

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

## **York Youth Community Action Pilot**

### **Summary**

1. This report provides Members with an update on the new pilot project to promote community volunteering opportunities amongst York's 14-16 year olds.

### **Background and Progress**

2. Following a comprehensive application process in December 2009, the City of York was selected as one of five 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 (DCSF), 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. The Secretary of State for Children and Families formally launched the Pilot at an event, attended by two of York's 14-16 year old volunteers, in London on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
3. The DCSF have awarded York a total of £1.38 million for the pilot. Three full time officers have been appointed to work on it: a project manager within the Council, and two volunteering co-ordinators within York CVS and York Cares.
4. Half of the pilot funding, £695,000, will be distributed directly to a wide range of organisations and individuals (including statutory organisations), to fund the delivery of volunteering opportunities in the heart of the community during the pilot period. Organisations and individuals have been invited to bid for funding support in three rounds of grant funding. Since 19 February 2010, Round One funding applications have been invited from groups who can deliver

volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds. Round One closed on Friday 19 March and were scrutinised by a multi-agency Assessment Panel on 9 April. Recommendations were put to the Executive Member at her meeting on 13 April, and an oral update can be provided to the YPWG.

5. In view of the very short timescale for application in Round One, any applications that miss the Round One deadline will be put forward automatically for consideration in Round Two, which closes for applications at 12.00 noon on Friday 16 April 2010. Round three will close at 12 noon on Friday 27 August 2010.
6. Young people are also being invited to apply for funding for volunteering projects of their own design. These bids will be accepted at any time and will be assessed through a rolling programme of assessment. The engagement of young people is essential to the success of this project and a YorkKash type panel of young people will be asked to assess and approve young people's bids.

## **Consultation**

7. Widespread consultation was undertaken, both internally and externally, during the development 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.
8. Round One 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 on three occasions and featured on the home page of City of York Council website. During the course of the pilot the fund will also feature in adverts on Minster FM, Vue Cinema and Local Link. All of this 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'.
9. Now that the project is under way, we are in the process of devising a medium-term engagement strategy for young people, which is likely to involve the Youth Council as a conduit (with their consent). We can discuss our ideas at the meeting.

## Options and Analysis

10. This report is for information; however, Members' views on the project would be welcome, especially as to:

- ways to encourage the development of new volunteering opportunities;
- links to local communities, for example via Ward Committees.

## Corporate Priorities

11. 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 2009-2012, specifically with reference to 'Making a Positive Contribution'.

## Implications

- **Financial** The DCSF have awarded York's Youth Community Action Pilot a total of £1.38 million and have approved a budget breakdown in which £695,000 of revenue funding will be distributed to partners/deliverers.
- **Human Resources (HR)** There are no human resources implications. Project staff have been recruited in line with delegated authority within the Directorate.
- **Equalities** The project will engage with a minimum of 90% of the 4,774 14-16 year olds in York. The project is committed to providing opportunities for young people who are hard to reach, including those who are disabled or identified as in need of additional services.
- **Legal** None identified.
- **Crime and Disorder Information Technology (IT)** No implications

- **Property No Implications**

## **Risk Management**

12. The project has an active risk log that is regularly reviewed and updated. Financial risks will be managed through a rigorous assessment of bids, strict financial review and quarterly monitoring. Risks to individuals will be managed through risk assessments undertaken by groups organising the activities. This will be reviewed using the experience of Schools' and CYC H&S officers.

## **Recommendations**

13. That the Young People's Working Group note this update report, lend their support to the Youth Community Action Pilot, and comment as they wish.

*Reason: The project is in line with our corporate priorities, and represents a marvellous opportunity for York.*

## **Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**

Yes

**Date**

5 April 2010

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** None