
Cardiff Youth Service – Briefing

Reason for the Report

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising the organisation and performance of the Youth Service. This report provides the Members with a briefing on the revised structure, operational focus and budget of the Youth Service following the reduction in funding in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 budgets (briefing attached at **Appendix A**).

Background

2. At its meeting in February 2015, Full Council agreed savings proposals for Cardiff Youth Service as part of the Council's Budget for 2015/16. The proposals was:

“Youth Service - the model seeks to maintain a high level of open access provision across the city through achieving input from voluntary, community and third sector groups whilst maintaining a re-shaped pattern of specialist provision which better meets the needs of priority groups. The model:

- *Builds on current strong community based provision.*
- *Develops a participatory budget for funding open access youth work.*

- *Includes mobile outreach services through the Youth Bus.*
- *Maintains Duke of Edinburgh Activity via charging participants.*
- *Council provision from six retained premises.*

This would achieve a saving of £1.25m in 2015/16 with a further £0.5m over 2016/17 and 2017/18”.

3. The Council in February 2016 approved the following further reduction in the Youth Service budget:

“Youth Service Budget - this is a continuation of the 2015/16 budget decision to fundamentally change the provision of Youth Services in Cardiff and through this to save £1.7m of revenue budget over the medium term. This second year target of £650k will be achieved through a reduction in the numbers of full and part time youth workers delivering services across the City with a greater focus on meeting the needs of priority groups of young people.”

4. The Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate Delivery Plan for 2015/16 included a corporate commitment to: *“Introduce new models of service provision for youth Services in the city by April 2017, with existing services running until new services are in place”*. The 2016/17 Budget saving of the further £650,000 was also referenced in the draft 2016/18 Directorate Delivery Plan.

Issues

5. During its consideration of the Education and Lifelong Learning Delivery Plan 2016-2018, the Committee focused on the reference to the Youth Service. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Member for Education to seek a briefing report on the revised Youth Service structure,

its operational focus and budget. The Members were concerned that the new Youth Innovation Grants would not be able to provide a broad enough service for young people. In addition the Committee requested clarification of the plans for the use of resources planned to be delivered through a bid to the EU Social Fund.

6. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has provided a briefing paper (attached at **Appendix A**) which include the following information:

- a. Youth service structure – summary of position
- b. Retention of six youth centres
- c. Improved partnership working
- d. Detached and outreach youth work
- e. Access to one to one support
- f. Inclusive youth work provision
- g. Next steps.

7. The briefing paper also details plans for use of £1,630,288 European Social Funding, highlighting its operational focus and outcomes and outputs. Finally the briefing paper lists at **Appendix 1** the Youth Innovation Grants that have been awarded, following the two stage application process during the summer and autumn of 2015.

Scope of Scrutiny

8. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to gain an understanding of the operation of the revised Youth Service provision across the City.

9. Members may also wish to review and assess the effectiveness of the revised provision in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities as well as its contribution to combating disengagement amongst young people.

Way Forward

- 10.** Members are invited to consider the information set out in the attached report and to identify any issues on which they would wish to receive further information.

- 11.** Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education) has been invited and may make a statement. Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and Simon Morris (Achievement Leader - Engagement and Progression) have been invited to introduce the briefing report.

Legal Implications

- 12.** The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

- 13.** The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to consider the contents of the briefing paper attached at **Appendix A** and provide the Cabinet Member and Director of Education and Lifelong Learning with any comments or concerns.

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