

Draft - Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Budget Proposal:	Youth Grants
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Section 1: Background Information

1. What is the proposal / issue?

The proposal is to reduce the youth services budget from £330,000 to £300,000 in 2018/19 which would see the withdrawal of the neighbourhood funding grants, the value of which was £30,000 in 2017/18.

Youth grant funding has been in place for six years, but with a clear message year on year that it would not be guaranteed into the future, and that small organisations receiving the grant need to develop their own sustainability strategies. This element of the service is non-statutory.

2. What is the current situation?

There is an annual grant cycle inviting organisations to bid for funding as long as they meet set criteria, and limiting the maximum amount of the bid. Bids are scored against the outcomes required and a panel of community youth sector organisations and of young people evaluates the bids to determine which should be funded and the value of the award.

Organisations have been expected to complete mid-term and end evaluations and have been supported by a senior youth worker. Until this year, funded projects had been enrolled on a national quality assurance programme to support the quality of their provision for young people.

In 2017/18 the grant funding was £30,000 with a maximum of £3,000 to any single organisation or individual. There were 12 organisations who were successful in their bids, representing areas of need across the Bay. All are delivering diversionary activities out of school time.

The provision of these grants is not a statutory requirement of the council and the remaining funding of £300,000 is sufficient to maintain the staffing of the emerging Youth Trust. The Youth Trust will continue to support outcomes for vulnerable Young Carers which is mandated through the Children and Families Act 2014. The service will also continue provide services for young people on the edge of care or within the safeguarding

	<p>services to prevent both further expenditure on expensive care placements and poor outcomes generally for children within Torbay. The Youth Trust will also act as a conduit in supporting the development of services through alternative funding streams not available to the Local Authority.</p>
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>The provision of grants to youth organisations is not a statutory requirement of the council and therefore no further options have been considered.</p>
4.	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions and principles of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</p> <p>The proposal aims for a prosperous and healthy Torbay by focusing the council's limited resources on those vulnerable groups who are at greater risk of poor outcomes. This proposal supports the principle of 'using resources to best effect'.</p>
5.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>Those affected are the community and voluntary groups who have been eligible for grant funding to support their delivery of neighbourhood youth provision.</p> <p>Young people using these services may also be impacted if the provision becomes unviable or is put at risk due to the withdrawal of the grant funding.</p> <p>Consultation will take place with all the groups currently receiving the grants and the young people attending the provision which is funded by the grants.</p>
6.	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>Consultation on the proposal will be conducted in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will contact all recipients of the current grant funding outlining the proposals and asking what the impact will be and whether they have any means of mitigating the loss of future grant funding. • Should any groups indicate the service they provide will become unsustainable as a result of this proposal, we will consult with young people to ask them what impact the potential loss of provision will have on them. • This proposal will also be included in the general budget consultation.

Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

7.	<p>What are the financial and legal implications?</p> <p>Youth policy has not provided more than an aspirational set of standards for sufficiency which has been subjective and non-specific. No Local Authority has been successfully challenged around the reduction in services, and the national picture evidences a 15% budget reduction on average across the country, this proposal represents a 10% reduction.</p>
8.	<p>What are the risks?</p> <p>There is the risk the removal of this funding will mean that some of the services provided by community groups are not viable to continue.</p> <p>There is a risk that if the proposal is not implemented that funding will need to be found which is allocated for statutory services, meaning that the council would be providing a lower level of support to vulnerable young people.</p>
9.	<p>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</p> <p>N/A</p>
10.	<p>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>For organisations who have not received concurrent year's funding, their ability to continue to deliver the service/activity without grant funding is assumed because this is either a pilot project or they have sourced alternative funding. There is a core of eight organisations who have received funding on consecutive years, albeit at a reduced rate year on year, and these (and the young people using them) are the groups which could be most impacted by the decision.</p> <p>The continuation of grant funding does not provide a sustainable solution to good quality youth provision across Torbay; such grants have been removed in many other local authorities for this reason. Young people do have access to a range of services as is evidenced through the Community Directory,</p>

	<p>compiled monthly by the Youth Service and published in the Family Information Service and across schools and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Nationally, youth funding has reduced by 15% from 2015/16 to 2016/17 as the increase in demand in safeguarding and child protection rises and budgets fall. Those authorities who are maintaining strong youth services are doing it through innovative partnership arrangements and alternative operating models such as that proposed by Torbay with the emerging Youth Trust. The emerging Youth Trust is now developing links and partnerships with a view to building services for the future.</p> <p>Torbay Council has also started a local lottery and organisations are encouraged to generate funding by selling tickets, by doing this they will receive 50% of the sale proceeds of the tickets they sell.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</p> <p>The budget for this grant was reduced in 2016/17 and there were many representations made from the community and voluntary sector who have told us that they rely on the funding. At this time, we proposed that the Community Development Trust support these organisations in seeking grant funding and alternative sustainable funding streams and that those organisations receiving funding sought help from them as the sector umbrella organisation.</p> <p>To be updated following consultation.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions</p> <p>We have not made amendments to the initial proposals, since those Community Voluntary Sector (CVS) organisations in receipt of grants were informed last year that there was unlikely to be a further round in 2017/18. There is no alternative than to focus limited resources on those areas of need or those particularly vulnerable young people such as Care Leavers.</p> <p>There will be investment provided to the sector through the emerging Youth Trust, and the umbrella support of the Community Development Trust which should support organisations in developing alternative funding streams should they wish to continue delivering provision.</p> <p>Organisations will also be advised about the Torbay Lottery and will be encouraged to generate income in this way if they are not already aware of this.</p>

Equality Impacts

13	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people		Potential cessation of neighbourhood provision for youth aged 13-19. Directory of existing provision available and work through the emerging Youth Trust to develop services across the Bay in Partnership.	
	People with caring Responsibilities	No differential impact		
	People with a disability		There is an organisation receiving funding which is aimed at young people with disabilities. It is proposed that this organisation seek support from the CDT to source alternative funding, and that it may apply for other local grants or funding specifically for those with disabilities.	
	Women or men	No differential impact		
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>	No differential impact		
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	No differential impact		

	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	No differential impact		
	People who are transgendered	No differential impact		
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	No differential impact		
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	No differential impact		
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		Funded provision takes place in target areas of deprivation primarily. If services become unsustainable then young people in these deprived areas may no longer receive this provision.	
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		Potential for young people to engage in risk taking behaviour where they are not engaged in supported youth provision.	
14	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	The tapered funding to the Community Development Trust is due to end in this financial year and it is unclear whether they have generated the capacity and resource to provide the level of infrastructure support that they have promised. The support of the CDT will be important for CVS organisations seeking help with funding.		
15	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	The reduction in community policing has already had an impact within our target neighbourhoods and reducing the youth provision within those areas may result in an increase in anti-social behaviour by young people who are not engaged and not subject to oversight and sanction.		