

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
15th January 2024

Agenda Item: 5

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Young People's Priority Youth Resilience Grant – Review Process

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Youth Resilience Grant. Reflecting on the original purpose of the grant, a summary of current performance and an opportunity to provide Members with an overview of the grant review process.

2. Recommendations, that:

- 2.1. **Members use Sections 3-8 to refresh on the background of this funding stream**
- 2.2. **Members familiarise themselves with the review programme**
- 2.3. **Members note the timelines associated with funding this programme, inc. Appendix 1**

3. Background and intended focus

- 3.1. Workshops were held with Members on 26th February 2019 and 17th April 2019. At the meeting on the 26th February it was agreed that the North Area Council wished to focus their resources on a young people-based programme.
- 3.2. Two subsequent mapping and consultation workshops were held, one on the 24th June 2019 and subsequently on the 12th September 2019. Officers were also asked to produce a film capturing the views of young people.
- 3.3. Following which a tender opportunity was advertised for service provider that could provide children and young people aged 8-14 years with the resources they need to transition healthily and happily into adolescent. This should include increasing the confidence, self-esteem, attitudes and aspirations of the children / young people involved. It is envisaged that this offer will include provision that is both school and community based and incorporates a light touch whole family element.

3.4. However the procurement exercise was unsuccessful. Potential providers provided the following feedback:

- The original contract value would not cover the work specified, particularly in school and community provision
- The outcomes are too broad
- The beneficiary groups need to be more targeted
- The application process is too complicated for smaller voluntary and community organisations to respond adequately
- For smaller organisations investing the time in an application is too risky without there being a guarantee of a grant award at the end of the process

3.5. Subsequently it was agreed that the opportunity should be made available as a competitive grant, enabling providers to bid in for smaller 'chunks' of an Area wide offer.

3.6. The grant opportunity was advertised with a focus on emotional resilience and transition ages. It is an opportunity that could play a huge part in the COVID-19 recovery for children aged (8-13) in the North Area. This was informed by stakeholder engagement and a local needs assessment. The closing date for applications was on Tuesday 21st September.

3.7. Three organisations were invited to present their project proposal to the panel Tuesday 6th October. The Grant Panel was comprised of:

Junior School representative:	Jane Mackay (Principal – Kexborough Primary)
Senior School Representative:	Gary Smith (Darton)
Head of Employment and Skills:	Tom Smith (HoS Employment and Skills)
Transformation Lead (EH&WB):	Lauren Nixon (Young Peoples Emotional Health and Wellbeing Lead)
Senior Public Health:	Cath Bedford (Healthier Communities)

3.8. Two providers were successful, YMCA and Ad Astra. They have been working in the North Area since 1st November 2020. The split of schools is as follows:

Wellgate School	YMCA
Kexborough School	YMCA
Summer Lane School	YMCA
Athersley North School	Ad Astra
Athersley South School	Ad Astra
Laithe's Primary School	Ad Astra

3.9. The Area Council should note YMCA originally applied to work solely with Kexborough and Darton School but the panel were so impressed with the model that they requested a summary of what YMCA could deliver in Wellgate Primary, Darton East and Wilthorpe Junior Old Town. Summer Lane Schools. The existing budget could not accommodate the full delivery in three

schools so a pared down to produce an adapted model, tailored to the needs of individual schools.

- 3.10. The initial funding was agreed for a three year period and the grant agreements initially issued for the period November 2020 until October 2022.
- 3.11. At the March 2022 meeting the Area Council agree to fund the project for a further 2 years, until October 2024, at £90,000p.a. Providers received a financial uplift for years 3 and 4 which was feasible within the current financial envelope.
- 3.12. The current grant agreements conclude on the 31st October 2024. The review of the programme is essential to ensure that the Area Council evaluate the impact of the funding committed and discuss how they wish to continue supporting young people in the North Area.

4. Project Development – Contextual Overview

4.1. **On the 24th June 2019 a stakeholder workshop was held and the Roundhouse Lifelong learning Centre.** 26 stakeholders including representatives from Carlton Academy, CHAMS, voluntary and community sector, Youth Justice Service, School Nursing attended. This was a large stakeholder workshop. Events like this are increasingly rare in the public sector and attendees were keen to point out how important the networking opportunity was for their work. Councillors in attendance were: Cllr Leech, Cllr Platts, Cllr Tattersall and Cllr Pickering

4.2. Workshop Summary – Identified Gaps and Opportunities

Gaps in provision and how stakeholders believe that the Area Council can add value:

- ❖ Emotional Resilience
- ❖ Transition age (8-13)
- ❖ Empowerment (Mentoring and Peer Support)
- ❖ Risky Behaviour

N.B. Family Centred approach was also raised repeatedly. It is felt that where intensive whole family support is required, resources are already in place to address need. However, it may be worth exploring the possibility of some family centred activities as part of a wider model for commissioning.

5. Stakeholder Co-Design Workshop – 12th September 2019

5.1. On the 12th of September a co-design workshop was held at Barnsley Town Hall. This was the biggest workshop ever host by the North Area Council with 31 stakeholders in attendance. Councillors in attendance were: Cllr Leech, Cllr Charlesworth, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Newing and Cllr Tattersall

- 5.2. To set the tone the workshop started with a vision that a participant at the 24th June workshop contributed:

“Every young person, regardless of background, education or family circumstances would have relevant access to service and opportunities that would inspire motivate and enhance their current health, wellbeing and aspirations to improve their future self.”

- 5.3. It was clear from the first exercise that identifying outcomes is a challenging process. However, the following area her highlighted for prioritisation.

Emotional Resilience

- 5.3..1. Increase the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people ages 8-14years.
- 5.3..2. Reduction in anxiety, stress and depression in children and young people
- 5.3..3. Increased confidence, self-esteem, emotional intelligence, attitudes and aspirations of young people
- 5.3..4. Reduce the number of inappropriate referrals to CAMHS
- 5.3..5. Reduce the numbers of young people attending BDGH for self-harm related incidents

Transition ages 8-14

- 5.3..6. Improve the experiences of young people as they transition from junior to senior school
- 5.3..7. Ensure that young people have access to good quality, frank information about the physical, emotional and social wellbeing. Complimenting PHSE provision schools.
- 5.3..8. Increase access to safe community spaces for young people in the transition ages between the times of 4pm and 7pm during the early evening.

Empowerment

- 5.3..9. Increased number of young people becoming active citizens
- 5.3..10. Increase the number of young people participating in voice and influence opportunities
- 5.3..11. Empower young people to make informed decisions

Raising Aspirations:

- 5.3..12. Broaden the horizons of young people so that they are more aware of self-development and employment opportunities that reach beyond the community norm
- 5.3..13. Increase access to careers information, advice and guidance for children and parents
- 5.3..14. Empower parents to support their children to aim high and be their best self

Risk Taking Behaviour

- 5.3..15. Increase young people’s understanding of the consequences associated with risky behaviour, short, medium and long term
- 5.3..16. Reduce the number of young people participating in antisocial behaviour
- 5.3..17. Reduction in the number of young people regularly using drugs (including alcohol to excess)

5.3..18. Reduce the levels of young people being diagnosed with an STI

5.3..19. Reduce the numbers of teenage conception

5.4. Schools Insights

Schools were asked what provision would be most complimentary to their provision. The junior school representative felt that support in schools with earlier intervention, support with mental health and support for children who would be referred to Mindspace at Key Stage 3.

5.5. From a secondary school perspective support that would encourage students in Years 7 and 8 to be more independent and provide them with the tools and skills they need to be more resilient.

5.6. Lightbulb moments, stakeholders repeatedly stressed:

5.6..1. To do meaningful community work with young people it was far more effective to make connections with young people in school.

5.6..2. To have the biggest impact on the family unit, whole family activities produce longer lasting more sustainable changes for children and young people.

5.7. The workshops demonstrated that production of a service specification is a complicated and time-consuming process. Each person involved is viewing the priorities through a different life lens and therefore range of solutions were identified, helping to shape the opportunity.

6. Project characteristics championed by the priority working group – learning from previous commissioning

6.1. Coaching Model – Intensive but with a legacy and peer support incorporated (Both the Summer Internship delivery model and Fit Reds delivery model were discussed).

6.2. 5 Ways to Wellbeing should be at the centre of a project (Connect, Be Active, Give, Take Notice, and Stay Connected).

6.3. Building resilience, particularly around emotional wellbeing and being able to handle the knocks that life throws at a person (this could include Mental Health First Aid training).

7. Key Considerations – avoiding duplication and best use of funding

7.1. Duplication of the town centre based ‘OnSide Youth Zone’

The Area Manager has observed a presentation from OnSide Youth Zone’s Partnership Development and Community Engagement Officer regarding the proposed service offer. The service suggested for the North Area will not duplicate the proposed offer.

7.2. Needs based commissioning

There are 12 primary/junior schools in the North Area and plus Darton Academy, Holy Trinity and Springwell. It is important to note that many young people from the North Area attend Outwood Academy Carlton.

To achieve the best outcomes with the budget envelope it was agreed the provision would be offered to the six junior schools who demonstrate the highest levels of need.

7.3. Targeted Intervention

7.4. Provision could be targeted to benefit young people who do not meet the threshold for additional support but school staff are able to identify early indicators that a young person will struggle to transition to senior school successfully and would benefit from additional support both in school, out of school time and school holiday provision.

7.5. Maintaining relationships

Risk to schools regarding the project being time limited as discussed. A school representative felt that the benefits outweighed the risks and that the work would leave a cultural legacy of cooperation and good practise between the local stakeholders.

8. Grant Opportunity

8.1. The grant opportunity was designed to support the delivery of a range of positive after school and holiday provision (interventions/ projects/activities/sessions) that will contribute to building the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people (aged 9-13).

8.2. Intended to provide children and young people with additional tools to help them transition smoothly between junior and senior school and make positive choices.

8.3. Designed to enable the voluntary and community sector to for a bridge of support between schools and the community.

N.B. This provision was adapted to support children, young people, schools and families following Covid-19 lockdowns.

8.4. The grant opportunity chunked down the original proposal to enable the voluntary and community sector to bid for smaller portions of the opportunity, making the grant more flexible and appealing.

8.5. The intention to utilise the Beyond Words resources has also been included the grant guidance material but it is acknowledged that schools are facing a challenging time and this opportunity may need to be delayed and/or considered on a school-by-school basis.

9. Current Delivery Overview

9.1. The programme went live on the 1st November 2020, delivered by two organisations, YMCA and Ad Astra following a competitive grant process.

9.2. **Please note**, it cannot be underestimated how difficult it was for the providers to begin their delivery when the interventions rely on working with the schools and there had been such extreme disruption to the education system during Covid-19.

9.3. **YMCAs delivery includes the following support and interventions:**

Kexborough Primary School

- Weekly after-school sessions with all Y6 children at some point can work with the YMCA youth work team, who will then remain a consistent person within their transition experience to Darton Academy.

- Additional targeted group of Y6 pupils identified by the school as those who would most benefit from the project and improve their emotional resilience and wellbeing.

Wellgate Primary School

- Weekly targeted support project for some Y6 children identified as those who would gain the most.

Summer Lane Primary

- Weekly targeted support for Y5/Y6 children open access but targeted for some pupils the school has identified as those who would most benefit from additional support.

Darton Academy Peer Mentor Training Programme (school identified Y7 Students & YMCA identified participants)

A 6-week bespoke training programme that includes exploring the role and potential remit within school and YMCA Barnsley, knowledge, qualities and skills of a peer supporter, key skills of communication, problem solving and group work, confidentiality and safeguarding and relevant wider skills such as first aid and activity leadership.

Cohorts have been identified by the school Leadership Team and the young people were chosen for their needs, interests, maturity and the Primary School that they had previously attended to ensure a broad representation of the school's feeder primaries and that the young people were familiar in the Primary School that they will then support as part of the next Year 6 transition process.

Street Based Youth Work

- Delivered in Kexborough and Darton

School Holiday Provision

- A diverse programme that adapts to suit the seasons and current cohort

9.4. **Ad Astra's delivery includes the following support and interventions:**

Athersley North

- Year 3 and 4 - Delivering Conflict Resolution Workshops
- Year 5 – Buddy Training
- Year 6 – Transition Workshops

Athersley South

- Year 5 – Buddy Training
- Year 6 – Transition Workshops
- Plus Enrichment Afterschool sessions

Outwood Academy Carlton

- Year 7 – Providing support to a young people in tailored sessions. The young people have presented challenging behaviour throughout the programme. The team have needed their experience to help address the issues raised by the young people.

Youth Club

- This is held at New Lodge Community Centre. It is a busy and creative environment that encourages the young people to help tailor the provision.

School Holiday Provision

- Attended predominantly by the young people who usually attend junior youth club, however over the last year the provision has been adapted because some of the year 7 young people have wanted to attend.

9.5. Both organisations have been able to adapt their provision, even in the face of adversity.

10. Project Outputs & Outcomes

10.1. Headline data, extracted from provider quarterly reports (Nov 2020 – March 2023). It is important to note that although YMCA and Ad Astra are tasked with addressing similar outcomes but their delivery methods are different, hence the disparity in the output data.

Transition ages 8-14			
	YMCA	Ad Astra	Total
Term Time Sessions	375	339	714
Number of school holiday sessions delivered	63	28	91
Total Attendance in and out of school	5,130	5,235	10,365
Number of unique individuals engaged	442	1,231	1673

Empowerment			
Young Volunteers	26	49	75
Peer Support	600	270	870

Raising Aspirations			
No. Family members engaged in the project	16	0	16

10.2. Both providers produce comprehensive quarterly reports. This provides: outputs, a narrative report, case studies, quotes and session photographs. This information helps to provide a rich picture about the breadth and diversity of the programmes, however it is difficult to share this information effectively in the quarterly reports.

10.3. Please follow the links to access the year-end reports that summarise the commissioned services.

2020/21 Q4 – Performance Report

<https://barnslymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s82391/Appendix%201%20-%20Performance%20Report.pdf>

2021/22 – Q4 – Performance Report

<https://barnsley.mbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s95829/20220516-NAC%20Item%205-Performance%20Report%202021-22.pdf>

2022/23 – Q4 Performance Report

<https://barnsley.mbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s106702/20230522%20Q4%20-%20NAT%20Performance%20Report%202022%20-%202023.pdf>

11. Review Process and Timeline for funding

11.1. When the Young People's Priority Working Group were consulted at a preliminary workshop in November 2023, about the future of the funding for this priority area, the group requested more information about the project. A comprehensive review programme has been organised with the providers to help ensure that the Working Group can make an informed recommendation to the Area Council regarding this programme and associated funding. This will provide the Working Group an opportunity to meet with the providers and the beneficiaries.

11.2. Please refer to appendix 1 for an overview of the review programme.

12. Financial Implications

12.1. The financial implications were £90,000.00 p.a. for the first three years of delivery.

12.2. An additional £10,000 was agreed by the Area Council in March 2020 to enable the Beyond Words training and resources to be made available to participating schools and successful grant providers.

12.3. The project was extended to run for a third and fourth year. By the end of the current grant agreement (October 2024) the Area Council will have invested £349,304.00 in the current grant programme, excluding Beyond Words.

13. Current Update

13.1. The Youth Resilience Grant is now in its fourth year of delivery.

13.2. A comprehensive review of the Grant's programme delivery will commence on the 16th January 2023 and is due to conclude by the end of February.

13.3. At the Area Council meeting on the 11th March 2023 the Area Council will be asked to make a decision on funding for this priority area.

Officer Contact:

RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk
KatyAshworth@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:

3rd January 2024

Appendix 1:

Date	Activity	Who
w/c 15th Jan	Katy to film questions from Councillors for YMCA	Katy & Councillors
16/01/2024	Providers Joint Session: The Journey So Far Implementation Barriers & Adaptation Celebrating Success Continuous Improvement	Councillors, Area Team, Ad Astra, YMCA, Specialist Officers
	Observation / Conversation / Surgery	
22/01/2024	Observation in School (Senior)	Ad Astra & Councillors
24/01/2024	Conversation - Peer Support Group Yr8	Ad Astra & Councillors
24/01/2024	Accompany Detached Session (Outdoors)	Ad Astra & Councillors
30/01/2023	Observation in School (Junior)	Ad Astra & Councillors
	Observation / Conversation / Surgery	
12/02/2024	Young People's Surgery with young people in Kexborough – potentially with an activity packing self-care packs for the local residents.	YMCA & Councillors
19/02/2024	After school session (Senior)	YMCA & Councillors
22/02/2024	After school session (Junior)	YMCA & Councillors
February	Street based youth work (Outdoors)	YMCA & Councillors
Early to Mid Feb	Demographics and Data Presentation Needs Assessment	Business Intelligence Unit & Specialist Officers
26th or 29th Feb	Summing Up Priority Working Group will deliberate on the information gleaned from the report and provide recommendations for report pack	Councillors and Area Team & Specialist Officers
28/02/2024	NAC Paper deadline	
11/03/2024	North Area Council Meeting – Funding Decision Required	