

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 9 March 2023

Young Person's Guarantee Grants Extension Proposal

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Note the Scottish Government's decision not to continue funding Local Employability Partnerships to deliver the Young Persons Guarantee in 2023/24;
 - 1.1.2 Note that No One Left Behind funding from 2021/22 has been approved to be carried forward into 2023/24;
 - 1.1.3 Approve the extension of four existing Young Person's Guarantee Grants, for a 12-month period from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024, at a total maximum value of £300,000, to be funded from carried forward funding (1.1.2); and
 - 1.1.4 Approve the allocation of £75,000 to the Vocational Training Framework, delivered by Capital City Partnership, to add capacity specifically for young people to access sector specific training and qualifications.

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Executive Director of Place

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Young Person's Guarantee Grants Extension Proposal

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to four organisations to continue their work with young people, as outlined in paragraph 4.7, and to approve additional funding for the Vocational Training Framework (VTF) (paragraph 4.9).

3. Background

- 3.1 In response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the opportunities and life chances of young people, in 2020 the Scottish Government launched the Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) which aims to give all young people (16-24) access to work, training or education.
- 3.2 Funding was allocated to Local Employability Partnerships (via Local Authorities), Colleges and Developing the Young Workforce to deliver support for young people to achieve a positive destination.
- 3.3 In Edinburgh, Local Authority funded delivery has taken place in various forms, including a small grants programme awarding funding to a total of 17 projects (listed in Appendix 1) delivered by third sector organisations across the city, specifically focussing on young people who are:
- 3.3.1 Care experienced;
 - 3.3.2 Disabled or have a long-term health condition;
 - 3.3.3 From Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds;
 - 3.3.4 Involved with the criminal justice system;
 - 3.3.5 Who identify as Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer +; and
 - 3.3.6 Residing in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 or 2.
- 3.4 Committee awarded £250,000 p.a. to Capital City Partnership (CCP) on [20 January 2022](#) to establish and deliver a VTF under the Network of Employability Support and Training. This is an all-age provision.
- 3.5 While all YPG funding awarded in 2022/23 has been spent, funding for No One Left Behind (NOLB) in 2021/22 was permitted to be carried forward into 2022/23 and again into 2023/24.

4. Main report

- 4.1 As per the Scottish Budget Statement published on [15 December 2022](#), the Scottish Government is withdrawing all investment in Local Employability Partnership-led YPG delivery beyond 2022/23.
- 4.2 Since January 2023, the current providers have been supporting young people to progress into other services across Edinburgh's [Strategic Skills Pipeline](#) (SSP), or into a positive destination, by 31 March 2023 with a view to ending YPG delivery at that point (as per their original award).
- 4.3 The Youth Employability Partnership (YEP) convened as a panel on 19 January 2023 to review the YPG projects which are currently funded.
- 4.4 The review was conducted using available client data, analysing performance across all the currently funded YPG Grants, including engagement levels and impact and subsequent outcomes across each programme.
- 4.5 It was established that, overall, the YPG Grants programme has supported 343 young people in 2022/23 and made substantial impact, especially within two of the priority areas set out in the initial funding specification:
 - 4.5.1 17% of the overall new engagements are from BAME background; and
 - 4.5.2 35% of the overall engagements are residing in SIMD 1 and 2 areas of Edinburgh.
- 4.6 However, the engagement was lower than expected across the majority of the projects. This was understood to be due to two main reasons:
 - 4.6.1 The rise in complex mental health conditions of young people (mainly caused by the pandemic) meant many were unable to engage in this level of activity; and
 - 4.6.2 The volume of suitable employability support already available in Edinburgh through the comprehensive SSP has led to unbalanced demand and supply.
- 4.7 While it is reassuring that there is already a strong offering of support in place, the YEP concluded that there are areas where the current SSP does not currently sufficiently support young people:
 - 4.7.1 Those facing homelessness and/or are care-experienced;
 - 4.7.2 Sector specific training and qualifications; and
 - 4.7.3 Access and sustain places at college.
- 4.8 Four of the current projects have focussed delivery within these areas, and the YEP therefore considers that there is evidence-based demand for these projects to be continued for a further year. The projects and the proposed funding awards are listed in Appendix 1.
- 4.9 The YEP also recommend that funding is added to the VTF, to add capacity for 16–24-year-olds to receive sector specific training and qualifications.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approves the recommendations of this report, the grant agreements with the four providers will be extended to 31 March 2024 and £75,000 will be added to the VTF agreement to be earmarked for young people.
- 5.2 The remaining 13 providers will support young people currently engaged in their programme to access ongoing support through other provisions within the SSP.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The cost of extending these four grants and add capacity to the VTF from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 would be £375,000. This cost will be met from residual funding available from Edinburgh's NOLB allocation in 2021/22, which has been carried forward.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The original commissioning of the YPG grants followed a coproduction process to identify additional projects to add capacity to employability services for young people in the city. This included the views of key stakeholders, service users and service providers.
- 7.2 The review of these grants has considered which services were in demand by service users and the extent to which they have been able to meet their target outcomes and intended objectives for young people in Edinburgh.
- 7.3 The extended YPG provisions will deliver across all areas of Edinburgh with a continued focus on engaging young people residing in SIMD 1 and 2 areas and those from protected characteristic backgrounds.
- 7.4 All projects that are not recommended for extension will be supported to progress young people to an appropriate provision. Members of the YEP will continuously monitor the activity of young people during this transition, alongside CCP who will continue to contract manage the YPG project activity.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Youth Guarantee - No-one Left Behind: initial report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/youth-guarantee-no-one-left-behind/initial-report/pages/1-to-4.aspx).
- 8.2 [Delivering the Youth Guarantee.](#)
- 8.3 [Youth Employment Action Plan \(Q2 22-23\)](#)
- 8.4 [Savings Proposal.](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Recommendations for Young Person's Guarantee Grant Extension 2023/24.

APPENDIX 1

Recommendations for Young Person's Guarantee Grant Extension and Vocational Training Framework 2023/24

Organisation	Project Name	Recommended Award
Cyrenians	Keys to College	£75,000.00
Four Square	Springboard	£75,000.00
Impact Arts	Pathways Hub	£75,000.00
RUTS	INSPIRE	£75,000.00
Access to Industry	Access Potential	£0
Access to Industry	Access Mechanics	£0
Barnardo's	Drive2Work	£0
Barnardo's	Stride2Work	£0
Codeclan	Become a Data Analyst	£0
ENABLE Scotland	Breaking Barriers	£0
Into Work	Inclusion Works	£0
Move On	Employability Pathways	£0
Street League	Connected	£0
The DataKirk	BounceBlack	£0
Venture Trust	Change Cycle	£0
Volunteer Edinburgh	Bespoke Youth Volunteering	£0
Young Enterprise Scotland	Bridge to Business	£0
YPG Recommended Award		£300,000.00
Capital City Partnership	Vocational Training Framework	£75,000
Total Recommended Award		£375,000