

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 4 August 2022

Parental Employability Support Fund – grants update

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All 7, 31
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Note the engagement had with Canongate Youth; and
 - 1.1.2 Approve the recommendation to not further fund the project 'Networks', using Parental Employability Support funding.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Parental Employability Support Fund – grants update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of the further engagement with Canongate Youth in relation to their project Networks, which was delivered April 2021 to March 2022, using Parental Employability Support (PES) funding, as requested by Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on [23 June 2022](#).

3. Background

- 3.1 As reported to Committee on [23 June 2022](#), Scottish Government have awarded PES funding to City of Edinburgh Council over three financial years 2019 – 2022, under the Tackling Child Poverty strategy, to complement the No One Left Behind strategy for the delivery of services to support parents into and to progress in employment.
- 3.2 In the meeting, Committee approved the recommendation to continue to fund a core PES programme, which would see extensions of the PES grants approved in September 2020, where the services have been successful at engaging the target client group and been able to support them to achieve the required outcomes.
- 3.3 Committee also asked that a report come back to committee in one cycle, following officer engagement with Canongate Youth, delivery organisation for one of the projects not recommended for further funding, with more detail on the project and outcomes, for a decision from committee.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The 'Networks' project was funded from April 2021 until March 2022 and aimed to provide an employability and advice service, specifically for young parents under the age of 25, who are currently unemployed. Using a person-centred approach, the objective was to support young parents through a programme of 1-1 support sessions and groupwork, focussing on developing employability skills and building confidence but also with built in holistic support around the key issues the young people are facing such as housing, parenting, mental health and childcare.

- 4.2 Capital City Partnership (CCP), who have acted as the Council's grants and contract manager for this project, spoke to the manager on 27 June 2022 to explore whether they felt that there was merit in continuing the project.
- 4.3 It was highlighted that although a referral route had been established with a partner prior to starting the project, the anticipated referrals had not transpired, which was a key reason why the project had not achieved the predicted engagement levels.
- 4.4 It was also established that the engagements that had occurred had all already been referred onwards and staff had moved on to other roles in the organisation. Given the issues with recruitment in the employability network it was suggested that it would be difficult to recruit new staff to take the project forward again.
- 4.5 Canongate Youth were given time to consider whether there was an appetite from their side, and capability, to revive the project and confirmed on 18 July 2022 that they did not and would like to focus on their Activity Agreement commitments instead. They confirmed that they have access to community mental health funding, which can be utilised to support parents struggling with their health and wellbeing and if this leads to employability support being required for clients they can refer into existing programmes, but that there isn't a high demand for this support at the moment.
- 4.6 Officers' recommendation is therefore that the project is not further funded.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Officers and CCP will continue to engage with Canongate Youth on other employability projects funded by the Council, such as Activity Agreements under No One Left Behind and liaise with them on future potential further funding opportunities.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact to the Council.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Although this would mean ending an existing project, the past engagement levels indicate that the need is not as widespread as initially envisaged and, where that need does exist, there is other provision in place to support.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

9.1 None.