

**Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission  
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing**

Report for: Mayor

Mayor and Cabinet

Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)

Executive Director

Information

Part 1

Part 2

Key Decision

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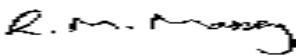
Date of Meeting	5 March 2008
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Title of Report	Improving Services for Young People
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Originator of Report	Christine Grice	Ext. 46300
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime & Disorder Implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed:  Executive  
Member

Date: 22/02/2008

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Director/Head of Service

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Control Record by Committee Support**

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

<b>MAYOR AND CABINET</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Improving Services for Young People	
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	Item No.3
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Children and Young People, Head of Access & Support	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 5 March 2008

### **Reason for urgency**

This report has been in the Forward Plan and was scheduled for a Mayor and Cabinet meeting in April. However, the funding from central government is available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 and in order to ensure the effective use of these new resources decisions need to be made urgently. Failure to do this could result in loss of income into an area of work that has been identified as a local priority.

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out the requirements for Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) and details the new funding available from the DCSF and the London Development Agency. It proposes a process for the Mayor to consider in determining the use of funding in improving services for young people.

### **2. Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 This report seeks the Mayor's approval to improve services for young people by the effective use of funding that engages young people and the community and supports the Council's Strategic priorities. It proposes a process for managing the new funding.

### **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1 The Mayor of London and the Government have worked together to provide a £79m 'London Youth Offer'. The package will run over two years from 2008 to 2010, with £20m coming from the Mayor's London Development Agency and £59m from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Lewisham will receive an increased allocation to the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) fund and the Youth Opportunities Fund, totalling £3.875m over a three year period. The initiative supports the implementation of "Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities" (July 2007). This strategy also sets out an agenda for Local Authorities to transform their current

services and to have an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) in place by April 2008. The focus of this new service is prevention and there are new standards that the Authority will be required to meet.

- 3.2 The objectives for the Mayor's Youth Offer have been developed to help provide more activities and services for young people. The funding is to increase the range of services for teenagers, provide more support for parents and give young people new opportunities to gain new skills and raise their aspirations.
- 3.3 A key element of the funding will encourage young Londoners to get involved in decisions about the provision of services for them across London. Increasing young people's participation has been a particular strength in Lewisham. The work of the Young Mayor and Young Commissioners have supported the achievement of Beacon Status.
- 3.4 The new funding has two elements, Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) which is ring fenced and should involve Young People in the decision making. The other element is Positive Activities for Young People and this funding has been available for some years and is targeted at those young people with risky behaviour.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### **That the Mayor:**

- 4.1 Notes the requirements for Lewisham to develop IYSS;
- 4.2 Endorses the priorities detailed in paragraph 8;
- 4.3 Notes the feedback from Young People from recent consultations and agrees to include the issues identified in paragraph 9 as priorities;
- 4.4 Agrees the target groups identified in paragraph 10;
- 4.5 Agrees that the Young Commissioners should continue to have the lead in advising about the YOF ring fenced funding;
- 4.6 Agrees the process outlined in paragraph 7 for seeking and appraising proposals on the use of funding;
- 4.7 Instructs officers to bring forward a further report in May detailing the appraised bids for decision to proceed.

#### **5. Giving Young People and Communities Influence**

- 5.1. The Mayor is asked to consider a process for the allocation of the funding that will ensure that young people have influence over the development of local services. The Young Commissioners have had a major role in previous years in making decisions about the Youth Opportunities Funding. Young people have been able to influence the development of services that are more in line with their aspirations and

needs. They have promoted YOF in a range of settings and with different groups so that bids have been put forward that reflect the diversity within Lewisham. They have been successful in supporting the voluntary sector and faith groups in developing proposals for funding. The funds have also been used in a way to support in bringing together young people to deliver “youth led” projects. For example a project called Youth for Unity was formed by eight young people (4 boys and 4 girls). The project benefited 200 young people and brought them together in a two day tournament of sporting activities. The project also provided 16 young people with training in a Level 2 Certificate in Event and Match Day Stewarding Course.

5.2 The 2007/08 allocations to the YOF was £198k and in addition the Youth Capital Fund was £156k. So the total budget available for Young People to make decisions on was £354k. Last year 54 applications for YOF grant were made and 40 were approved, creating 47 new activities for young people. There were 32 applications for capital projects and 28 were approved. These funds were used for:

- sporting equipment;
- computers;
- music production and editing equipment;
- camping equipment;
- musical instruments;
- outside ball court.

5.3 Between April 2006 to October 2007 18 young people participated in decision making and grant giving. Just over 420 young people have been involved in the programme as project leaders. Of this group 20 young people identified themselves as having a disability. The programme has been successful and contributed to the achievement of the highest score in the latest Annual Performance Assessment for Making a Positive Contribution.

5.4 The allocation for YOF in 2008/09 is £298K from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and this is ring fenced funding. There is an indicative further £117k for YOF in the London Development Agencies funding which is not subject to a ring fence. The Mayor is asked to agree in light of the success of the Young Commissioners that they should continue to take the lead in advising about the allocation of the £298k ring fenced YOF.

5.5 Communities also have a role in helping to expand and improve services for young people. Community organisations can play a significant part in delivering positive activities for young people. When young people and organisations come together to address common issues within an area it helps build better understanding between the generations. There is an expectation in the Government’s strategy that councils will bring adults and young people together.

5.6 The Mayor is asked to consider a process that will encourage Young People and communities to put forward proposals for developing new

services for teenagers. The Mayor is asked to consider asking community groups, other providers and youth groups to put forward proposals for providing new services. Proposed arrangements for processing any such bids are detailed later in this report.

## **6. Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS)**

6.1 The strategy offers some new and welcome opportunities to improve young people's outcomes and to change the way we provide services for them. There is a policy imperative to engage and empower young people to take part in community and civic life. It also outlines proposals to improve partnership working and focus more on prevention by:

- The Youth Justice Board is expected to pool 10% of its funding with local youth services from 2008;
- PCTs pooling budgets for preventative adolescent health services with Council services;
- A new Public Service Agreement that will focus activity on putting and keeping young people on the path to success;
- More support for third sector organisations with a proven track record in this area.

6.2 With these new opportunities come change management and delivery challenges. The Council will need some of the new requirements in place by April 2008 and all the standards will need to be in place by December 2008. The new standards are:

- Integration of the core services – Youth Service, Connexions and Youth Offending Team
- Strengthening influence of vulnerable young people, their families and communities;
- Identifying young people early at risk;
- Common Assessment Framework is widely used and understood;
- Early intervention via universal settings;
- Lead Professional in place;
- Support across key transitions;
- Young people are engaged in defining appropriate settings for services;
- Preventative Services are a key part of Transforming Youth Work (TYS) services;
- Young people are fully engaged in shaping TYS plans and processes;

- There is an effective multi-agency structure in place to deal with vulnerable people;
- Appropriate workforce development;
- Achieving sustainability.

## **7. Proposals for commissioning services**

7.1 We have operated a process for commissioning PAYP activities for several years. It is proposed that this is built on in order to deal with bids for the new funding. There is a PAYP board that appraises all applications for funding, which includes young people. If the Mayor agrees to this process, the young people representation on the board to include nominees from the Young Mayor, his advisers and the young commissioners. The appraisal is in two parts: first, organisations are assessed against some general criteria. These are:

- All organisations promote equal opportunities and social inclusion;
- How effectively the organisation measures its performance and successes;
- A protection policy is in place which includes Criminal Bureau checks;
- How the service relates to other similar services;
- Whether the organisation is able to attract funds from other sources;
- How well an organisation is able to support both paid and unpaid staff;
- How well an organisation can offer value for money.

7.2 The second part of the process has been against specific criteria related to PAYP. As this is a broader programme the Mayor is asked to consider the following factors and criteria for appraising proposals.

## **8. Local Area Agreement Performance Measures**

8.1 That proposals should support the priorities and performance measures in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the CYP Plan, notably:

- dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police;
- Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals;
- Services for disabled children;

- Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected levels at KS2 and KS4;
- First entrants to the Youth Justice System 10-17;
- Under 18 conception rates;
- Substance misuse by young people
- 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training and employment.

## **9. Feedback from Young People**

- 9.1 Recent consultations with young people have identified some common issues and areas for development. Young people have highlighted the need to have more things to do at the weekend. The Youth Service currently offers a Monday to Friday service, though the Friday programme is limited.
- 9.2 The spread of Youth provision across Lewisham is uneven. A map of facilities is provided in Appendix 1. There are areas that do require more things to do and places to go for young people. In a recent survey conducted by DEMOS young people thought it would be useful to have a mobile provision, possibly a bus, that is equipped with a range of high tech resources in the ICT and creative media areas of work. Ward analysis is also provided of young people not in education, employment and training (Appendix 2) and Youth Crime analysis (Appendix 3).
- 9.3 The latest 2007/08 Lewisham residents Survey included a young people's survey. The results of this were generally positive with many more young people feeling more engaged in decision making. When asked about areas of personal concern young people identified bullying and bad behaviour. Their concerns in these areas had increased from the previous survey. It is proposed that young people's feedback should form part of the criteria for the use of the new funding.

## **10. Target Groups**

- 10.1 A continuing focus of the new strategy is on prevention and targeted work with those young people at greatest risk. The following vulnerable groups continue to be a priority:
- Looked After Children;
  - Young people at risk of substance misuse;
  - Young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system;
  - BME groups at risk of under achieving and young people in receipt of Free School Meals;
  - Young people with disabilities
  - Young people at risk of early parenthood or teenage pregnancy;

- Young people not in education, employment and training;
- Young Carers;
- Persistent absentees and young people at risk of exclusion;

10.2 Following appraisal of bids, proposals will be presented to the Mayor for decision.

## **11. Legal Implications**

11.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Council to do anything, which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.

11.2 The final decision as to the application of the funds will be taken by the Mayor which will ensure due process and proper accountability whilst taking on board the views of the Young Commissioners.

## **12. Financial**

12.1 The resources available of £3.875m are made up of grants with a life of either two or three years. The report is focussed on how that sum of grant money would be disbursed. However in making decisions in 2008-09 there would be a need to note that money from the Mayor of London is only for the period 2008-10 whereas DCSF grants are 2008-11. It would be important to ensure that grant decisions in 2008-09 using Mayor of London grant did not have ongoing consequences for 2010-11. As none of the grants are guaranteed to extend beyond 31 March 2011 then commitments made should not exceed beyond that point in time.

## **13. Equalities**

13.1 The proposals in this report support disadvantaged young people having more say in services for them and giving them more opportunity for participation in community and civic activities.

## **14. Crime & Disorder Implications**

14.1 The proposals in this report support plans to reduce anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

## **15. Environmental Implications**

15.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **16. Risk Assessment**

### **IYSS**

16.1 The new standards present some challenges and the timescales are pressing. The Integration of services also present cultural challenges and other professional issues that need to be overcome.

## **Background Papers**

Aiming High for Young People: A ten year strategy for positive activities.

For more information on this report please contact Dave Dowie, Head of Youth Service on 020 8314 9544.