



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children's Services
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Children's Services
DATE:	14 March 2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Children's Services
------------------------------	---------------------

WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
-------------------------	-----

KEY DECISION:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
----------------------	---

SUBJECT:	Strategic Youth Alliance
-----------------	--------------------------

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018/19 agreed reduction of £313,000 in the Young People's Services budget has resulted in the need to reduce the universal neighbourhood and holiday provision available to children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen. As a result, there is a need to work collaboratively with partners to ensure a universal provision continues to remain available for local young people.

To take the work forward the proposal is to establish a Strategic Youth Alliance, bringing together youth sector organisations, to develop and coordinate a Borough-wide offer of universal provision. The Council will support the universal provision with an investment of £150,000, furthermore, the Council will continue to invest £500,000 to deliver Targeted Youth Support services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board is asked to approve the proposal to establish a Strategic Youth Alliance Board and Network to develop and coordinate universal provision across Blackburn with Darwen neighbourhoods in term-time and during holiday periods.

3. BACKGROUND

Young People's Services budget of £1,150,000 has been reduced by £313,000 to meet the departmental savings target. The remaining budget is invested in a Targeted Youth Support service (£517,000), and a commission to Blackburn Youth Zone of £170,000, which leaves a £150,000 available to develop future neighbourhood youth work.

The current universal neighbourhood youth work provision costs c.£400,000, therefore it is proposed that a Strategic Youth Alliance is established to maximise the resources invested in neighbourhood provision by partnership working.

The current Council offer via the Young People's Services includes 39 Youth Club session, 14 sessions for 8-12 year olds and 25 sessions for 13-19 years olds across the four neighbourhood areas, equating to a minimum of 105 hours of face-to-face work with children and young people. In addition, the Young People's Service delivers a holiday programme of 2 weeks in Easter and 4 weeks

in Summer equating to 990 hours of face-to-face delivery.

The proposal is to establish a three-way partnership between the Council, Blackburn Youth Zone (BYZ) and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (BRCT). To maximise resources each partner organisation will contribute to a universal neighbourhood and holiday provision which will include the Council investing £150,000 with 100% match funding from BRCT and additional resources will be provided by BYZ to contribute to delivering the neighbourhood offer.

The three organisations will form the initial Strategic Youth Alliance Board and will be responsible for coordinating activities and provision across Blackburn with Darwen communities during term-time and key holiday periods. Initial work will involve conducting a mapping exercise to better understand existing provision and activities delivered by local partners.

The Board will be supported by a Youth Alliance Network consisting of key youth sector partners already delivering in neighbourhoods to increase the provision available to children and young people. The Council will initially lead the Board and establish key governance and monitoring arrangements.

The Youth Alliance Network will aim to develop a Hub and Spoke approach based on the existing neighbourhood model, and will work collectively to ensure young people's needs are met. Current provision will be reviewed with key locations identified as the main 'hubs' and smaller satellite provision spread across the neighbourhoods as 'spokes'. The partnership will aim to maintain existing provision which is deemed as successful in terms of young people's attendances and key prevention activities and projects. The Network will also collaborate to deliver some detached projects which will utilise local intelligence via the police, community safety, Elected Members and partner organisations to target areas of concerns linked to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and youth nuisance.

The Network will be made up of representatives from each local youth sector organisation, working together to maximise the offer available to local young people. The partnership will look to share resources and expertise, plan joint workforce development to establish consistent and effective approaches to working with young people, improve standards of practice and secure collaborative funding bids. The partnership approach will also assist in ensuring duplication of provision is avoided and identified gaps in provision can be met.

The proposal will allow the Council to influence the offer of key partners. In addition, the Alliance will work collectively to secure external funding to enhance universal neighbourhood provision and support to smaller youth sector organisations in order to meet the needs of young people in local communities.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

There is potential of an initial reduction in provision to young people following the withdrawal of direct universal delivery from the Council's Young People's Service. However, there is scope to increase local provision once external funding is secured, the Strategic Youth Alliance will be better placed to work collaboratively to attract funding which traditionally is not available to the Local Authority.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Capture the refreshed targeted service and the partnership arrangement via the Strategic Youth Alliance in a new Adolescent Strategy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Requirement to meet savings target of £313,000 as agreed in 2018/19.

Investment of £150,000 towards developing a universal neighbourhood and holiday provision.

Investment of £500,000 to deliver a Targeted Youth Support service.

Potential cost to service users to access provision they previously accessed at no cost.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Potential of service level agreements to be established with individual organisations.

The potential EIA impact has been assessed appropriately and it is recognised this is an ongoing process.

The potential for redundancies makes this a key decision for the Council.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Implication on staffing with potential redundancies in Young People's Services.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

In developing an adolescent strategy, consultation was carried out via an online survey and focused groups. Approximately 400 young people participated in direct face to face consultation via focus groups and an additional 200 young people via an online survey. Feedback was acquired for a range of services including youth work / youth club provision and support services available to young people in their local areas.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION: 3

CONTACT OFFICER:	Imran Akuji
DATE:	8 th February 2019
BACKGROUND PAPER:	