

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 25th February 2020

Title of report: Kirklees Youth Alliance Holiday Programme

Purpose of report:

To inform Cabinet about the work and impact of the 2019 Council funded Kirklees Youth Alliance Healthy Holidays programme, including consideration of officer proposals for future Programme support.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes – affects all wards.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision Yes Is it in the Forward Plan? Yes 23rd January 2020
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs – 27 th January 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Eamonn Croston 17 th February 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft (John Chapman) 17 th February 2020
Cabinet member portfolio	Give name of Portfolio Holder/s Cllr Viv Kendrick Cllr Carole Pattison

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There is no personal data contained in this report.

1. Summary

- 1.1 In Summer 2019, Kirklees Youth Alliance (KYA) co-ordinated the delivery of a school holiday activity programme. The programme aimed to engage children in informal learning in the 6 weeks holiday period by providing fun enrichment programmes, varied physical activities and healthy food. It was council funded, with a budget of £225k. 700 sessions were delivered by 45 community organisations, with over 11,000 attendances. The programme targeted communities with higher levels of deprivation, and was designed to support good outcomes for children, especially those who are less likely to have the same opportunities and benefits from enrichment programmes because of their cost. Feedback on the programme from children, families and community groups has been very positive.

This report proposes that cabinet approves a proposal to agree recurring funding for the programme at the same level for future years.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 Council approved £100k revenue rollover on 17 July 2019 to fund a 2019 Summer Holiday activity programme to keep children engaged in fun informal learning activities, provide space for physical activities and exercise, have healthy food outside of term time free school meals.

School holidays can present additional financial hardship for many households due to reductions in income, increased childcare costs, additional food bills and extra spending on recreational activities to keep children occupied. There is evidence that for families living in deprived areas, children's learning may stall, and they may fall behind on return to school. The January 2019 school census identified that 13,591 children are eligible for free school meals – 20.7% of the pupil population. Kirklees has the highest percentage of free school meals children in West Yorkshire and the second highest in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

- 2.2 Kirklees Youth Alliance led and coordinated the programme. KYA is a not-for-profit network of 130+ community youth organisations. These organisations provide positive activities for children and young people in communities across Kirklees. They are run by a mix of trained youth workers and sports coaches as well as dedicated, passionate volunteers. The council provides funding for KYA infrastructure support (£45k per annum 2018 – 2021).
- 2.3 The first Healthy Holidays Programme in summer 2019 targeted areas of significant child poverty in Kirklees. The 2019 KYA Holiday Programme delivered:
- 46 clubs, delivered by 45 community organisations, in 60 different community venues
 - 2711 children were registered on the app developed by KYA
 - There were 11,000+ attendances with 12,379 meals served
 - 2065 hours were contributed by volunteers
 - 36.6% of the children were eligible for free school meals
 - 24% of the children were Asian; 5% dual heritage; 3% Black & 68% white.
 - 6.8% of the children were known to have special educational needs or disability.
 - 95% of parents and carers rated the clubs 4 or 5 stars out of 5.

2.4 Between the award of funding on 30th April 2019 and the start of the Summer holiday, KYA offered and delivered training for community organisations and volunteers to deliver the programme. They conducted in-depth checks and offered support to enable organisations to deliver safe and legal provision. The community organisations and Community Hub Coordinators identified those families likely to benefit most from the provision and encouraged them to participate.

Every club was asked to run for a minimum of 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, for 4 weeks of the school holiday. Clubs provided a healthy meal for each child, enrichment activities and at least an hour a day of physical activity.

The full Evaluation Report is appended. It identifies the following outcomes:

- Reduced holiday hunger
- Increased levels of physical activity
- Children enjoying and achieving in their holiday
- Increased knowledge and skills around food
- New friendships and reduced isolation
- Reduced parental stress
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- Increased capacity in the voluntary and community youth sector.

2.5 The programme also faced some challenges. These included the short period of time available to develop the programme, train community organisations and volunteers, secure venues, liaise with professionals and volunteers to advertise, market and recruit targeted participants. An app was developed to support marketing and enable parents to register children, which had some success in attracting participation but also caused some issues, including bookings not translating into attendance, and not being able to control targeted recruitment as closely to encourage even wider take up by the families in greatest need. Programme monitoring was not consistent across the participating community organisations, suggesting a need for additional training and new processes in the future.

2.6 The success of the programme, including feedback from children, parents & carers and through the community hubs suggest that families and professionals welcomed its availability and its impact. More children had access to good food, physical activity and informal learning opportunities in a safe and fun environment. They were able to return to a new school year ready to learn and engage.

2.7 A £225k annual commitment from the council would enable KYA to take a longer-term approach, recruit and train new partners to deliver the programme in community settings and increase the effectiveness of targeting priority participants and under-represented children. A longer-term approach would enable efficiencies and cost reductions, such as for food supplies. As a result, KYA would extend the provision to include the Easter and half term holidays.

2.8 The programme makes an important contribution to providing community-based support for families and to support positive learning & health outcomes for children. It is also a key strand of work to help deliver the Community Based Youth Work Offer work stream of the Youth Development Programme Board, and the new Youth Work Offer priority of the children and Young People's Plan.

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

The programme is third sector led and engages children and families, workers and volunteers in community settings. It addresses the needs and wants of children and families – positive activities in holiday times, access to good food when free school meals are not available. The third sector organisations involved in managing and delivering the programme value and deliver co-production and inclusion in the design and delivery of the work. The evaluation of the 2019 programme highlighted the positive connections and relationships that are fostered between families and community organisations.

- **Working with Partners**

130 community organisations are members of Kirklees Youth Alliance. 45 of them participated in delivering the 2019 programme - a huge resource of skills, knowledge, assets and commitment. KYA is a key partner organisation to deliver community-based play work, youth work and informal learning. This programme relies on good partnership working and helps to foster its development through providing opportunities for training, shared planning and delivery, and making stronger the connections between local people, community organisations and the services delivering in Community Hubs and locality settings.

- **Place Based Working**

Every ward had some provision in 2019, and the most deprived wards had the highest levels. A differentiated approach is taken, reflecting the diverse needs of areas, the focus of the community groups in each patch, and the knowledge and understanding of local populations that informed the programme planning. The holiday programme enables positive use of community resources. This use of local insight and intelligence will be applied in the planning and design of future programmes.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The provision of community based activities in each ward enables children and young people to travel locally and actively, so reducing the use of and potential exposure to more polluting forms of travel. Young people are at the forefront of climate change activism, and as programmes are young person-centred, there is a strong incentive to address climate issues as part of the programme's planning, delivery and in the offer of specific activities.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

The underpinning motivation to develop a holiday programme is to improve children's outcomes, especially for those children who are less likely than their peers to thrive. This proposal supports key strategic drivers. It promotes physical activity and keeps children engaged in learning over the school holidays and reduces hunger so that they return to school ready to learn. The programme helps to keep children safe, by providing somewhere to go, with positive adult support and supervision, and a potential alternative from more risky circumstances.

- **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

The Council's ongoing commitment to support the work of KYA and community organisations with the School Holiday Programme, estimated to be £225k per annum, will be contained within existing service budget provision through the Stronger Families Programme. KYA will become the operator of a grant programme

to the community organisations delivering holiday activity, applying appropriate safeguards and standards.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Portfolio Holders for Children and Learning, Aspiration & Communities have been consulted and endorse this proposal.

The programme evaluation has been reviewed at the Children's Integrated Commissioning Group and shared at the recent Youth Summit. It was recognised for its positive impact on children and families and as a valuable community resource.

5. Next steps and timelines

If approved, Kirklees Youth Alliance will undertake the work to develop a holiday programme across Kirklees from April 2020 onwards. A programme will be available in the Summer and Easter holidays, and every half term holiday.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- i) That Cabinet notes the work and impact of the 2019 Kirklees Youth Alliance Healthy Holidays Programme as set out in this report, including the Council's financial support, and
- ii) That Cabinet endorses the officer recommendation to work with KYA with ongoing support to enable the continued development of the Programme, which actively supports positive outcomes for children especially those living in our more deprived communities. It provides community-based support to children and families when school-based support is often unavailable, contributing to early help and prevention of issues escalating unnecessarily.
- iii) That Cabinet approves the proposal to offer a grant to KYA to operate the scheme in line with a process to be agreed with the Service Director for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships under Financial Procedure Rules regulation 20.8a. The intention is to replicate the work in future years, subject to positive evaluation and budget availability

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Councillors Viv Kendrick & Carole Pattison support the proposal. Both have contributed to the content of the report.

8. Contact officers

Tom Brailsford, Service Director Resources, Improvement & Partnerships, Children's Services. Tom.brailsford@kirklees.gov.uk tel:07711 015748

Mary White, Commissioning & Partnerships Manager, Resources, Improvement & Partnerships, Children's Services. Mary.white@kirklees.gov.uk tel:07976497683

Susan Greenwood, Development Manager, Kirklees Youth Alliance
kya@tslkirklees.org.uk tel: 07776588696

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Healthy Holidays Programme Evaluation Report 2019 <https://tslkirklees.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/KYA-HH-Report-low-res.pdf>

10. Service Director responsible

Tom Brailsford, Service Director Resources, Improvement & Partnerships, Children's Services. Tom.brailsford@kirklees.gov.uk tel:07711 015748