology or Property arising from this report.

Risk Management

15. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

16. The Executive Member is invited to:
- i. Note the outcomes and impact of the Youth Community Action Programme.
 - ii. Endorse the importance of youth community action and volunteering Approve.
 - iii. Comment on and support the recommendations made in Annex A to ensure the legacy of the programme is sustained.

Reason:

Youth volunteering and community action offers a great opportunity for CYC to continue to foster relations between voluntary groups and schools to provide the city's 14-16 year olds with a range of opportunities that would have otherwise been unavailable to them and for young people to achieve demonstrable outcomes for the benefit of communities, other individuals and the environment.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 24 February 2011

Pete Dwyer
Director of Adults, Children ad Education

Report Approved **Date** 24 February 2011

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex

Annex A – YYACP Evaluation and Sustainability Report – Executive Summary