

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 2 September 2021

No One Left Behind Activity Agreement Hubs – North East and North West Edinburgh

Executive/routine Wards	Routine 1 – Almond, 4 – Forth, 5 – Inverleith, 14 – Craightinny/Duddingston, 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar
Council Commitments	7 and 31

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the:
 - 1.1.1 Actions taken to ensure continued delivery of valuable support for vulnerable young people in North Edinburgh; and
 - 1.1.2 Award of funding to a new delivery partner in North East and North West Edinburgh.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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No One Left Behind Activity Agreement Hubs – North East and North West Edinburgh

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the information contained in the Business Bulletin of [25 June 2021](#) on recent delivery issues and solutions put in place to ensure ongoing delivery of the No One Left Behind (NOLB) Activity Agreement (AA) Hubs for North East (excluding Leith) and North West Edinburgh.

3. Background

- 3.1 Scottish Government provides funding to Local Authorities for the delivery of AA to support young people aged 16 - 26 who have not secured or sustained a positive destination upon leaving school. This is currently funded under the NOLB programme.
- 3.2 Following an intensive small grants programme in late 2019/early 2020, five grants of £40,000 per annum were awarded for service provision in each of the four localities and a central city centre Hub.
- 3.3 The services work with some of the most vulnerable young people who have left, or are about to leave, school without a positive destination such as further education, training or employment.
- 3.4 The services also work closely with schools, Skills Development Scotland and other third sector providers to ensure that there is a pathway for young people to build confidence and skills and progress along the strategic skills pipeline into relevant vocations training or towards employment.
- 3.5 The third sector organisations delivering these across the city are: Dunedin Canmore Youth Projects in South East; Dunedin Canmore and CHAI for South West; Canongate Youth in the City Centre; and with The Citadel and Community Renewal covering North East and North West between them.
- 3.6 The awards were approved at Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee on [20 January 2020](#) and for the delivery period of April 2020 – March 2023.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Each of the NOLB AA Hubs has continued to support young people during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, with services pivoting to become more focussed on wellbeing and ongoing support to try to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the young people's mental health. As restrictions have eased, many of the providers have been able to reinstate face to face support for the most vulnerable young people.
- 4.2 However, towards the end of 2020, the service delivered in North West and North East Edinburgh was showing signs of failing to deliver suitable support. Initially these issues were dealt with informally by the Council's internal NOLB team, and Capital City Partnership (CCP), who act as contract manager for the grants on behalf of the Council. From March, a series of monthly performance meetings were held to try to resolve these issues.
- 4.5 At a meeting with CCP on 9 June 2021, Community Renewal intimated their intention to withdraw from delivering the Hub activity in North West and North East Edinburgh (excluding the wider Leith area which is covered by The Citadel) at the end of Quarter 1, 30 June 2021. A written notification to this effect was received on 11 June 2021.
- 4.6 As AA provision was still required in North East and North West Edinburgh, Council officers and CCP staff commenced a small grants programme with a two-week application window through the Joined up for Jobs network. This used the same specification as the original process but the delivery period was amended to cover the 21 months remaining of the funding term.
- 4.7 Two bids were received for the opportunity and the bids were scored, against a number of set criteria, by senior officers from Skills Development Scotland, the Council and CCP.
- 4.8 Following scoring, the bid submitted by Barnardos scored highest and was subsequently approved by the Executive Director of Place, under the Scheme of Delegation urgency provision, to ensure continuation of service.
- 4.9 Council officers and officers from CCP worked with Community Renewal staff to ensure the smooth transition of the small number of remaining clients to alternative provision and worked with other partners to ensure that interim service was in place for any new referrals that may come forward.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The NOLB AA team and CCP officers will continue to support Barnardos to establish their team as part of the wider NOLB AA Hubs provision, ensuring that all NOLB AA processes and procedures are followed.
- 5.2 All NOLB AA Hub contracts will continue to be monitored by CCP on the Council's behalf, with the Council based NOLB AA team working with each Hub to strengthen

delivery and integrate provision with other providers in the wider Joined up for Jobs network.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no additional financial impact to the Council. The funding awarded to Barnardos was the remainder of the funding term previously allocated to Community Renewal. This had already been committed from Scottish Government NOLB funding and will fully cover all proposed activity and provision delivered under the terms of the funding agreement.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The swift actions of the team who support and monitor the NOLB AA Hubs has ensured that a solution was agreed and put in place with very little disruption to the young people who were accessing the service.
- 7.2 The successful provider, Barnardos, already had access to premises in North West Edinburgh and were able to begin service from 5 July 2021 meaning there was no actual break in service delivery.
- 7.3 Discussions also began with several partners in North East Edinburgh to secure premises to deliver services for young people in the greater Craigmillar area, but this proved a little more difficult. They did however start to contact young people who were transferring over and arranged one-to-one sessions where required.
- 7.4 They have now secured space at an accessible community based facility, where they are able to meet with young people and operate small groupwork sessions where required.
- 7.5 The young people who required additional support during the process were supported by either the NOLB AA central team and the Young Person's Guarantee team to ensure that they remained engaged and reassured during the transition period.
- 7.6 The referral process was unaffected as the central team deal with all incoming referrals and all partners have since been notified of the change.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.