

## **Cabinet – 21 October 2009**

### **Youth Provision – allocation of Youth Capital Fund Plus (YCP+)**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Walker, Children's services

**Service:** Children's Services

**Wards:**

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Summary of report**

- 1.1 On 24 June 2009 Cabinet resolved to support the delivery of a Young People's Centre on the former bakery site, Paddock Lane and to approve the acquisition of that site on terms to be agreed. However, during the course of negotiations the council was advised by the landowner that they were no longer willing to proceed with disposal of the site. In these circumstances the development could not proceed and preparation of a planning application therefore ceased. The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on revised proposals in relation to the use of Youth Capital Fund Plus grant funding to enhance provision for young people in Walsall.
- 1.2 The project will be delivered with the help of DCSF Youth Capital Fund Plus aimed at creating youth facilities in neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour and which currently lack good quality youth provision. The original grant offer from the DCSF encouraged new/build provision but the DCSF have now accepted use of mobile provision as a definite route to meeting requirements for additional provision for young people. Revised proposals will maximise the use of mobile youth units and the refurbishment of existing youth centres.
- 1.3 The youth vehicles will be used to take youth workers to areas where there are little or no facilities for young people (further information contained in Appendix 1).
- 1.4 The project will also invest some of the funding in commissioning a creative design company to refurbish existing, outdated centres across the borough, with the aim of creating brightly coloured, youth friendly spaces. Young people will be consulted and their views will feature in the final design of any refurbishment of the facilities.

- 1.5 The project may also refurbish existing mobile facilities in the authority (for example, the existing technology bus and possibly the existing play bus), making them fit for purpose for young people and creating one of the existing vehicles as a recording studio, which will bring multi media training facilities to young people. This will include web-design, music technology and graphic design. This facility will work in collaboration with specialist secondary schools and colleges to maximise the youth arts opportunities available. This facility will work alongside the youth vehicles to offer young people a range of cutting edge youth facilities in areas of the borough that have little or no youth provision, and provide effective tools in helping combat youth crime and anti social behaviour.
- 1.6 Council have recently taken delivery of the Reach Up, this is a mobile climbing tower pulled by a 4 x 4, this project aims to provide a challenging climbing experience for a wide range of abilities.

The MOVE Project which has an expected delivery date of February 2010 is a purpose built 3 in 1 truck designed to get people of all ages 'up and moving'. The project aims to promote exercise and healthy lifestyles in a fun way. The truck will feature an IT/Debating Room where people can access information about health education and take part in structured debates. There will also be a fold down stage for performing arts companies in parks and town centres. There will also be a cargo net attached to the outside of the vehicle on which people can traverse along the one side.

Both of the above projects will be managed by the Community Development Team as they target health issues and the wider community. Both projects have been funded through BIG Lottery.

## **2. Recommendations**

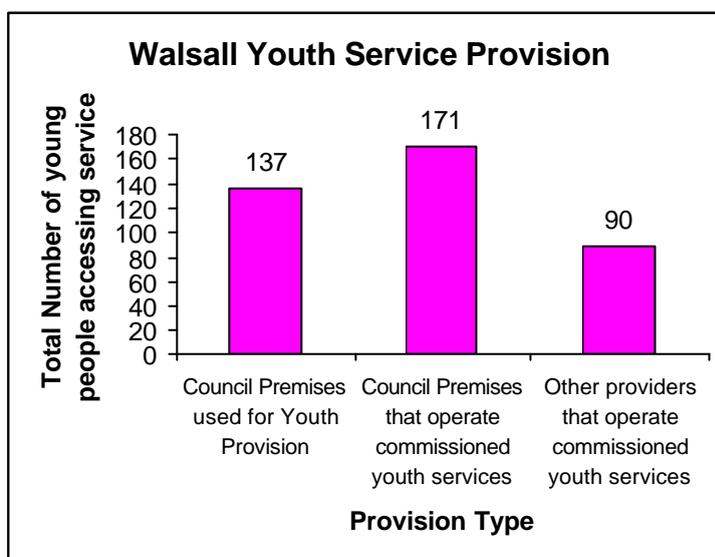
Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the revised proposals for the use of YCP+ grant allocation to enhance youth provision in Walsall, to maximise the use of mobile youth units and the refurbishment of some existing youth centres.
- (ii) Approve the funding allocation as set out in paragraph 4.1. The project to be financed by a grant of £0.452m from the DCSF Youth Capital Fund and an ongoing revenue budget of £32,500 in total for running and maintenance of mobile facilities.
- (iii) Approve the development of an outline business case.

## **3. Background information**

- 3.1 Cabinet at its meeting on 24 June 2009 received a report outlining a proposal to create a new young people's centre in Chuckery and resolved to

- (ii) Support delivery of the Young Peoples Centre on the former bakery site, Paddock Lane.
  - (iii) Approve the acquisition of the former bakery site in Paddock Lane, indicated on plan no. EPMS 3256, on terms to be agreed, to enable delivery of the Young Peoples Centre.
- 3.2 During the course of negotiations the council was advised by the landowner that they were no longer willing to proceed with disposal of the site on the former bakery. In these circumstances the development could not proceed. The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on revised proposals, which the DCSF have agreed in principle, for the use of the grant funding to enhance provision for young people in Walsall.
- 3.3 Public perception of young people and parents from a recent 2008/2009 Place Survey highlighted that Walsall residents thought that “activities for teenagers” was the most important issue, with facilities for young children and education following closely behind. These three areas are the developing priorities for improving quality of life for children and young people in Walsall.
- 3.4 From information received about the levels of young people’s attendance at various youth provision sites around the borough between April 2008 – June 2008 the indication is that the rate of youth engagement is low. See below chart.



- 3.5 A closer analysis indicates that the average number of young people accessing youth provision in the borough between these two months ranges from 12 to 14. The lowest number being 4 and the highest 27. The data also highlights the fact that the youth service provide most of its provision through commissioned services and the least amount of services in conjunction with other providers, namely third sector, private or voluntary organisations. Overall the indication is that youth provision needs to be more targeted to maximise access, engagement and effectiveness of youth provision.
- 3.6 The main areas for development with regards to provision for young people are:
- To increase the number of young people accessing youth provision

- To locations that can be accessed at peak ASB incident times and days. Possibly in conjunction with third sector agency.
  - Targeted work in local communities with high rates of anti-social behaviour.
  - Targeted work in local communities with high proportion of NEETS.
  - Targeted work in local communities with young people at risk of teenage pregnancy
  - The development of quality youth provision during the evenings, particularly Friday evenings and weekends.
  - The need to provide youth provision that is responsive to the emerging priorities of Walsall.
- 3.7 The priority areas in the borough regarding young people and anti-social behaviour are Pheasey, Chuckery and Brownhills. These areas fall within the three different foot print areas of the developing Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) and although there is some youth provision by way of clubs, there is the need for youth provision to be flexible and move around these areas to engage with the young people.
- 3.8 The proposal is that Youth workers will travel with each mobile facility and engage with young people to talk about issues which are particularly relevant to them, such as employment, volunteering opportunities and local activities the youngsters might like to get involved with. The youth vehicles will be aimed at 13 to 19 year olds and will go out on pre-arranged weekday evenings and at weekends between 7pm and 10pm. It is intended that each of the 3 IYPSS footprint areas will manage their own youth vehicle, therefore ensuring that all parts of the borough get the benefit from the scheme.
- 3.9 In relation to the refurbishment of existing youth centres, further investigation of Walsall's Young People's Centres would identify which would receive that investment in refurbishment – obviously this could impact on Walsall centres across the borough and meet needs for a range of localities and communities.
- 3.10 The locations will be selected based on needs such as issues of anti-social behaviour and youth crime and the condition of premises. Any refurbished provision would need to be made accessible to young people on Friday and Saturday nights to increase the offer of positive activities.

#### **4. Resource considerations**

- 4.1 The capital part of the project is to be funded by a grant of £0.452m from the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) called Youth Capital Fund plus. This money needs to be fully spent by 31 March 2010 with no provision for carry over. DCSF approval must be obtained for the use of the grant in this way. They have indicated this agreement pending the submission of the business plan. This budget will be adequate to cover the refurbishment of the current technology and play vehicles and purchase 3 mobile youth facilities. There is no provision for this project in mainstream capital, so if the project goes beyond the deadline of 31 March 2010 then this will impact adversely on the Council's finances. Tight project management is now essential.

It is anticipated that ongoing revenue costs for the buses will be:

Fleet costs for fuel, repairs, insurance and road tax	c£4,500
Mobile Phone Costs	c£2,000
Federation for detached workers annual fee	c£320
Sundries including consumables and stationary	c£1,000
Fleet Services continue to garage the mobile youth facilities at no extra cost	
 Cost per bus	 c£7,820.

The cost for 5 buses would be c£0.040m per year.

Currently the Youth Service holds a non-staff cost budget for the technology bus of £16,000. To run 5 buses a further £24,000 will need to be found. This funding can come from:

Walsall Council receives grant through the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF). For this expenditure to be charged to the grant it needs to have the endorsement of young people of the borough of Walsall. Consultation with the young people of Walsall has shown this approval. Sufficient funds will be available for both 2009/10 and 2010/11.

If the YOF funding is not able to be used, then the Youth Service will have to re-align current funding to support the ongoing need for £24,000 per year. This funding would come from central projects for 2010/11 onwards. For 2009/10 the pressure would be minimal due to short time that the mobile youth facilities would be in operation in 2009/10. This minimal impact would be manageable within current budgets.

There are also significant opportunities to work with partners to obtain further funding to minimise the impact of the £24,000 on Walsall Council mainstream budgets.

#### 4.2 **Legal:**

This project will need to comply with the necessary applicable grant conditions and will need to be commissioned in accordance with the councils financial procedural rules.

#### 4.3 **Staffing:** Officers in Children's Services and other parts of the council and key partners, are working together as part of a Project Board to manage the inception, design and consultation stages of the new proposals.

### 5. **Citizen impact**

The Youth Capital Fund Plus (YCF Plus) will help give a voice and influence to young people, particularly those facing disadvantage, in relation to things to do and places to go and convey a powerful message to young people that their needs and aspirations are important. The St Matthews/Paddock ward facility will increase young people's engagement with their services more generally and with democratic processes at the local level.

## **6. Community safety**

One of the key challenges for local authorities is to improve the provision of positive activities for young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged. Section 507B of The Education Act 1996 placed a new duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to positive activities, and that authorities ascertain young people's views on provision and consider alternative providers.

## **7. Environmental impact**

The refurbishment of existing young people's facilities is likely to have a positive impact in their locality.

## **8. Performance and risk management issues**

### **8.1 Risk:**

The principle risks are:

8.1.1 Risk 1 – The project is not delivered on time or budget.

The delivery of the project is reliant on DCSF grant which must be committed in 2009/10. Failure to do so will result in the loss of grant of £452,000. There is no further capital provision for the project so meticulous project management is essential. Any delay in approval of the revised proposals could cause delay in implementing the project and subsequent loss of grant.

8.1.2 Risk 2 – Future revenue costs referred to in 4.0 resource considerations.

Ongoing revenue costs associated with the running of the centres will be provided by existing service budgets and the running and maintenance of mobile facilities, i.e. the proposed youth vehicles and any existing mobile provision and any which may undergo refurbishment are estimated to be approx £35,500 per annum in total. The ongoing revenue costs will be shared through the Children's Trust partnership working with key partners, i.e. health, police, etc. Further details will be provided in the detailed business case which is currently being produced as part of the resubmission to the DCS

8.1.3 Risk 3 – Lack of capacity to secure procurement activity.

In order to establish mobile facilities and the refurbishment of existing centres, a procurement process will be required to tender for the relevant work required.

## **8.2 Performance management:**

- 8.2.1 A project manager, within Children's trust, has been identified to coordinate the project which will be monitored through the Council's Project Register.
- 8.2.2 The project will be overseen by a Project Board, which includes relevant senior Council officers and key partners. A young people's reference group will also be established and ensure representation from end users.

## **9. Equality implications**

It will be necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment – not yet completed due to the challenging delivery timetable and change of proposal – but the intention will be to ensure that centres are available to all 13-19 year olds in the area. There may also be scope for some facilities to be used by other community groups.

## **10. Consultation**

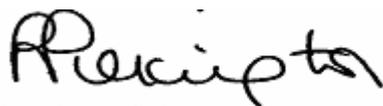
- 10.1 Young People's Involvement - Young people have been consulted on the development of provision via the engagement of Streetbased teams funded through the Youth Crime Action Plan and also Youth Service detached workers and out reach workers within the Paddock/Pheasey, Brownhills, Town Centre and Willenhall localities.
- 10.2 Young people have also been engaged via the central youth participation routes and information on youth engagement is also filtered up and down the Children Trust Partnership Forums and Children Area Partnerships.
- 10.3 Young people have shared the need to be included in the design and development of services which directly impact on their health & well being. This has been achieved through the engagement of young people through different approaches which has enabled the service to engage those young people that are identified as hard to engage due to social factors.
- 10.4 Current findings of the needs of young people are detailed in Appendix 1, however the service recognises that these are continually changing and must reflect the client groups we engage with, therefore there is a commitment within the workforce to ensure that consultation is on going.

### **Background papers**

- DCSF Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund Guidance
- Provision of a new Youth Centre in Chuckery – Cabinet report 22 April 2009

## Author

Louise Hughes  
Assistant Director – Children’s Services  
☎ 652895  
✉ [hugheslouise@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:hugheslouise@walsall.gov.uk)



Pauline Pilkington  
Executive Director - Children’s Services  
12 October 2009



Councillor Rachel Walker  
Portfolio Holder  
12 October 2009

## Appendix 1

### **Walsall Proposal for use of YCF + grant allocation**

#### Use of mobile provision

The Walsall youth vehicles will target areas identified as priority, as well as any other areas that may later be identified as having high levels of anti-social behaviour and youth crime. The youth vehicles will afford youth workers the ability of enhancing the work of the current detached provision. The mobile facility will add significant value to current and future detached work by providing a dry space for the young people to meet during the winter months when traditionally detached work figures decrease. The mobiles would also act a 'hub' for a range of outdoor activities.

It is intended that there will be one youth vehicle attached to each of the IYPSS locality areas and the existing technology vehicle will be used borough wide. The youth vehicles will increase both evening and weekend provision for young people and will have the desired effect of increasing access to centre based provision and youth engagement as a whole.

Whilst all youth vehicles would essentially house the same equipment, one of the buses would be modified to deliver specialist health advice and consultation to help tackle the reduction of teenage pregnancy in Walsall. The other vehicles would showcase different projects and work in partnership with other statutory services like education, social services, police and other IYPSS agencies to pro-actively engage the young people in activities and information based sessions.

An example of how this facility would assist in the delivery of detached youth work - there is currently a proposal for detached youth workers to be deployed in the Willenhall and Bentley areas to respond to the issues of sexual exploitation taking place in those areas. In this instance the youth vehicles would provide a base for the detached team to work from, it will be accessible at weekends and evenings when such work will need to be carried out. It will also have the benefit of being able to carry information to share with the young people and its multi-agency function will allow other services to work in partnership with the IYPSS staff to address the issues more effectively.

In summary the youth vehicles will have the following benefits:

- Able to cover all parts of Walsall and be responsive to the needs of young people as well as focusing on those areas identified with particular issues relating to young people and anti-social behaviour.
- Increased attendance at centre/clubs and meeting new young people who have not previously accessed youth provision.
- Increased evening and weekend provision.
- Assist in meeting the 'youth offer' for all.
- Youth friendly design.

Each vehicle will be equipped as follows:

<b>Youth Vehicle</b>	<b>Multimedia Youth Vehicle</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laptop PC with internet access</li><li>• Flat-screen televisions</li><li>• Video gaming equipment</li><li>• Music &amp; Multi-media facilities</li><li>• Seated area with storage</li><li>• An awning fitted to the outside</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi media Computers</li><li>• Multi media computer software</li><li>• DJing equipment</li><li>• A small PA system</li><li>• Seated area with storage</li><li>• An awning fitted to the outside</li><li>• Plasma screen facing outside for gaming</li></ul>