

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 25 February 2021

TITLE	Reboot West Phase 2 – Care Leaver project extension	
Ward(s)	Citywide	
Author: Jane Taylor	Job title: Head of Employment, Skills and Learning	
Cabinet lead: Cllr Anna Keen	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen	
Proposal origin: <i>BCC Staff</i>		
Decision maker: <i>Officer</i> Decision forum: <i>Officer Meeting</i>		
Purpose of Report:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To inform Cabinet that Bristol City Council, in partnership with 1625 Independent People and South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset Councils have applied to WECA for £720K to extend the Reboot West project focussed on supporting care leavers across those local authorities into education, training and employment. To outline the conditions and mechanism for payment of this additional funding to Bristol City Council as lead local authority, outline and gain agreement to accept this funding. Confirm agreement to commit BCC in-kind resources to the partnership in order to meet the governance, monitoring and administration requirements of the WECA grant for Reboot West. Outline arrangements to make savings and shift resource into a preventative Reboot model long term. 		
Evidence Base:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The current rate of Bristol care leavers aged 19-21 in education, training and employment, including those living away from Bristol, is 68%. Although this represents a strong and improving picture, there remains a significant gap when the rate of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) or Not Known Bristol based children in care and care leavers aged 16/17 (27.4%) is compared to their same age peers (14.5%). In early 2018, 1625ip and neighbouring authorities were successful in applying for a £2.1m 4-year innovative Social Impact Bond (SIB) programme, Reboot West, funded by the DfE. Reboot West provides long term support of at least 2 years, underpinned using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy techniques which help young people to explore their values and overcome barriers they face as a result of early trauma and attachment difficulties. The programme is now the highest performing SIB for care leavers in the UK. Reboot has been working with 242 care leavers who are NEET or at risk of NEET aged 16-25 years. Of those supported 141 care leavers are from Bristol, 35 BANES, 36 South Gloucestershire and 30 North Somerset. Reboot employment and education coaches have been building their caseloads steadily and by the end of March 2020, some strong EET outcomes had been achieved: 		
	%	Number of Young People
Total engaged	100	242
Enter a course	39%	95
Achieve at least a level 1 qualification	12%	29
Enter employment	37%	89
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity has arisen to apply to WECA for £720K for a Phase 2 project to reach an additional 170 care leavers. This second programme is being set up to achieve more sustainable system change by: 		

- Developing a West of England Corporate Parenting Partnership and Care Leaver Offer / Charter that integrates the resources of the public, business and voluntary sectors.
 - Developing a detailed West of England care leaver career pathway framework from Year 6 through to sustained employment, including further skills development and progression support.
 - supporting care leavers to sustain employment and progress in their career pathway by ensuring ongoing support in employment, joint working with employers to meet both the employer's and the care leaver's needs.
 - Integrating existing specialist services as part of the new framework to support care leavers into employment and skills services at a local and West of England level.
 - sharing evidence-based approaches, including Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) with other employment and skills workstreams, focussing on motivating and supporting young people to access and sustain training and employment
 - gathering detailed monetised evidence of public sector savings that are achieved through a Reboot approach to sustain the preventative model within mainstream funding at the end of Phase 2.
4. At the WECA Committee on 9th October 2020, it was agreed that £720K will be made available for the Phase 2 project, subject to match funding being secured, and submission of a final detailed programme and monitoring and evaluation Plan. Match funding has been secured. This will allow the programme to continue at full capacity from 2021 until 2024 so that 170 additional care leavers can be recruited and supported. 1625ip have now secured the necessary match funding (details will be confirmed at the Cabinet meeting by which time the funding agreement for the match funding will be in place).

Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve, subject to meeting the requirements of the WECA Committee, the acceptance of £720,000 of WECA funding to extend the Reboot West project until 2024.
2. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with the Cabinet Member to take all steps to enter into a grant agreement and partnership agreements to extend the Reboot project.
3. Approve an update to the partnership agreement between Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset councils, including sharing the administration and legal costs of establishing Phase 2 of Reboot West.
4. Approve the extension of the partnership arrangements outlined in Appendix A1 with/on behalf of the three participating local authorities to deliver the proposal to support an increased proportion of care leavers into education, employment and training.
5. Approve engagement with wider public sector partners and obtain monetised evidence during this Phase 2 project in order to make savings and shift resource into a preventative Reboot model from 2024 onwards.

Corporate Strategy alignment: This proposal is supported by the Council's overarching [Corporate Strategy 2018-23](#), in particular, the 'Wellbeing' and 'Empowering and Caring' themes and the key commitment to be 'great corporate parents and safeguard children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from exploitation or harm'. In addition, this will help us to fulfil our Vision in the Bristol Corporate Parenting Strategy as below:

"Bristol is committed to being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent. Children and young people are at the heart of everything we do. We will do everything we can to make sure those children in our care and care leavers are set up for life. We will care about children in care and care leavers and not just for them and will ensure the same standard of care as any good parent. This means we have high aspirations for our children and will be strong advocates for them. We will do everything we can to equip the children and young people in our care and care leavers with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful, and rewarding life."

City Benefits: This proposal outlines how we will improve outcomes for and meet our duties regarding children in care and care leavers, two of the most vulnerable groups in the City. In 2017 the Children and Social Work Act introduced a set of Corporate Parenting Principles for our children in care and care leavers up to the age of 25 that underpin everything we must do, including:

- Promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for our children and young people.
- Be safe, have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- Prepare our children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

This proposal will very much assist the City to achieve it's legal duties to our Children in Care and Care leavers but perhaps more importantly provides individual specialist support so that our young people can recover from their trauma, play a meaningful part in Bristol society, be happy and fulfilled and lead lives that you would want for your own child and that we and they can be super proud of.

Consultation Details: This proposal has been developed in partnership with 1625ip in discussion with service leaders in Children in Care/Care Leaving and Employment, Skills and Learning Services in Bristol City Council and in partner local authorities. The final business case for the second phase project was approved by the meeting of the WECA Joint Committee on 9 October 2020, subject to three conditions: securing the match funding; finalising a monitoring and evaluation plan; providing a detailed programme (see Appendix 1.3 Investment Fund – Record of Decision Form).

Background Documents:

1. Reboot West Phase 2 Business Case
2. Section 151 Letter
3. Investment Fund – Record of Decision

Revenue Cost	£1.2m	Source of Revenue Funding	WECA £720K Match funding secured by 1625ip £480K
Capital Cost	£Nil	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This project will be 100% grant funded. This report concerns £720K of the funding in the form of a bid to WECA. The match funding has now been secured by 1625ip and the project is due to commence in April 2021. There is no call on funding from the council apart from in the form of in-kind resource for monitoring and administration. This is the second phase of the Reboot project and the first phase was also 100% grant funded, in order to make this work sustainable in the longer term we will need to work with the delivery provider to identify and define cashable savings arising from the improved outcomes and work with those agencies making these savings to provide funding to continue this work.

Finance Business Partner: Graham Booth – Finance Manager – Children & Education. 8 October 2020

2. Legal Advice:

Provided the agreement is a grant agreement and not a contract for services, it will not need to be procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Client officers will need to seek legal assistance to ensure the agreement is a grant agreement.

The grant funding must be allocated in accordance with the grant conditions. When spending the grant, the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal advice should in relation to any state aid implications.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 6 October 2020

3. Legal Advice: Implications on IT:

No anticipated impact to IT Services

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, Director, Digital Transformation, 6th October 2020

4. HR Advice: The reports current proposals do not have any HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, 8th October 2020

EDM Sign-off	Dr Jacqui Jensen	13 th January 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Anna Keen	18 th January 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	27 th January 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal A1: Reboot 2 WECA Proposal (Redacted); A2: Section 151 Letter; A3: Investment Fund – Record of Decision	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO