

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
22nd July 2024

Agenda Item: 5

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Young People's Priority Youth Resilience Fund – Defining Outcomes and Advertisement

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the development of Youth Resilience Grant Mark2. Reflecting on the original purpose of the grant, a summary of current performance and an overview of the review process. The paper includes the details specified by the priority working group; details about the grant framework and procurement timeline.

2. Recommendations, that:

- 2.1. **Members familiarise themselves with the progress to date.**
- 2.2. **Members note the Procurement Update. Section 9 of this report.**

3. 2020 – 2024 Procurement Challenges & Investment

- 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. Two providers were successful, YMCA and Ad Astra. They have been working in the North Area since 1st November 2020.
- 3.8. The initial funding was agreed for a three-year period and the grant agreements initially issued for the period November 2020 until October 2022.
- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. 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.
- 3.11. A review of the programme was 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. 2020-2024 YRF Grant 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. 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.

5.3. 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.

5.4. Lightbulb moments, stakeholders repeatedly stressed:

- 5.4..1. To do meaningful community work with young people it was far more effective to make connections with young people in school.
- 5.4..2. To have the biggest impact on the family unit, whole family activities produce longer lasting more sustainable changes for children and young people.

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

- 5.5..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).
- 5.5..2. 5 Ways to Wellbeing should be at the centre of a project (Connect, Be Active, Give, Take Notice, and Stay Connected).
- 5.5..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).

- 5.6. Reflections: 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. Key Considerations – avoiding duplication and best use of funding

6.1. 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.

6.2. 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.

6.3. Targeted Intervention

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.

6.4. 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

7. Review Process 2024

- 7.1. 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. Consequently, a comprehensive review programme was devised.

- 7.2. The review programme commenced on the **16th January 2024** with a reflective session entitled “The Journey So Far” during which both providers (YMCA and Ad Astra) had an opportunity to explain how they had implemented their service offer in the area, barriers they had experienced and the successes they had celebrated. This session was attended by: Cllr Leech, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Denton, Cllr Tattersall, Tom Smith, Cath Bedford, Teresa Brocklehurst and Claire Barnes, Katy Ashworth and the Area Manger.

The key points shared by Ad Astra included:

Buddy training and transition work has been tailored with the support of the schools, helping to improve emotional regulation and independence.

How chaotic the young people's lives can be, involving bereavement, incarcerated parents, historic abuse.

Sessions are safe places where young people can participate without judgements, share experiences and learn new tools to manage.

Beyond Words resources were used by Ad Astra predominantly. Two of the schools are still actively using the resources.

Supporting up to 40 families, including parents with weekly support parcels – food and hygiene

Described the project as: "The broadest cohesion project we have ever done."

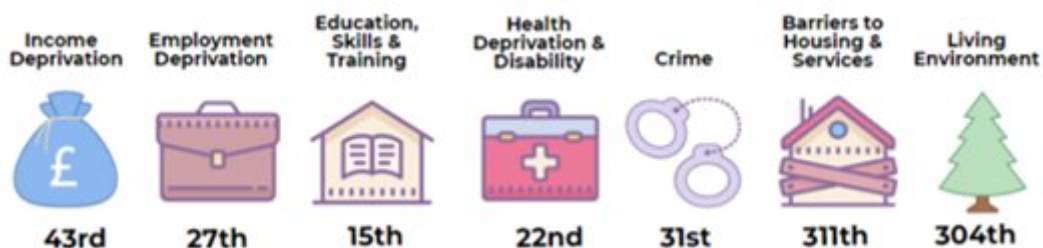
The key points shared by YMCA:

- The importance of consistency for the young people and their families, particularly important because participation with YMCA is voluntary.
- The work builds resilience and use Thrive Models for delivery
- The young people identified by the schools for support are the those who were at risk of making poor choices
- The work builds relationships and strengthens social networks

7.3. **Between the 22nd January and 22nd February 2024**, Councillors were given the opportunity to observe the delivery of sessional work with both providers. Of the eight sessions offered, five were attended. These included a mixture of in school and community-based provision. The Area manager joined Councillors for 3 of the sessions, following which Councillor expressed how vital the provision is and how they would not wish to see it withdrawn. A summary of the observations were discussed as a subsequent workshop on the 29th February.

7.4. On the **22nd February 2024** the Priority Working Group received a presentation on demographics and local need delivered by BMBC's Senior Performance and Intelligence Officer, Helen Jessop. The session was attended by Cllr Leech, Cllr Denton, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Newing, Teresa, Brocklehurst, Clare Barnes, Tom Smith, Katy Ashworth and the Area Manager.

Barnsley is the 38th most deprived local authority in England (out of 317) with 21.8% of its Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) being amongst the 10% most deprived in England. Barnsley is ranked 15th lowest for education, skills and training, 22nd lowest for health deprivation and disability and 27th lowest for employment deprivation.



Around 21.2% of under-16s in Barnsley (9,477) are growing up in poverty, which rises to 29.7% (15,342 children) when housing costs have been accounted for.

Key data by ward:

- St Helen's has the highest percentage of the population 0-19 at 26.3% (Old Darton East 19.8%, Darton West 19.9%, Town 21.5%)
- St Helen's has the highest percentage of the population with no qualifications 32.5% (Darton East 20.6%, Darton West, 20.7%, Old Town 19.8%)
- St Helen's has the highest percentage of household deprived in at least one dimension at 68.1% (Darton East 50.7%, Darton West 51.4%, Old Town 52.3%)
- St Helen's has the highest proportion of households where income deprivation is affecting children at 31.1%, Darton East 12.9%, Darton West 13.0%, Old Town 15.5%)
- St Helen's has the highest percentage of the population registered as disabled under the equality act at 25.8% (Darton East 19.9, Darton West 19.9%, Old Town 19.6%)

- 7.5. The review programme concluded on the **29th February 2024** with summing up of information gathered in the review process, including PEST(LE) and SWOT/C Analysis and a discussion-based options appraisal; in order to make recommendations to the Area Council. The workshop was attended by: Cllr T Cave, Cllr Newing, Cllr Tattersall, North Area Project Officer and Area Manager.
- 7.6. The Priority Working Group are acutely aware that since this grant programme was devised the delivery ecosystem has changed. The planning took place pre-Covid19. The pandemic has widened the socioeconomic gap between families within communities and exacerbated what were already extremely challenging circumstances for some families. A group of predominantly low wage working families who were just about managing 'JAMs', pre Covid19 are no longer managing and the cost of living crisis is impacting a broad spectrum of the demographic for a variety of reasons.
- 7.7. **At the Area Council meeting on 11th March 2024, Members resolved that there recommendation to Area Council would be:**
Re-advertise the grant opportunity with revised aims and objectives. They wanted to ensure that the new revised grant opportunity would deliver/ enable:
- Clearly evidence distance travelled for beneficiaries in more quantifiable format
 - Demonstrate it's contribution to Barnsley 2030, specifically Learning Barnsley
 - Prepare young people to succeed in a challenging financial climate
 - Demonstrate continuous improvement
 - A closer working relationship with schools, a termly steering group was suggested.
 - Continue to provide sessional work with trusted adults outside of curriculum time i.e. after school and during school holidays
 - The Grant Panel to be multi-agency

7.8. **A budget of £100,000 per year was agreed for two years. November 2024 – October 2026.**

8. 2024 – Reflect, Reprofile and Refine

8.1. During April 2024 the priority working group (consisting of Cllr Leech, Cllr Denton, Cllr Cave, Cllr Newing and Cllr Tattersall, Claire Gilmore, Teresa Brocklehurst, Clare Barnes, Katy Ashworth and Area Council Manager met for a series of workshops:

Date	Session	Overview	Outcomes / Next Steps
04/04/2024	Reflect	Area Council Original Aims of YRF 2020 -2024 Review Summary Strategic Alignment Opportunities	Improved understanding of core offer and current strategies
11/04/2024	Reprofile	Existing Provision - What's strong Teresa's EHWP Research Gaps & Opportunities Locality based – added value Define Outcomes	Improved Understanding of gaps and opportunities for investment Outcomes developed for grant framework
23/04/2024	Refine	Share draft grant framework Collectively refine Measuring Success / Quality Assurance Agree timeline for grant opportunity	Grant framework signed off Time line agreed

8.2. In the Reflect session discussion was focussed on existing priorities, ensuring that the Area Council contributes to corporate priorities and is strategically aligned. Claire Gilmore HoS Early Help, Prevention and Sufficiency was able to talk about Barnsley BMC's Early Help Strategy:



- 8.3. In the Reprofile session the group received a presentation on the principles of a 'successful commissioning toolkit', and collaborated to develop discuss the key elements of the 'problem statement' they wished to work on. This was the result:



- 8.4. Collectively the group wished to remove barriers to thriving by giving young people the tools to overcome life's obstacles.
- 8.5. As the framework was developed the working group discussed providers being able to empower and support children and young people (aged 8 to 13 years) to build emotional resilience by developing a range of 'survive to thrive' tools. Focusing attention on the following outcomes:
- Improve emotional literacy, self-regulation and resilience
 - Improve communication skills as a foundation for effective relationship building
 - Increase a sense of belonging and connection with friends, family and place
 - Increase preparedness for successful transitions
 - Increase participation in positive activities that help to build skills necessary to navigate challenging situations successfully
 - Increase awareness of where to seek help and how to access support in relation to emotional health and wellbeing (demonstrating connectivity with support services and use of appropriate referrals mechanisms)

- 8.6. Key sections for providers to design services around are as follows. These elements will be scored as part of the evaluation process:

Question Number	Relevance
P	Presentation
Q 2.3	Emotional Resilience
Q 2.4	Thrive & Strive
Q 2.5	Schools & transition
Q 2.6	Belonging & Community
Q 2.7	Knowledge, Added Value & Avoiding Duplication
Q 3.1	Project Management
Q 3.2	Quality Assurance
Q 3.4	Outcome Indicators and Output
Q 3.5	Evidence of Impact
Section 4	Price

- 8.7. The full grant framework is available on request from the Area Manager.
- 8.8. The group were asked to observe caution regarding the monitoring of the grant opportunity. Measuring distance travelled tools are important to show the difference that the investment makes to individuals who will be entering provision from different starting points due to personal circumstances.

9. Procurement

- 9.1. The Stakeholder Panel took place on Wednesday 10th July at the Town Hall. Grant applications were scored against pre-agreed criteria by a Grants Panel comprising North Area Council Chair, North Area Manager and Officers from Public Health and Children's Services. Grant applicants facilitated an exercise with the Young People's Stakeholder Panel who then scored and appraised each applicant, with support from Teresa Brocklehurst from BMBC and Chilypep. Applicants also delivered a presentation to the Grants Panel. The Grants Panel moderated the grant applications, presentations and Young People's Stakeholder Panel scores to determine the outcome. Applicants will now progress to the next stage in the process.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. At the Area Council meeting on the 11th March the Area Council agreed to commit further funding to this priority area. This commitment is for up to £100,000.00 per annum, for two years (with the option to extend to three) from November 2024 to October 2026 (October 2027).

11. Current Update

- 11.1. At the time of writing, the Stakeholder Panel has now met to assess the applications made to the Youth Resilience Fund.

Officer Contact:
Kellylycett@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
10th July 2024