

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 07 March 2023

TITLE	Future of Youth Services		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Gail Rogers	Job title: Head of Service Children’s Commissioning		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	Executive Director lead: Abi Gbago, Executive Director Children and Education		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval for the proposed approach to the development and grant funding of youth services within Bristol across the next 7 years, an extension to the current commissioned service until 30 th September 2023 and to create a Career Coaching function as part of Post 16 Participation Team.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have a statutory duty under Section 507B, Education Act 1996 to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Currently we deliver youth services via our Targeted Youth Services Contract which expires in May 2023. 2. We also have a statutory duty under the Education and Skills Act 2008 to support and promote effective participation of young people in education, employment, and training (EET) up to the age of 18 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND)). Local Authorities must also make tracking arrangements to identify 16- and 17-year-olds who are not participating in education, employment, or training or who are at risk of dropping out of learning, in order to offer support as soon as possible. Currently we provide EET services to meet this duty through both internal services and the Targeted Youth Services Contract. 3. Our vision is for youth services to be local, diverse, flexible, skilled and supported. We want to work alongside and not above the VCSE, with a governance and model that is as equitable as the provision that is delivered for children and young people. The youth sector has created a strong alliance over the last three years, and has developed a clear strategy setting out ambitions for the future. This is the framework that enables a new approach and one that we can see evolving to ensure that the sector is sustainable. 4. We know that Bristol’s Youth Services provide excellent value for money and the recent UK Youth and Frontier Economics' report, Untapped: The economic value of youth work, highlights that the wider societal benefits of investment in youth work are high to very high, with a return on investment of between £3.20 and £6.40 for every £1 invested. 			

5. Moving forward, we are proposing a grants funding approach in partnership with the youth sector. We have worked with the sector through a series of workshops to co-produce a governance and structure through which we will jointly fund youth work. Grants will be issued for up to seven years through three area partnerships and to an area plan outlining priority need. Providers will need to be involved in the area plans to bid for funding in order to encourage collaboration. Sitting outside of the area plans at the moment, we plan to ringfence some funding to deliver work with Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and Refugees.
6. The EET services which are currently delivered by the TYS contract will move back in-house, at a cost of £200,000 taken from the existing youth services budget, with staff potentially eligible to TUPE into our post-16 team. Bristol still shows performance below the national and statistical neighbour average, and we recognise a need to use resources differently to improve post-16 performance and to improve outcomes for young people who are at risk of NEET and those who are disengaged from education, employment, and training.
7. We are proposing a direct award to extend current arrangement until 30 September 2023. This will enable us to award grants in April and to bridge the transition with existing services to protect young people from a sudden change in arrangements. It additionally helps CYN to know the scale of their future service compared with scale now so that they can work with their staff to support them moving within the sector. BCC will also support this through a One City recruitment fayre because we recognise the skills within this staff group and would want to help retain them for Bristol children and families.
8. The total budget for the youth services for 2023/24 will be £1.42m. Of which, £321k will fund the end of the current contracts (to end May), £440k will be spent on the four-month extension; and £664k will be spent on the new grants from September onwards. The youth services grants budget will reduce to £1.23 for 2024/25 and to £825k from 2025/26 when £400k moves to fund the revenue contribution to the Youth Zone for three years. The £400k contribution for youth zones will be reviewed after three years. The Youth Zone will bring in 70% match funding through philanthropic giving, bringing an additional £900,000 to our £400,000 revenue investment. This will generate significantly more funding for the sector as a whole and therefore benefitting more young people. The Youth Zone itself will deliver primarily universal services, but acts as a front door for young people who require higher level services. Through strong join up with Youth Moves who will manage the Youth Zone, and join up with the TYS area plan for the South, we will significantly increase available provision in an area characterised by poor outcomes.
9. Public Health has confirmed that they will commission a separate drugs and alcohol support service for children and young people under a wider 'drugs and alcohol' strategy remit. Commissioned delivery will align to the new Youth Service model and no funding will be used from the YS budget for this delivery. This effectively increases youth services budget by around £145,000 as the budget previously paid for a specialist service.
10. Moving to a grants approach will enable us to work with the sector to support and bolster a variety of youth services that are already working and well embedded within Bristol. This aligns with our One City Plan and Belonging Strategy, with a focus on creating a whole, interrelated system where we understand and utilise the totality of resource that makes up our wider economy and where we create the best opportunities and outcomes by working together. This approach will develop a strong alliance across the sector to build capacity. Using this approach, the project is linking in with the Public Health Innovation fund and colleagues within the Community Resources team, to explore opportunities to align work on grants, using cross service working to maximise resource available.
11. The grants approach and collaboration also reflects our single joint ambition around developing quality standards and outcomes across the sector, working together to ensure that high quality youth provision is available across the city for all young people and with a shared understanding of impact and quality using national best practice.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve our approach to the development and grant funding of youth services within Bristol across the next 7 years.
2. Approve the creation of a Career Coaching function as part of Post 16 Participation Team from June 2023.
3. Authorise the Executive Director Children and Families to take all steps required:-
 - to extend the current Targeted Youth Services contracts until 30th September 2023 at a cost of up to £440k for 4 months.
 - Create the Career Coaching function at a cost of up to £200k per annum for 7 years.
 - To agree grant terms and enter into grant agreements to award grants for youth services across the next 7 years at a total cost of £6m.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. CYP1 - Child Friendly City – “Children and young people are supported by the city, their community, and the council to have the best possible start in life. They can reach their full potential and are kept safe from and supported to overcome violence, abuse, and other adverse childhood experiences, whatever the circumstances of their birth.” Community and social connectedness are essential to good health and wellbeing, youth services will provide children and young people with opportunities to learn, to play, be active, and build relationships to develop their personal and social skills. Youth services also provide a safe space within communities for children and young people to enjoy.

City Benefits:

1. In providing a safe space and set of services for children and young people to learn, be active and develop positive relationships this will help support a reduction in risk of youth and adult offending and reduce the risk of young people becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training). The service will also help to support the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people through trusted relationships.

Consultation Details:

1. Internal stakeholders have been consulted on proposals and a series of conversations and workshops took place with the youth sector. Children and Young people are integral to the sector conversations and will play a leadership and management role within the new governance structures.
2. Current referral agencies have been consulted as to what is crucial to remain within a new Youth Service model, including CAMHS, School, FiF, Social Care, YOT and current delivery staff etc as well as the Union.
3. The Youth Council co-facilitated a Youth Conference in June to discuss these initial proposals and captured the views of young people which helped us to further shape and develop youth services. In addition to this, young people will play a leadership and management role within the new governance structures.

Background Documents:[Belonging Strategy – Belonging in the Community](#)

Revenue Cost	£7.8m total across 7 years. (incl. £6m in Grants and £1.4m for EET)	Source of Revenue Funding	Targeted Support- Commissioned Services
Capital Cost	N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A

One off cost Ongoing cost Saving Proposal Income generation proposal

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

1. Finance Advice: The total value of grants awarded will be limited to the agreed service budget (currently £2.025m). Current contracts will be due to end in May 2023, committing 2 months of the 2022/23 financial year. A further 4-month extension is sought, at a cost of £0.44m to bring existing contracts to September 2023. In addition, £0.2m is to be allocated to the EET service from 2023/24.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan, has new budget saving proposals against this budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 (subject to approval). From 2025/26, this budget will also fund the revenue contribution to the Youth Zone as described in the report.

Service/ Budget	Specifics	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
Youth Services	End of current contract (to 31/05/2023)		321							£321
	Extension (1st June - 30th Sept 2023)		440							£440
	Grants		664	1,225	825	825	825	825	825	£6,014
	Youth Zone				400	400	400			£1,200
	For confirmation in 27/28							400	400	£800
	Total youth pot		£2,025	£1,425	£1,225	£1,225	£1,225	£1,225	£1,225	£1,225
EET funding	Education Budget		200	200	200	200	200	200	200	£1,400
Public Health	PH Funding (for info only)		145	145	145	145	145	145	145	£1,015
Total		£2,025	£1,770	£1,570	£1,570	£1,570	£1,570	£1,570	£1,570	£11,190

Finance Business Partner: Andrew Osei, Finance Business Partner, 21 February 2023

2. Legal Advice: The Council should ensure that if it decides to provide grant funding towards services outlined in this report it must ensure that the grant terms are sufficiently robust. Legal Services will advise and assist in relation to this.

Public Sector Equality Duty
 The Public Sector Equality duty requires Cabinet to consider the need to promote equality for persons with “protected characteristics” and to have due regard to the need to i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; ii) advance equality of opportunity; and iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. The Equalities Impact Assessment is designed to help assess whether there are any barriers in place that may prevent people with a protected characteristic using a service or benefiting from a policy. The decision maker must take into consideration the information in the assessments when reaching its decision.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 29 January 2023

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson, Senior Solutions Architect, 04 January 2023

4. HR Advice:
 There are significant HR issues arising from this report in respect of a possible Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) of a service into the council to create an in-house Career Coaching service which is currently commissioned from CYN by Bristol City Council. The TUPE could possibly apply to six employees of CYN. If it is agreed to bring this service in-house then we would follow the TUPE process and work closely with the current employer to ensure minimal disruption to the employees and would be in full consultation with their trades union representatives as appropriate. It is currently unclear what the possible financial liability to the council could be going forward as we don’t yet have all the relevant information or data required. However, discussions have begun with CYN and will be able to provide this information as plans develop.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner, 26 January 2023

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	16 November 2022
---------------------	------------	------------------

Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	28 November 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	20 January 2023

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
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	YES
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