

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 6 October 2015

Youth Work Services – Proposed New Contract Arrangements

Item number 8.4
Report number
Executive/routine
Wards All

Executive summary

Children and Families (Schools and Community Services) has contracts with ten organisations that deliver a range of youth work services and these come to an end on 31st March 2016. The department is undertaking a consultation process to design a new service specification that prioritises universal open access youth work. The voice of young people will be particularly important in shaping the new specification. It is proposed that a new set of commissioned services should be in place from October 2016.

Links

Coalition pledges [P1, P5](#)
Council outcomes [CO1, CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5, CO6](#)
Single Outcome Agreement [SO3](#)

Youth Work Services – Proposed New Contract Arrangements

Recommendations

Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Note that work is underway to consult with young people and other stakeholders to design a new set of open access youth work services across the city that the department would support through contractual arrangements.
- 1.2 Note that a report will go to Finance and Resources Committee on 29th October requesting a waiver from Contract Standing Orders to enable the award of extensions of contracts to up to 10 providers based on the negotiated specifications that reflect a renewed focus on open youth work provision.

Background

- 2.1 Children and Families has supported the provision of open access youth work across the city through a range of grants and contracts for many years. In 2010/11 a number of grant awards were converted into contracts.
- 2.2 These youth work contracts have been reviewed and extended with little amendment of the service specifications which were primarily based on the original grant applications back in 2010.
- 2.3 In July 2015 the Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium (EYWC) brought together representatives from the Council's Community Learning and Development Service (CLD), the voluntary youth work sector and other interested parties to identify priorities for youth work that give prominence to universal provision. The result of these discussions was a Youth Work Statement of Intent. This Statement of Intent was also informed by YouthLink Scotland's Statement on the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work, which, in turn, informed the National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019, ['Our ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland'](#).

Main report

- 3.1 Children and Families wishes, by using a co-production approach, to redesign the youth work services it commissions through contracts. There are ten voluntary organisations in a contractual arrangement with the department to

deliver youth work services. The specifications of service are varied and cover a range of services which were originally drawn from grant applications. The new approach will enable Children and Families to specify clearly the youth work it wishes to fund through contracts, and ensure it is consistent and aligned to local and national priorities.

- 3.2 The current specifications of service have been analysed by officers and meetings held with the relevant providers to work together to identify the elements of these specifications that would be consistent with the priorities identified within the Youth Work Statement of Intent and YouthLink Scotland's Statement on the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work. These priorities include:
- Universal/open access;
 - For 11–25 year olds, with a particular emphasis on 11–18 year olds;
 - Undertaken voluntarily;
 - Builds on young people's strengths;
 - Recognises the young person and the youth worker as partners in a learning process.
- 3.3 It is recognised that the timescale required to work through a full redesign process will mean that a new service could not be in place for April 2016 and therefore a waiver report will go to Finance and Resources Committee on 29th October to enable the offer of contract extensions to some or all of the ten organisations.
- 3.4 If the waiver is agreed then six month extensions will be offered to these organisations thereby enabling continuity of service. The organisations will also be informed that if they wish to access further support for activities that meet Children and Families' outcomes then the new three year grants programme would be an option for them.
- 3.5 Work has started on a wide scale consultation process with young people and other stakeholders to draw together their views about youth work. The service area has sent out a survey for young people to complete and it is anticipated that over 500 young people will respond. To complement this approach, a series of focus groups will be set up to gain further views from young people. These will pick up on themes from the returned surveys and explore them in more detail. Other external and internal stakeholders will also be consulted to ensure a wider representation of views.
- 3.6 In addition, officers will review a range of existing information gathered from young people. This will include the results of the Youth Talks activities in South Edinburgh and Total Craigroyston, and a survey of 90 young people in Leith.
- 3.7 The award of three year grants by Committee in December 2015 is likely to include some open youth work delivery and the mapping of the work that will result will also be used when drawing up the new specification.

- 3.8 It is anticipated that this information gathering process will be completed by early 2016. A new specification will be ready for late March to enable the procurement process to start and for a new set of services to be in place in October 2016. An important aspect of the new service delivery model will be to articulate with the four localities structure.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Children and Families agrees up to ten extensions of contract with the providers listed in the appendix for a period of 6 months (1st April 2015 to 30th September 2015) with a focus on universal open access youth work services.
- 4.2 Children and Families develops a service specification to tender in spring 2016.
- 4.3 A revised youth work service based on the new specification is in place by October 2016.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The total value of the contracts covered by report was £934,462 in 2015-16.
- 5.2 Anticipated savings to be achieved from the initial re-design is £234,265.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 A report will go to Finance and Resources Committee to request a waiver from Contract Standing Orders.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 An Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment is being developed as part of the redesign work.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 have been considered in respect of this report. Implementation of the redesign does not contradict our duties as a public body under this legislation.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 As outlined above a co-production approach is being used to deliver the redesigned specifications of service.

Background reading/external references

[Youthlink Scotland's Statement on the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges	P1 - Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care. P5 - Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum.
Council outcomes	CO1 - Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed. CO2 - Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities. CO3 - Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances. CO4 - Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy. CO5 - Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities. CO6 - Our children's and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	Appendix 1 – List of current providers

Current providers

Name of Organisation	Value of contract 2015/16 (£)
Canongate Youth	157,000
Citadel Youth Centre	154,237
Edinburgh City Youth Café (6VT)	58,242
Pilton Retreat	55,751
Pilton Youth & Children's Project	160,170
SCOREscotland	62,326
The BIG Project	33,845
WHALE Arts Agency	64,306
Wester Hailes Youth Agency	99,108
West Granton Community Trust	89,477
TOTAL	934,462