

**Name of meeting: Cabinet**

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Title of report: Youth Places to Go Capital Grant Scheme 2022-23**

**Purpose of report:** To share with members our Youth Places to Go Plan and request a decision on the allocation of capital funding to establish a Youth Places to Go Capital Grant Scheme.

<b>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?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	<b>Key Decision – Yes – Published 08/10/21</b> <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Mel Meggs – 19/10/21</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	<b>Eamonn Croston – 19/10/21</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Julie Muscroft – 19/10/21</b>
<b>Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u></b>	<b>Cllr V Kendrick - Children &amp; Cllr C Pattison – Learning, Aspiration &amp; Communities</b>

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** All. Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service – Early Support carried out locality briefings on the dates below;

- 28<sup>th</sup> September - Dewsbury & Mirfield
- 29<sup>th</sup> September - Batley & Spen
- 29<sup>th</sup> September - Huddersfield
- 18<sup>th</sup> October - Rural
- 11<sup>th</sup> October - Additional meeting for 'mop up' session

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered:** Yes, there are no GDPR implications.

## 1. Summary

This paper provides an update on Children's Services plans to grow our youth offer and sets out a proposal seeking cabinet approval to establish a capital grants scheme time limited to 2022 - 2023 to support Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) organisations who are working with children and young people, supporting the council to meet its statutory duties. The proposed capital grants scheme will use 'agreed in principle' capital funding from the Best Start – specialist accommodation / youth service allocation.

### **Below is a summary of the key points set out in the Youth Places to Go Plan (Appendix 1)**

#### **Our vision**

All children and young people in Kirklees have the opportunity to access a range of fun, enjoyable and interesting activities and informal learning opportunities. Youth Places to Go services provide places where you can talk to people and feel safe, in an inclusive and supportive environment that encourages children and young people to be their best.

#### **Our Outcomes**

- All children and young people have the opportunity to attend Youth Places to Go regardless of family income.
- All children and young people have the opportunity to access Youth Places to Go regardless of where they live in Kirklees.
- Youth Places to Go are seen as a safe, positive, inclusive, enjoyable place to go to have fun, engage in a range of interesting social and learning activities, see friends, meet and talk to people and be inspired.
- Children and young people feel able and safe to attend Youth Places to Go services.
- Parents and families feel confident to let their children and young people attend Youth Places to Go services.
- Youth Places to Go services provide an inclusive environment where all children and young people feel welcome and safe.
- Youth Places to Go is developed and will evolve in partnership with children and young people, parents, families, voluntary sector youth service and key partners.

#### **Our proposed service model**

- Establish a Youth Places to Go brand and criteria for a broad range of children and young people's youth services. Youth Places to Go criteria will offer reassurance that the service is inclusive, safe and offers high quality youth services.
- Establish a capital and revenue grant scheme for third sector voluntary youth service providers to fund the development and expansion of local community youth facilities and services across the whole of Kirklees, under Youth Places to Go branding.
- Create two central youth places to go in Huddersfield and North Kirklees (location of the venues to be confirmed), establishing a charity or not for profit organisation or consortium of third sector partner organisations to run the service.
- Explore the need for a mobile Youth Places to Go scheme for children and young people living in our most rural areas and hard to reach children and young people.

Our aim is to deliver Youth Places to Go over the next 4 years.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

### **2.1 Background**

Children's Services are committed to developing quality youth provision across the Borough. Working with partners, parents and children and young people, our aim is to ensure Kirklees is a place where children and young people have access to opportunities that enable them to have the best start in life.

The Youth Development Programme Board brings together a broad range of organisations working together to lead on growing our youth offer – places to go, people to talk to, things to do, one of the 9 priorities set out in the Young Peoples Partnership Plan 2020-2023.

The Youth Development Board has established four workstreams, each with a set of clear objectives; Tackling Inequalities, Prevention Pathway, Community Youth Offer and Youth Places to Go.

Whilst it will take time to implement the Youth Places to Go Plan, we want to start by strengthening our network of youth provision for children and young people by providing our Voluntary Community Sector partners with capital funding to invest and improve existing facilities, which children and young people currently enjoy attending. There will also be an opportunity to apply for funding for new facilities where gaps in local provision and need have been identified. This will improve the quality of provision on offer, whilst demonstrating our commitment to supporting Voluntary Community Sector organisations, who are working with us to achieve our ambitions for Kirklees children and young people.

We will ensure as we move forwards that our work aligns to the VCSE Investment Strategy and the outcome of the Inclusion Commission recommendations to provide early support in the areas where it is most needed. This includes digital inclusion, which was highlighted by the covid-19 pandemic. Everything we do will be fully aligned to the soon to be launched VCSE Investment Strategy.

We have recently undertaken a mapping exercise for organisations that provide activities for children and young people. This has informed us that we have at least 860 activity providers across Kirklees. We currently don't know their circumstances moving out of the pandemic and going forwards. However, we do know many are not currently operating, due to funding issues. Further work is needed to fully understand the current youth offer in more detail. A comprehensive analysis of all collected data will be undertaken. The market analysis findings will then provide an evidence base and intelligence led approach that will inform the development of the capital grant criteria.

Our mapping exercise has revealed that outside of Huddersfield Town Centre, there are very few arts and performing arts (dance etc) organisations. Some activities such as Scouting groups (uniformed organisations) aren't available in areas of high deprivation. There is a lack of SEND provision in rural areas.

Recent engagement and consultation with the Voluntary Community Sector organisations indicates there would be high demand for capital grant funding (see appendix 2). The capital grant criteria will consider more detailed analysis from the survey and mapping exercises. We will work closely with the Tackling Inequalities workstream to seek guidance and challenge on our proposals to ensure that equality for all children and young people is central to our plans and that we focus on the areas that will make the most difference to our communities. The Youth Development Programme Board will support the wider council agenda linking in with Families Together, Kirklees Futures and the SEND Transformation Plan.

The lessons we have learned from the covid pandemic will help inform this project. Our Kirklees Covid-19 Recovery Plan will guide us as we invest in the organisations who work closely with our children and young people. We will consider how we can help children and young people to recover, providing safe places for them to meet with trusted adults and involve them in positive stimulating activities to help to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

## **2.2 The Proposal**

In the first instance, we want to establish a Youth Places to Go Capital Grant Scheme. In designing our grant scheme, we will commit to the principles outlined in the VCSE Investment strategy, which is aiming to be presented to cabinet late 2021/early 2022. We will ensure that our capital scheme is part of a joined-up approach to supporting our VCSE partners. Further work will be undertaken to review current council revenue funding streams and other potential funding opportunities. The aim is to join up, if possible, with existing grant award mechanisms. This will include supporting bids to the Youth Investment Fund and working with grant making organisations, to establish a refreshed approach youth service revenue funding.

It is proposed that the capital grant scheme will be a data and intelligence led/decision making process and;

- Capital grants will only be offered to Voluntary Community Sector organisations operating in Kirklees for buildings and other assets.
- Capital grants will be awarded in accordance with Council Financial Procedure Rules (May 2021), 3.1 and 3.2.
- Capital grants will only be awarded to Voluntary Community Sector organisations that meet Kirklees Council's definition of capital expenditure/investment: Expenditure on the acquisition, creation, or enhancement of non-current assets. Non-current assets include items of land, property, and plant/equipment, which are not expected to be sold or consumed during the normal operating cycle.
- Detailed Capital grant eligibility criteria and procedures will be designed by officers in consultation with Kirklees Youth Alliance and Voluntary Community Sector organisations in accordance with a broad scheme as set out in appendix 3. They will be compliant with financial procedure rules and approved by Financial Services and accord with FOR 22.11a.
- Standard grant terms and conditions approved by Legal Services will be incorporated into the application process for grants over £10,000 but under £25,000. Larger grants will be subject to specific grant agreements as agreed with the Service Director Legal, Governance & Commissioning
- Grants to any one organisation will not exceed £75,000 in any year
- A Capital Grant Panel will make recommendations, in accordance with the broad scheme for approval by the Strategic Director for Children's Services or their nominated representative who will act as Chair of the Capital Grant Panel.
- The Strategic Director for Children's Service will agree detailed grant criteria and award mechanism, which may be varied if appropriate, with the responsible Executive Members/Portfolio holders.

In order to aid the capital grant allocation process, Members are requested to delegate authority, in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (May 2021) 3.13 to the Strategic Director for Children's Services to manage the allocation of capital grants within the respective agreed capital grant budget.

Our current expectation is the majority of the funding will be used for smaller grants. For example, a provider purchasing sports or music equipment (between £10k - £25k) although

the items procured will need to fall within the definition of capital expenditure. However, we will monitor the results of our survey which will inform our approach. Larger grants could be used for renovations or extensions to existing buildings (up to £75k).

The grants may meet the whole cost of the scheme, or may constitute match funding to support obtaining other grants, or may be a contribution to an investment funded from other resources of the group (e.g. their own funds)

We will work closely with the Children’s capital programme regarding potential opportunities for the council and other investment streams to further develop council assets as part of our work for the 2 Youth places to go venues.

The capital grant scheme criteria will be based on the 9 priorities set out in Children’s and Young Peoples Plan 2019 – 2022 detailed below

- Early Support in communities – Kirklees Children’s Safeguarding Partnership Task & Finish Group, Best Start Partnership, Families Together.
- Food & Physical Activity – Health & Wellbeing Board; Thriving Kirklees.
- Vulnerability to criminal exploitation – Youth Development Programme; Kirklees Children’s Safeguarding Partnership; Communities Board.
- Gaps in educational attainment between some groups and the Kirklees attainment rates – Education and Learning Partnership Board & Community Hubs.
- Outcomes for Looked After children – Improvement Board; Corporate Parenting Board; Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- To reduce the effects of poverty on children.
- To support inclusion and better outcomes for LGBT+ young people.
- To grow our youth offer – places to go, people to see, things to do.

The capital grants scheme will ensure a fair and equitable allocation of funding to ensure we have youth provision covering the whole of Kirklees. Grants will only be awarded to schemes that are inclusive of all children and young people including marginalised children, including those with special needs and disabilities.

### 2.3 Cost breakdown

A capital grant budget of potentially up to £1 million (this figure will be clarified pending further engagement) to be established for financial year 2022-23 from the ‘approved in principle’ capital plan Best Start – strategic priorities, specialist accommodation / youth service £8 million budget allocation, of which £3 million is set aside for Youth Offer.

### 2.4 Timescales

<b>Project Milestones / Stages</b>	<b>Completed by</b>
Gain cabinet approval to capital grant scheme	November 2021
Cabinet approval of the VCSE Investment Strategy	December 2021
Complete capital grant criteria and procedures	December 2021
Appoint capital grant panel chair and members (linking in with existing community grant awarding panels within Kirklees Council)	December 2021
Gain Legal Service approval of the finalised Terms and Conditions of the grant agreement for the capital grant scheme	January 2022
Gain Children’s Service Senior Leadership Team approval	January 2022

Gain Executive Team Senior Leadership Team approval	February 2022
Begin awarding capital grants	April 2022 onwards

## 2.5 Expected impact / outcomes, benefits & risks (how they will be managed)

- Improved youth service facilities across the whole of Kirklees
- Better quality and broader range of interesting, creative, social and physical activities offered by youth service providers
- Children and young people are more interested in accessing youth services
- Children and young people gain greater enjoyment and positive experiences from accessing youth services in Kirklees
- Children and young people have more opportunities to meet with friends in a more positive, enjoyable and supportive setting
- Increase in numbers of children and young people accessing youth services
- Children and young people are prepared for successful independent lives where they have the skills, they need to achieve their aspirations

### Wider community benefits

- Potential reduction in anti-social behaviours
- Assists with tackling inequalities by further developing an inclusive approach to youth provision for the benefit of all children and young people
- Our aim is to ensure the grants scheme removes barriers to enable marginalised children, including those with special needs and disabilities to attend

### Risks

- The capital grants scheme aims to support all Kirklees children and young people, so everyone benefits from high quality local youth provision. The capital grants procedure will ensure all capital investment is within Kirklees boundaries ensuring there is fair and equitable youth provision across all Kirklees.
- We will follow best practice set by existing grants schemes in place to minimise risk from fraud.
- We will ensure all providers who are awarded a grant understand and are compliant with the Council's Safeguarding Procedures.

## 2.6 Evaluation

Measuring outcomes / the difference the capital grant funding has made will be built into the capital grant quality assurance framework.

Individual case studies highlighting the difference the new facilities have made will be requested from successful Voluntary Community Sector providers.

## 2.7 Sustainability

The capital grant scheme is a time limited opportunity in 2022-2023. It is not an ongoing rolling investment programme.

## 2.8 Services & agencies involved

Mel Meggs chair of the Youth Development Board brings together a wide range of organisations from across Kirklees to work together in partnership to collectively make a difference. The capital grant scheme has been developed in partnership with our partners.

## 3. Implications for the Council

### 3.1 Working with People

The Youth Development Board has and will continue to champion and encourage officers working in children's service, to work with children and young people that use services, parents and partners to create a range of high-quality youth services for all children and young people in Kirklees.

### **3.2 Working with Partners**

Working with partner organisations and Voluntary Community Sector organisations is at the heart of our approach to collectively making a difference and making Kirklees a great place to live that provides children and young people with the best start in life.

### **3.3 Place Based Working**

The capital grant scheme will provide an opportunity to further develop youth services for everyone, wherever you live in Kirklees. The capital grant criteria will ensure capital funding is provided equitably and the criteria will be coproduced with the Voluntary Community Sector. This will be facilitated via the Youth Places to Go workstream.

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Environment and carbon reduction benefits will be captured as part of the capital grant scheme. Capital grant funding will support Voluntary Community Sector organisations to improve their building efficiency and carbon footprint.

### **3.5 Improving outcomes for children**

The capital grant scheme supports children's services to achieve its ambition "All children and young people in Kirklees have the best start in life and are nurtured and supported to achieve their potential."

### **3.6 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions**

Financial Services advice will be sought when required to approve the final version of the capital grant scheme policy, procedure and grant award contracts. We will work closely with the Contracting Strategic Category Manager in Procurement and Commissioning Support to ensure compliance.

The awarding of grants must be in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules.

The legal power to award these grants will be section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence) subject to Subsidy Control Rules.

The Council must comply with its duty of Best Value under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999. A best value authority must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, the Council must comply with its fiduciary duty to taxpayers.

The Public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under that act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it, which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to- (a) tackle prejudice, and (b) promote understanding.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it, including, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 of the Act may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the Act.

The Equality Duty must be complied with before and at the time that a particular policy is under consideration or decision is taken - that is, in the development of policy options, and in making a final decision. A public body cannot satisfy the Equality Duty by justifying a decision after it has been taken.

The appointed Children's Capital Finance Manager has been fully involved in the development of the grant scheme.

No human resources issues to report.

### **3.7 Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?**

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed and indicates there will be no negative impacts.

## **4. Consultees and their options**

Ward Members have been consulted. Portfolio Leads have been consulted.

Children's Senior Leadership Team and Children's Capital Board have been consulted and support the proposals in this report.

## **5. Next steps and timelines**

As per point 2.4 above a plan of activities has been identified alongside an agreed timescale. Officer capacity is in place, the Youth Places to Go workstream will also support the delivery of this project. The delivery of this project will be monitored and overseen by the Youth Development Programme Board.

## **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

The capital grant scheme will provide our Voluntary Community Sector organisations with much needed investment, at a critical time as we move forward, growing our youth provision



and assist in the wider recovery of Kirklees post pandemic, helping to deliver our council ambitions.

## **7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holders recommend that Cabinet.

6.1 To note the contents of this report and endorse this proposal and approve the allocation of a maximum amount of £1 million capital funding to set up a Youth Places to Go capital funding scheme for a time limited duration, the financial year 2022 to 2023 in line with (the VCSE Investment strategy to be brought back to Cabinet for approval – December 2021)

6.2 Delegates authority, in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (May 2021) 3.13, to the Strategic Director for Children's Services to design and implement the capital grant scheme and award grant agreements in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

6.3 Authorises in accordance with financial procedure rule 22.11a, a broad scheme as listed at Appendix 3 to this report and for the Strategic Director for Children's Services in consultation with other Senior Leadership Team officers and Portfolio Holders to develop a detailed scheme, to be used by a grant panel to recommend grants for approval. The Strategic Director for Children's Service will also to be authorised to amend the details of the scheme in consultation with Senior Leadership Team and Portfolio Holders.

## **8. Contact officer**

Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service – Early Support, Tel 07813 104646  
[Michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk)

## **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Please see Appendix 1 – Youth Places to Go Plan (below)  
Please see Appendix 2 – Survey summary (below)  
Please see Appendix 3 – Draft grant criteria (below)  
Please see Appendix 4 – Integrated Impact Assessment (to be published)

There are no historical decisions.

This paper has followed council procedures and been presented at Learning and Early Support SLT, Children's SLT, Scrutiny, Portfolio Holders Briefings and Executive Team.

## **10. Service Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning & Early Support  
[Jo-Anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Jo-Anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk)

# **Kirklees Youth Places to Go Plan**

**Places to go, people to talk to,  
things to do**

**(Add in Council & YPTG branding logo once agreed)**

## 1. Children and Young People – Strategic Priorities

1.1 The Children and Young People’s Plan 2020-2023 sets out our ambitions and priorities for the next few years, helping to make Kirklees a great place for families to live and bring up children.

**All children and young people in Kirklees have the best start in life and are nurtured and supported to achieve their potential.**

### Our ambitions for Kirklees children

- To be healthy and valued in our community
- To aspire, to achieve and to enjoy childhood
- To feel safe – in a loving, secure family and a strong, cohesive community
- To live in a decent home, with enough money

1.2 The Children and Young People’s Partnership have identified 9 priorities and lead partnerships to help achieve great outcomes for all Kirklees children.

- **Emotional health and resilience** – Children’s Integrated Commissioning Group
- **Early Support in communities** – Kirklees Children’s Safeguarding Partnership Steering Group, Best Start Partnership, Early Support/Families Together model.
- **Food & Physical Activity** – Health & Wellbeing Board; Thriving Kirklees
- **Vulnerability to criminal exploitation** – Youth Development Programme; Kirklees Children’s Safeguarding Partnership; Communities Board.
- **Gaps in educational attainment** between some groups and the Kirklees attainment rates – Education and Learning Partnership Board & Community Hubs.
- **Outcomes for Looked After children** – Improvement Board; Corporate Parenting Board; Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Including three new priorities.

- **To reduce the effects of poverty on children** – Children’s Partnership Forum.
- **To support inclusion and better outcomes for LGBT+ young people** – Children’s Partnership Forum.
- **To grow our youth offer – places to go, people to talk to, things to do** – Youth Development Programme Board.

1.3 The Youth Places to Go plan below sets out how we will grow our youth offer, working in partnership with children and young people, families, partner agencies and community providers to meet our ambition and priorities.

## **2. To Grow Our Youth Offer – Places to go, people to talk to, things to do**

2.1 Youth Services are particularly important for children’s physical, social and emotional development. They provide safe spaces for children and young people to meet, socialise, have fun, offer informal learning, and support children and young people to identify and achieve their goals and for some be inspired.

The Youth Development Board has established four workstreams each with a set of clear objectives.

- **Tackling Inequalities** – Listen to the voice of the child and address inequalities and ensure free or low-cost inclusive activities are available that promote physical and mental health and wellbeing for children and young people from all communities.
- **Prevention Pathway** – focus on early prevention support to young people who may otherwise be at risk, providing a range of programmes to achieved agreed outcomes.
- **Community Youth Offer** – map out current provision, support existing service and promote and oversee the development of new out-of-school activities and initiatives.
- **Youth Places to Go** – develop two new town centre Youth Places to Go and support the further development of local community youth services

providing a broad range of opportunities for children and young people aged 5 to 18/25 years.

2.2 The Youth Development Board brings together a broad range of Kirklees children and young people's services and partners to work together to deliver our priorities as a partnership. The board will support, advise and monitor the progress of each workstream.

2.3 Broader Inter-dependencies - The Youth Places to Go workstream will also link in with other broader council wide workstreams via the Youth Development Board, like the Families Together delivery programme and playable spaces strategy and the Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centre transformation programmes.

### **3. Youth Places to Go – Vision**

**All children and young people in Kirklees have the opportunity to access a range of fun, enjoyable, interesting activities and informal learning opportunities. Youth Places to Go services provide places where you can talk to people and feel safe in an inclusive and supportive environment that encourages children and young people to be their best.**

#### **3.1 Youth Places to Go - Outcomes**

- All children and young people have the opportunity to attend Youth Places to Go regardless of family income.
- All children and young people have the opportunity to access Youth Places to Go regardless of where they live in Kirklees.
- Youth Places to Go are seen as a safe, positive, inclusive, enjoyable place to go to have fun, engage in a range of interesting social and learning activities, see friends, meet and talk to people and be inspired.
- Children and young people feel able and safe to attend Youth Places to Go services.

- Parents and family feel confident to let their children and young people attend Youth Places to Go services.
- Youth Places to Go services provide an inclusive environment where all children and young people feel welcome and safe.
- Youth Places to Go is developed and will evolve in partnership with children and young people, parents, families, voluntary sector youth service and key partners.

### **3.2 Service Model**

- Establish a Youth Places to Go brand and criteria for a broad range of children and young people's youth services. Youth Places to Go criteria will offer reassurance the service is inclusive, safe and offers high quality youth services.
- Establish a capital and revenue grant scheme for third sector voluntary youth service providers to fund the development and expansion of local community youth facilities and services across the whole of Kirklees, under Youth Places to Go branding.
- Create two central youth places to go in Huddersfield and North Kirklees, establishing a charity or not for profit organisation or consortium of third sector partner organisations to run the service.
- Explore the need for a mobile Youth Places to Go scheme for children and young people living in our most rural areas.

### **3.3 Youth Places to Go – Action Plan**

the action plan below has been developed consisting of four key work themes to support the implementation of the vision, outcomes and service model. A more detailed project plan setting out more specific key activities, identified leads, links to other workstreams and projected timescales will be developed to monitor progress and for reporting purposes.

## Appendix 2 - Survey summary – Youth Places to Go

A short 2-week survey was carried out during October aimed at Voluntary Community Sector organisations to help us understand funding requirements for youth provision post pandemic. We asked questions in relation to both Capital and Revenue funding needs.

The following is a summary of the key findings -

- Number of responses – 48
- 50% of organisations are charities
- Just over 50% are volunteer lead
- Indications are that post pandemic, over 40% require urgent financial support
- 50% told us that Capital funding was required
- 34 potential bids costing a total of £3,683,000. Please see breakdown of bids below;
  - New build or sports /arts facilities - 11 bids totalling £3,400,000
  - Lighting for sports / arts facilities – 3 bids totalling £30,000
  - New vehicles – 8 bids totalling £148,000
  - Young people’s shelters – 2 bids totalling £27,000
  - One off equipment – 8 bids totalling £62,000
  - One off furniture – 8 bids totalling £62,000
- Revenue funding is still required, particularly around staffing costs
- Organisations continue to face challenges, with 70% still requiring funding
- A small number don’t have revenue needs but do have capital needs

**We asked - If you were to receive this essential funding, what will be the outcomes for children, young people and communities?**

- 3rd Sector Organisations are excellent value for the taxpayer. If the 3rd sector were reasonably funded, we can provide affordable and sustainable services which the local authority are no longer able to afford. Therefore, achieving all the outcomes which the local authority used to provide prior to austerity.
- Children & young people become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- Children & young people develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities
- Children & young people have access to provision locally
- It would improve the opportunities that we can offer. Increase their experiences and relieve the constant burden of funding from parents and supporters.
- If we were to receive this funding, we would be able to make the scout hut accessible for wheelchair users and people with other disabilities allowing us to help develop life skills in more young people, allowing them to become valued members of our community.
- We would be able to provide more facilities/programmes that would benefit the development of young people from a minority and disadvantaged background. It would allow them to learn more skills to better their chances of employment and avoid falling into antisocial activities.
- A minibus would enable us to offer a greater range of activities for our members and others within the area.
- Engagement in the environment, understand climate and what they can do and growing food. Building resilience, having a voice in their future, building & learning skills, building capacity and confidence.
- We can use the funding to allow more children and young people to exercise on our rides along the Greenway and around the track. This will assist with their mental and

physical health. We can also offer basic bike maintenance courses for teenagers too that will increase their skill set and self confidence

- To be able to not only provide a safe space, a sense of belonging and activities for LGBTQ+ teens but also continue to be able to support those with SEN and / or learning disabilities from the age of 16 who may otherwise be excluded from skills-based learning, social space and connectivity
- It will give children and young people a positive escape from the stresses of growing up, school and something positive to do rather than cause trouble in the neighbourhood.

From our initial findings it is clear there is evidence that a capital grants scheme would be welcomed and is needed by our Voluntary Community Sector. This is just a starting point. Further engagement will be undertaken.

Although we can't meet all of their requirements, a capital grants scheme would make a big difference. Our Youth Places to Go project and wider Youth Development Programme will also support organisations to access additional funding from other funding streams.

## **Appendix 3 - The Grant Scheme**

The Strategic Director for Children's Services will prepare a detailed grant scheme subject to the following criteria:

1. The grant will not exceed £75,000 to any organisation. The grant cannot support any other council funding.
2. The grant (including VAT if not recoverable) may meet the full costs of a project, or it may be a contribution or match funding to another source of funding, internal or external to the supported organisation. An organisation must not be double funded for any council payment.
3. The grant may only be used for expenditure within the definition of capital purposes, and may not be used for any items on a list of exclusions, even if they would pass the definition of capital expenditure
4. Any supported organisation must demonstrate compliance with all council rules as regards equality of opportunity, none discrimination, insurance, child protection and safeguarding etc.
5. Any supported organisation must provide full financial accounts information on their current and previous years.
6. Any supported organisation will be required to use a competitive quotation process for building works of any value, and an independent architect or surveyor to assist the design, competition and construction process (the costs of which are eligible for grant support).
7. Any proposal to acquire other assets will usually require a competition process, the details of which should be advised as part of the proposal and will be a feature of any grant approval.
8. Grant will be released on a stage payment basis for construction (in line with the authorisation by the professional adviser).



9. Grant for other items will normally only be paid when the items are delivered (specific circumstances where another funding approach is required to be agreed by the project approval panel)
10. The applicant will produce and promptly submit to the council full evidenced documentation supporting all payments at the end of the project. They must answer all reasonable question by the council as a part of this process
11. The applicant will produce evidence of the extent achievement of any targets, performance indicators or goal or objectives
12. Grants will not normally be made for small or individual loose items (e.g. laptop computers or tablets, minor items of sports equipment- e.g. cricket bats and pads or loose kitchen equipment e.g. pans ). Grant assistance could be given to an electronic mixing studio, a full set of fixed or semi fixed gym equipment- e.g. vaulting horse, climbing frames, or a kitchen refurbishment.
13. New vehicles may be supported, but repair or refurbishment of an existing vehicle will not be supported, and any application for a vehicle will need to be accompanied by evidence of an ability to meet all operating costs of the vehicle- such as fuel, maintenance, insurance, tax, and provision for replacement of key components and or the vehicle itself)
14. New buildings, extensions, refurbishment and improvements permitted, including all incidental costs such as redecorating. However, day to day repairs cannot be supported.
15. Building work will only be supported where the applicant can demonstrate that they have a freehold or long term leasehold interest in the property to be improved. Where this is not the case the applicant will need to provide clear evidence of a long term letting agreement, and the landlord will need to agree to the right of the council to recover funds in certain termination events
16. All applications will be made in writing, and approval will be given in writing. The applicant will be asked to agree compliance with the applicable rules.