
Decision Session – Executive Member for Children and Young People’s Services

8 June 2010

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

York Youth Community Action Pilot

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a. inform the Executive Member of the results of Round Two of the York Youth Community Action Pilot Grant Fund bidding; and
 - b. ask the Executive Member to approve the funding to projects recommended by the Youth Community Action Pilot Grant Fund Assessment Panel.
2. The York Youth Community Action Pilot grants panel have short listed 10 projects for funding, details of which are attached as Annex A.

Background

3. Following a comprehensive application process, the City of York was selected in December 2009 as 1 of 5 national pilots to develop ‘Community Action’ (volunteering) amongst 14-16 year olds, for a defined period up until March 2011. The pilot, which is fully funded by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (as was), aims to test methods of engagement and ways of delivering volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds throughout the city. York’s Youth Community Action pilot is managed by the City of York Council in partnership with York Council for Voluntary Service and York Cares.
4. The DCSF (as was) awarded York a total of £1.38 million to deliver the pilot. Of this, £695,000 will fund the delivery of volunteering opportunities during the pilot period, via three rounds of grant funding. Since 19 February 2010 funding applications have been invited from a wide range of organisations and individuals, (including statutory organisations), who can deliver volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds. Organisations have been assessed against the following criteria:
 - Activities must involve 14-16 year old volunteers who are residents of York, or who go to school in York
 - Benefits to young people and the wider community

- Engaging with young people from hard to reach groups
 - Appropriate safeguarding arrangements
 - Adherence to principles of equality and diversity
5. Round Two closed on Friday 16 April with 15 applications received. Officers of the Grants and Partnership Team carried out an initial assessment with support from Corporate Finance. This involved:
 - Conducting an eligibility check to ensure compliance with the criteria specified in the guidance
 - Assessing eligible bids against priority criteria outlined in the guidance
 - Producing a report to summarise the outcome of the assessment
 - Moderation exercise to ensure consistency of officer's assessment
 6. A panel then made recommendations on the allocation of the funds. As in Round 1, the panel included both internal (CYC) and external organisations and was selected on the basis of local and children's services experience/knowledge, which included: Learning City York; working for Children's Commissioner; Local Strategic Partnerships; schools; Third sector.
 7. Each panel member ranked the applications; these scores were cumulated and discussed at the panel meeting on 18th May 2010. The Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention chaired the panel meeting but did not vote or rank the applications. Panel members were asked to declare any specific 'interests' or involvement in the applications; however, it was deemed that there were no significant interests.
 8. The list of panel recommendations is attached as Annex A. In the majority of cases, on this occasion, we are recommending that we do not fund the application to the full extent requested but instead offer the applicant a proportion of their bid. The reasons for this vary case by case, but include instances where an otherwise good application had included certain ineligible items, and other cases where we felt some of the costs were too high, and others again where we are unclear about certain items. We suggest a degree of officer discretion at the margins in terms of further discussions with these organisations after this meeting: our aim will be to achieve the same or similar outcomes for the reduced sum of money we are recommending. This approach also has the advantage of spreading the available funds more widely, though this was not the prime consideration in the minds of the Panel.
 9. If the recommendations to this meeting are approved by the Executive Member, the next steps in allocating the Youth Community Action Pilot grant fund will be to:
 - Where appropriate, engage in negotiations around the outcomes that can be delivered for a reduced sum of money;

- Notify the successful bidders with a grant offer letter, with any relevant conditions, terms and conditions, payment schedule and an acceptance form;
 - Notify unsuccessful bidders with some details of why they were unsuccessful and how their bid could be improved (in case they want to re-apply in Round 3);
 - Upon receipt of the signed acceptance form and any required extra paperwork, payment will be made. In line with the Compact code of conduct on grants, partial payments will be made in advance to Third sector organisations, with subsequent payments made on receipt of satisfactory financial expenditure information and monitoring/ evaluation reports.
10. Round three will close at 12 noon on Friday 27 August 2010.
11. In the council's original application to the DCSF, a commitment was made to running a young people's grant programme. Such a programme has recently been launched, whereby individual young people can apply for funding for projects of their own design. A panel of young people, similar to the YorkKash panel, will make decisions on the young people's bids.

Consultation

12. Widespread consultation was undertaken both internally and externally during the development of the original application to the DCSF. Consultation confirmed support for the development of a grant fund that would enable a wide range of organisations to apply to help deliver the objectives of the pilot and generate a variety of volunteering opportunities for young people.
13. Round Two of the grant fund has been advertised widely via existing networks and in the local media. The advertising included full-page adverts in the York Press and information on the homepage of City of York Council website. During the course of the pilot the fund has also featured on Minster FM, Vue Cinema and Local Link. All the marketing activity is fully funded by the DCSF grant. Organisations have been invited to apply for funding to deliver volunteering projects in which young people 'define and engage in community actions which matter to them, with demonstrable impacts in their school/community'.
14. In the applying for grants organisations were required to demonstrate the need and demand for their proposed project, for example by making reference to surveys, consultations or feedback. The grants assessment process prioritises projects that, amongst other things, can demonstrate the support of young people and local communities.

Options

15. The executive member may approve the funding recommendations or ask officers to review their recommendations and or selection criteria.

Analysis

16. An analysis of the first round of funding applications will be conveyed orally at the meeting.

Corporate Objectives

17. The activities that will take place within the Youth Community Action Pilot will contribute to the following LAA targets:
 - NI 6 – Participation in regular volunteering (Inclusive City)
 - NI 7 – Environment for a thriving Third Sector (Inclusive City)
 - NI 110 – Young Peoples Participation in Positive Activities (City of Culture)
 - The pilot will also contribute to many of the priorities of York's Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2010, specifically with reference to 'Making a Positive Contribution'.
 - Grants guidance states that 'Community Action' activities undertaken by young people must have 'demonstrable impacts in their school/community'. The grants assessment panel will aim to fund a range of different types of volunteering activities including arts, sport, environmental, citizenship and democracy, leadership, mentoring and support, resulting in benefits to the community which could potentially reach across
 - all strands of the Corporate Strategy.

Implications

Financial

18. The DCSF have awarded York's Youth Community Action Pilot a total of £1.38 million and have approved our budget breakdown in which £695,000 of this money is distributed to partners/deliverers. It was also agreed that:
 - The grants process will take place over three rounds of funding during 2010.
 - Funds will be distributed in line with CYC Financial Regulations - Grants Supplementary Guide.
 - Spending must be completed by March 2011.
 - Applicants are being assessed on financial need, in line with the above Guide.
 - Grants can be for 100% of the costs and, in line with the Compact Code of Good practice, applicants can include indirect costs or overheads (also known as Full Cost Recovery).
 - All grants, staff and project costs are totally funded from the DCSF funding.

Human Resources (HR)

19. There are no human resources implications. Project staff have been recruited in line with delegated authority within the Directorate.

Equalities

20. During the course of the pilot we are aiming to engage with a minimum of 90% of the 4,774 14-16 year olds in York, 4,296 young people. The project is committed to providing opportunities for young people who may miss out on opportunities, including those who are hard to reach, including those who are disabled or identified as in need of additional services. The grant application form requires organisations to specify how many young volunteers they plan to recruit from the following groups:
- Young people with disabilities
 - Young people with learning difficulties
 - Young people on alternative learning programmes
 - Young people from deprived areas of York
 - Young people from black and ethnic minority groups.
 - Looked after young people.
 - Other hard to reach groups
21. Projects that aim to recruit significant numbers of 14-16 year olds from these hard to reach groups (and provide convincing evidence of how they will achieve this), have received additional weighting in the assessment process.

Legal

22. There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

23. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

24. There are no IT implications.

Property

25. There are no property implications.

Risk Management

26. The project has an active risk log that is regularly reviewed and updated. Financial risk will be managed through a rigorous assessment of bids, strict financial review and quarterly monitoring. Risk to individuals will be managed through risk assessment undertaken by groups. This will be assessed as part

of the bidding process and will be reviewed, using the experience of Schools and CYC H&S officers.

Recommendations

27. The Executive Member is invited to:

- Note the process underway for local implementation of the Youth Community Action Grant Fund.
- Approve for funding the list of projects recommended by the York Youth Community Action Assessment Panel, allowing officers a degree of discretion at the margins (within normal delegation limits) in relation to their detailed discussions with individual applicants.

Reasons:

- The assessment process has been rigorous and effective.
- The projects offer a great opportunity for CYC to work with the voluntary groups of York and provide the city's 14-16 year olds with a range of opportunities that would have otherwise been unavailable to them.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date

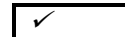
20 May 2010

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Finance: Sue Rothney
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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 – York Youth Community Action Grant Fund Round 2 panel recommendations – successful bids

Annex 2 - York Youth Community Action Grant Fund Round 2 panel recommendations – unsuccessful bids