

Subject:	Review of Youth Services		
Date of Meeting:	14th September 2020		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Youth Review, including the impact on the process due to Covid-19, the findings and recommendations which include options to develop a central youth hub.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee note the findings and recommendations of the Youth Review
- 2.2 That the Committee agrees to young people (via Youth Wise) developing an action plan that will further the involvement of them in decision making processes and this to be brought back to Committee in November
- 2.3 That the Committee agrees that the findings and recommendations of the Youth Review will inform the Youth Service Grants recommissioning process and the proposed framework for this is brought to Committee in November
- 2.4 That the Committee agrees Brighton Youth Centre (BYC) to be recognised as a key youth provider in the city and for the Council to decide how to support with its refurbishment or rebuild
- 2.5 That the Committee agrees that neighbourhood provision should remain and not be impacted on if any future investment towards a central youth hub is agreed

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Brighton and Hove City Council 2020 to 2023 Corporate Plan outlines its commitment to deliver high quality youth services, stating we will:
- Identify Council owned premises suitable for partners to offer youth services.
 - Maintain services for refugees and LGBTU young people and ensure that sexual health services and mental health support are delivered at youth centres across the city.

- Protect funding and review youth services across the city to improve coordination, establish a central youth hub and deliver services directly where possible.
 - Give young people a stronger voice in future services.
- 3.2 It was agreed at the Children and Young People's Committee on 13th January that a review of current youth services in the city would be undertaken and that the findings of this review to be presented back to Committee to be discussed and a proposal agreed.
- 3.3 The scope of the review included:
- Capturing views of current youth services from a wide range of young people and stakeholders
 - The extent of partnership working and coordination between youth providers and other organisations
 - The future viability of youth buildings owned by the Council and community organisations
 - Access to services by young people who are Council house tenants, living in disadvantaged areas and from protected groups
 - Services provided by the organisations in receipt of Council Youth Grants
 - Giving consideration to developing a central Youth Hub in the city, including working in partnership with Onside and Brighton Youth Centre to develop the their site as a Youth Zone
 - How involved young people feel making decisions regarding services that impact on them
- 3.4 A cross party steering group was set up to agree a framework for undertaking the review, agreeing a project plan with clear timescales and a response to any future funding opportunities, such as the Youth Investment Fund.
- 3.5 Prior to Covid-19 and the resulting 'lockdown' the plan included holding a series of face-to-face focus groups with both young people and other stakeholders. In addition an online survey for young people would be launched and organisations, including schools and colleges would be encouraged to promote it. A decision was made to continue with the Youth Review within the agreed timescale with the focus groups being moved on-line.
- 3.6 An on-line survey was developed and launched on the 15th May and closed on 28th June. It was publicised and widely circulated, including schools and colleges. In addition 15 young people and 3 stakeholders' focus groups were held.
- 3.7 283 young people completed the online survey. In addition 38 young people living across the city with SEND were supported to complete an adapted version of the survey. A total of 73 young people participated in one of the 15 young people's focus groups and 32 people representing a variety of organisations attended one of the three stakeholder focus groups and 7 individual feedback forms were received. In addition, 70 parents / carers of children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 11-25 completed an online survey.

- 3.8 The consultation reached a cross section of young people, including those with protected characteristics and those that do not currently access youth services.
- 3.9 Generally, it was felt that there is a wide variety of positive youth work happening across the city, reaching a diverse range of young people and those young people that attend appreciate and value what is on offer. Young people would like services to be open more, particularly during the school holidays and weekends. The feedback highlighted the need for services to be more inclusive and all services needed to be advertised more, using methods that appeal to young people.
- 3.10 Young people are, and do feel involved in decision making and their participation is generally good in the city, however, this could be improved by better publicity on opportunities to become involved in decision making processes and more creativity around how young people can participate.
- 3.11 When discussing a centralised youth hub in focus groups, concerns were focussed on the financial impact this may have on neighbourhood provision with a strong consensus that these are highly valued and should not be lost. However, there was total agreement that Brighton Youth Centre (BYC) attracts large numbers of young people (1189 individual young people in 2019/20) who travel across the city to attend but was run down and in urgent need of investment and would like funding to be found for this (as long as it wasn't at the expense of neighbourhood provision).
- 3.12 The council own three youth buildings; 67 Centre in Moulsecoomb, Coldean Centre and Portslade Village Centre; all currently used by commissioned youth services. No other Council owned premises have been identified for partners to offer youth services.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Youth Review indicates that BYC is already operating as a central youth hub; it is popular and highly valued; however services could be expanded on and funding needs to be identified for renovating the building. The Council do not own any youth buildings in the central area.
- 4.2 The Youth Investment Fund is likely to be launched within the next two months; a decision is required on proceeding with a partnership bid (alongside Onside and BYC) to gain funding that could contribute towards the Council's contribution towards the capital and revenue costs of the development of a Youth Zone (21st century youth centre) on the BYC site.
- 4.3 The total cost of the capital required to build a Youth Zone is £8.4 million and the revenue £1.3 million per annum. This has significant funding implications for the Council, with an expectation that the Council contribution would be £3.65 capital (with funding from the Youth Investment Fund, this could reduce to £2.1 million) and an additional (if neighbourhood funding remains at the same level) annual revenue of £101k (this is if the current central funding is combined). However, this would bring in a capital investment of £4.75 million capital into the city and £3 million revenue over 5 years.

- 4.4 Another option would be for the Council to support a £2 million fundraising campaign to refurbish BYC without forming a partnership with Onside.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation events, including young people's and stakeholders focus groups were held and an online survey for young people to complete was widely circulated. Stakeholders and young people were consulted on the questions in the survey and the feedback used in its development.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Youth Review findings provide a useful insight into young peoples and stakeholders views of youth services in the city and enabled recommendations to be put forward that, if accepted, will set out a framework to enhance current provision and inform the forthcoming recommissioning process.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The details of the current funding arrangements for youth services and potential future options are contained within the appendix to this report. Given the extremely challenging financial position facing the Council at the present time, any new investment in capital or revenue funding will need to be considered against other priorities and within the context of the overall budget situation.
- 7.2 There are a number of possible options for delivering youth services in the City and meeting the Councils statutory obligations. The full cost of these options and how they can be funded in the short and longer term will need to be explored and evaluated to determine the viability and sustainability of any service provision going forward.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name David Ellis

Date: 01/09/2020

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 Section 507b of the Education Act 1996 places a specific duty on the Council to secure 'as far as reasonably practicable' sufficient educational and recreational activities for the improvement of young people's well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Young people are defined as those aged 13-19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24.
- 7.4 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being issued in 2012 clarifies that it is not prescribed which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. Local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being and personal and social development. They should strive to secure the best possible local offer within available resources. Under the guidance it is for local authorities to determine the mix of open access, targeted, preventative and specialist provision needed to meet local needs and

how to integrate all services around young people and decide what facilities are needed and how to make these available and accessible, wherever possible maximising the utilisation and potential of all local partners' assets.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson *Date: 4.9.20*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.5 The Youth Review findings noted that the specific services for SEND, LGBTQ and BAME young people are highly valued and welcome having a dedicated space.
- 7.6 Current area youth service providers are working with a disproportionate number of disadvantaged young people; however there is more work to do to improve accessibility to services and suggestions for promoting inclusion made by young people and other stakeholders need to be considered.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Youth Review Report
Youth Service Grants Programme Monitoring Report

Documents in Members' Rooms: None **Background Documents:** None

