

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

LEADER'S URGENCY REPORT

APRIL 2019



APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF GRANT AWARDED FOR THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES AGAINST YOUTH CRIME PROJECT IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

Report of the Leader – Councillor Stephen Cowan

Open Report

Classification - For Decision

Key Decision: Yes

Other services consulted: Children's Services

Wards Affected: All

Accountable Director: Steve Miley, Director of Children Services

Report Author:

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Reasons for Urgency:

The Council will be subjected to a Troubled Families Spot Check by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) between May and June 2019 and we would want to show that we have started delivering the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) initiative for which the Council and CVS have been granted £360,000 to deliver in Hammersmith and Fulham. The grant was awarded in March 2019 by the MHCLG as part of the Troubled Families programme.

The SFAYC programme will work with young people at high risk of offending and their families to minimise the risk of exposure or engagement in serious crime. The recent serious violence and death of a young person in Hammersmith and Fulham calls for early and effective support for young people at high risk of offending.

Date by which decision is required: ASAP

AUTHORISED BY:

The Leader has signed this report

DATE: 10 May 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks the approval of the Leader to deliver the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) initiative across Hammersmith and Fulham using the grant of £360,000 awarded by the central government.
- 1.2. SFAYC is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) based on the government's Troubled Families Programme and the Serious Violence Strategy.
- 1.3. The SFAYC initiative made available £9.8 million to support local authorities to tackle gang and youth crime. Call for applications to the fund was opened in October and closed in December 2018. Successful applications to the fund were announced on 21st February 2019. Hammersmith and Fulham (and its Community and Voluntary Sector partners – Wipers Youth Community Interest Company, Key4Life, Violence Intervention Project) was one of 21 local authorities out of 90 whose application to fund was successful, covering 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 1.4. Hammersmith and Fulham, and Community and Voluntary Sector partners have been awarded £360,000 from the SFAYC fund to deliver effective interventions to children and families at risk of offending.
- 1.5. Hammersmith and Fulham will appoint a Contextual Safeguarding and Gangs' Co-ordinator to be a point of contact and work across agencies to ensure that young people at higher risk of offending and exploitation are identified and supported with right intervention. The Council and Community and Voluntary (CVS) partners will provide one to one support, positive activities and mentoring to identify young people; and support their families.
- 1.6. The cross-government assessment panel and Ministers that approved the bid said our proposal: showed clear understanding of the local issues with targeted interventions; was clear on the expected benefits of your intervention; demonstrated the outcomes we are seeking, how we would monitor against them and what evaluation we will provide; strengthened relationships with the CVS, and was consistent with the early intervention and whole family principles of the Troubled Families programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Leader in consultation with the Director of Children Services, approves:

- 2.1 A waiver under Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 3.1 in relation to the competition requirement set out in CSO 10.2 on the grounds that this is in the council's overall interest.
- 2.2 The direct award of the following contracts for the provision of the SFAYC project for a fixed term of 12 months from the start date:

- i. direct award of contract to Key4Life (a charity working in Hammersmith and Fulham) with a total annual contract value of £49,000 for the 12 months duration of the project.
 - ii. direct award of contract to Wipers Youth (a community interest company working in Hammersmith and Fulham) with a total annual contract value of £22,000 for the 12 months duration of the project.
 - iii. direct award of contract to Violence Intervention Project (a charity working in Hammersmith and Fulham) with a total annual contract value £90,000 for the 12 months duration of the project
- 2.3 Note the external recruitment of a Contextual Safeguarding Co-ordinator on a fixed term contract for the duration of the project. The Co-ordinator role involves project managing; project evaluation and performance data returns to the MHCLG; and working with partners to ensure that data on young people at risk is shared and put in place a targeted range of interventions for each young person and their family.
- 2.4 Note that the Council and CVS partners have been given £360,000 to jointly deliver a project that work with young people at risk and families to reduce offending and crime up to March 2020.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The reason for the decision is to enable the Council and CVS partners to access and use the awarded grant to deliver the proposed project.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. SFAYC is a new initiative from the MHCLG underpinned by the principles of the Troubled Families programme (whole family early intervention work) and the government's Serious Violence strategy. The initiative focuses on tackling gang and youth crime in communities where it is needed most; and aims to prevent and support young people and families affected by serious violence; test and learn from interventions and place-based initiatives; and drive improved local, multi-agency partnership working with the CVS.

Hammersmith and Fulham and CVS Partners Proposed Project

- 4.2. The Council and CVS partners proposed to create a Contextual Safeguarding and Gangs co-ordinator role to be a point of contact and work across agencies to ensure that data is shared, and activities are co-ordinated for at risk families. The co-ordinator will ensure that training is offered to partners, community groups and families; positive diversionary activities are put in place; as well as co-ordinating activities in school, ensuring the schools with most need are prioritised
- 4.3. The interventions that the co-ordinator will be able to build into a tailored programme will include:

- i) Parenting and family support for young people at risk of youth violence. This support would be provided by Key4Life (a local CVS) and a parenting worker in the Youth Offending Service (YOS).
 - ii) Support from Serious Youth Violence workers in our Family Assist Team.
 - iii) A range of mentors from CVS based in Hammersmith. In addition to VIP mentors would also come from Key4Life and Wipers. Key4Life use mentors who have experience of gang and youth violence. Wipers has experienced mentors who have accomplished record in offering 1-2-1 support.
 - iv) The Prevent and Prosper project will support young people to engage in activities in their local community.
- 4.4. We are aiming to support 55 young people and their families with the targeted support set out above. This is based on the numbers currently known to our YOS and Family Assist Team.
- 4.5. We will evaluate the impact of these interventions through a combination of approaches. Key success factors will include:
- i) Number of young people who were at risk of gang affiliation/serious violence but are no longer at risk
 - ii) Reduction in serious youth crime rates
 - iii) Number of children in full time education/attending school regularly
 - iv) Reduction in exclusion rates in the targeted schools
 - v) Parental confidence in managing anti-social behaviour
- 4.6. MHCLG have asked local authorities to send performance report and data to them until the end of the project to allow them to assess the performance of the SFAYC projects. Learning from the projects will be used to inform the development of future policies aimed at reducing knife crime and stopping children and young people from joining gangs.
- 4.7. The project was earmarked to commence in March 2019 and having a duration of 12 months until March 2020 however there was delay in the announcement of successful application bids by the MHCLG.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1. The MHCLG have awarded the Council and its community partners the sum of £ 360,000 under the SFAYC initiative. The grant is to be used for the project for which it was awarded. The MHCLG would want to ensure that the community and voluntary partners get their share of the grant and require a more detailed budget breakdown in relation to money going to the CVS.
- 5.2. A key criterion for the SFAYC initiative was evidence of partnerships, cross-sector support and strategic buy-in. As a minimum all bids needed to be signed up to by the Policing lead, Troubled Families Coordinator, Director of Children's Services, and Section 151 officer; and include plans to deliver in partnership with the CVS and show evidence of collaboration.
- 5.3. The CVS partners involved were Key4Life (work with young people involved in offending and their families), Wipers Youth (work with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, particularly those from BAME backgrounds) and Violence Intervention Project (work with young people at risk of exploitation).
- 5.4. It was a key condition of the application that CVS partners were identified as part of the bid. Also, the tight time limitations for the application process did not allow for commissioning and procurement process to take place. There was a 6 weeks turnaround for the application process. As Key4life, Wipers and VIP deliver existing projects to the project's targeted cohort of young people and families and have significant experience in the area we partnered with those organisations to apply for the project.
- 5.5. The CVS partners are currently working or have worked with the Council's Youth Offending Service and Adolescent Service to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people but did not have the capacity to extend their reach. SFAYC funding will enable them to increase their capacity to work with more vulnerable young people and their families.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. There was wide consultation with CVS organisations in considering the call for the grant application from the MHCLG and exploring options for the project. The project steering group consisted of two Council departments: Children Services (including Family Assist and Youth Offending Service) and Public Sector Reform; and four community and voluntary organisations. The project proposal was signed off by the Borough Police Commander.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on any groups with protected characteristics, under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, from the awarding of these contracts.
- 7.2. The project is not targeted at any specific ethnic group however a high proportion of young people and families from the cohort population and community are from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background, as such most of the work will be done with young people and families of BAME

background. The project will ensure that it works with young people and families that meet the eligibility criteria and not based on their ethnicity or any other characteristics.

7.3. *Implications verified/completed by: Peter Smith, Head of Policy & Strategy, telephone: 020 8753 2206.*

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Under Section 17 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has a statutory duty to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

8.2. One of these functions is the provision of a Youth Offending Service formed under section 39 (1) of the 1998 Act which has the three main aims:

- to reduce first time offenders
- to reduce repeat offending
- to reduce entrants to custody

8.3. Another of its functions is the duty to provide services to children in need and their families in our area under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Schedule 2 paragraph 7 of the Act expands on the legal duty by making it a requirement for the Council to take reasonable designed:

- to reduce the need to bring criminal proceedings against such children
- to encourage children within their area not to commit criminal offences; and
- to avoid the need for children within their area to be placed in secure accommodation.

8.4. There is also statutory guidance which the Council should follow in the form of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. This provides a framework for Early Help services the stated aim of which is to 'provide support as soon as a problem emerges rather than reacting later which is more effective in promoting the welfare of children.

8.5. The proposals contained in the body of this report will promote the functions set out at paragraphs 8.2 to 8.4 and will therefore be one of the ways of the Council meeting its S.17(1) Crime and Disorder Act duty.

8.6. *Implications verified/completed by: Jade Monroe, Senior Solicitor, Litigation and Social Care, telephone: 0208 753 2695.*

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The successful bid of £360,000 for the Supporting Families against Youth crime fund is for the local authority to deliver the agreed submission objectives by March 2020.
- 9.2. The grant funder is the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). The grant is being allocated in two tranches, £144,000 in 2018/19 and £216,000 in 2019/20.
- 9.3. The 2018/19 grant allocation will be carried forward to 2019/20 in line with the financial breakdown as set out in Appendix 1. All expenditure against the grant will be made from 2019/20.
- 9.4. The expenditure breakdown is primarily split between staffing costs and payments to voluntary organisations. The service should ensure that all staff appointments are made on a fixed term basis due to the grant funding being for one year only.
- 9.5. There are no further budgetary implications to the service as the proposed expenditure will be contained within the grant funding available. The service should ensure regular financial monitoring of the grant and that the financial breakdown and profile is reviewed and updated.
- 9.6. *Implications completed by: Caroline Baxter, Strategic Finance Manager, telephone: 0208 754 4322.*
- 9.7. *Implications verified by: Emily Hill, Assistant Director, Corporate Finance, telephone: 020 8753 3145.*

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

- 10.1. The impact on local business will be positive in that there will be less crime and anti-social behaviour which will hopefully result in more young people accessing local employment opportunities. Schools will be one of our key stakeholders and will be invited to contribute.
- 10.2. *Implications verified/completed by: Alben Karameros, Economic Development Team, telephone: 020 7938 8583.*

11. COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Approval for a waiver of the requirement to conduct a competitive exercise is being sought in order to directly award three contracts as described in 2.1.2 of this report.
- 11.2 The contracts proposed for direct award are all below the current threshold of £181,302 and therefore do not need to be advertised and are not subject to the full extent of EU procurement rules. The requirement to conduct procurements in a transparent, fair and proportionate manner remains.

11.3 The Council's Contracts Standing Orders would normally require a competition to be run for the services described in this report due to the financial value of these contracts. However, a waiver to CSOs for contracts with an estimated value of £25,000 or more but less than £100,000 can be approved by the appropriate Cabinet Member acting on advice from the Client Department. They need to be satisfied that a waiver is justified and the reasons as to why this is believed to be the case is properly reported. The waiver of the CSO's is on the grounds that it is in the Council's overall interest given that due to bid submission time restraints they have no other option but to nominate the proposed suitable partners to deliver the service.

11.4 The contracts should be recorded on the Council's Contract Register and a departmental record of the decision approving the waiver and the reasons for it, if approved, will be kept in accordance with CSO 18.3.

11.5 *Implications completed by: Joanna Angelides, Procurement Consultant, telephone: 0208 753 2586*

12. IT IMPLICATIONS

12.1. IT services should be consulted early on any IT implications arising from implementing the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) initiative. For example, implementing this project may require existing systems to be modified to enable early identification and monitoring of families and young people at risk of youth violence, or new systems to be procured.

12.2. IM implications: a Privacy Impact Assessment should be carried out to ensure that all the potential data protection risks around implementing the SFAYC initiative (e.g. sharing data about young people at risk of youth violence across the project partners) are properly assessed with mitigating actions agreed and implemented. Mitigations could include contract data protection and processing schedules or an information sharing agreements and Supplier Security Checklists to ensure the systems used by the partners/any third parties comply with H&F's regulatory requirements.

12.3. Any contracts arising from this report will need to include H&F's data protection and processing schedule. This is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) enacted from 25 May 2018.

12.4. *Implications completed by: Tina Akpogheneta, Interim Head of Strategy and Strategic Relationship Manager, telephone: 020 8753 5748.*

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

13.1 The proposals set out in this report are in line with the Council Priority “Taking pride in Hammersmith and Fulham” and are intended to deliver on the commitments made in the Council’s Business Plan for 2018-2022, namely to:

- work with the third sector and community to tackle knife crime and gang and youth violence;
- provide effective help for young people who are involved in gangs or at risk of becoming gang members.

13.2 Officers will ensure that a Privacy Impact Assessment is completed, and appropriate measures put in place, both by the Council and its partners, to protect the sensitive personal data of those at risk of youth violence.

13.3 *Implications verified/completed by: David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance, Tel: 07817 507695 and 0207 361 2389*

14. OTHER IMPLICATIONS PARAGRAPHS

14.1. None

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1	SFAYC Project Bid Application - exempt	Charles Donkoh	Children
2	MOU - exempt	Charles Donkoh	Children