

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday 30 September 2019

FUNDING FOR YOUTH PROVISION

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendations

It is recommended that this Committee approves:

- (1)** the reallocation of the funding for the HEWEB Youth Leader position in line with the recommendations from the Youth Services Review 2019 as detailed in the body of this report.

Summary

A review of Youth Services within Hedge End, West End and Botley was concluded in 2019. The main findings are summarised in this report. This review has formed the basis for the report's recommendations and the reallocation of funding.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 Localism Act 2011 and Section 151 of the Local Government Act

Strategic Implications

1. The Local First strategic project seeks to identify local needs and to allocate resources to meet these needs. Therefore the recommendations for the reallocation of current funding are in total alignment with this project.

There is a commitment within the Corporate Plan to sustain the Youth Partnership and local services.

Youth provision enables healthier lifestyles and wellbeing by providing activities and services. The recommendations will lead to increased participation through more targeted provision and wider engagement with young people.

Background

2. At the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee meeting on 13 June 2011, Councillors received a report entitled "Impact of Reduction in Youth Support Services". This report provided an update on Hampshire County Council's plans to reduce youth work provision in the HEWEB area with effect from September 2011. At this meeting, £12,000 was allocated to sustain youth provision. Funding of £12,000 was then formally allocated into the Committee's budget from April 2012. This funding paid for a new HEWEB Youth Leader post in partnership with Hedge End Town Council. The proposal was that the Committee's funding paid for two days of the Youth Leader's time which was to be focussed across the HEWEB area and the remaining three days were funded by the Town Council for work predominantly at The Box, now the Community Hub in Hedge End. This post was directly employed by the Town Council.
3. The Committee also approved the establishment of the HEWEB Youth Partnership in 2012. A Partnership Development Plan was agreed by the Partnership and this Committee with actions around sustaining services and using some capital and revenue funding for youth projects and grants.
4. The resignation of the Youth Leader prompted a review of this role. In addition to this, Councillors Gomer, Jurd and Trace also undertook a review across the HEWEB area by discussing current provision, future funding and support requirements with key partners.

Youth Provision

5. Hedge End Town Council's provision has focussed on young people with additional needs via the Friday Night Project. There has been general provision for 8-19 year olds via the Town Council and partners and detached work has been delivered by Youth Options with funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
6. West End Parish Council provides general provision for 8-16 year olds at its sites in Moorgreen Road and Cutbush Lane. The Cutbush Lane project was launched courtesy of a National Lottery grant but this expired in March 2019.

Deprivation was raised as a specific concern by the Parish Council especially at this site. There is a limited amount of detached work and this is carried out by Parish Council staff as required.

7. In Botley there is little general provision and no detached youth work since the withdrawal of Groundworks. Friday Night Football at Botley Recreation Ground continues to be successful and this is funded by this Committee and the Parish Council. A specific concern was raised about the new housing developments, especially at Boorley Park and the need for additional youth provision.
8. In summary, youth provision has expanded in some parts of HEWEB with welcome additions at Cutbush Lane, Dowd's Farm Community Centre and the King's Community Church to name a few. However the level of detached and outreach work has declined and there are gaps in additional and general provision.

HEWEB Youth Leader role

9. The Youth Leader was unable to carry out allocated actions in the Partnership's Plan with the exception of overseeing the HEWEB youth grants' process. Her focus was on the management of services within The Box. (In addition, West End Parish Council now employs its own youth advisor). The contribution towards the cost of the HEWEB Youth Leader position was £13,309 in 2018/19.
10. The Youth Council is still involved in determining the HEWEB youth grants but it is unrepresentative of the HEWEB area as its members are drawn from Hedge End. The HEWEB Local Area Committee continues to allocate £4,000 towards youth grants.

HEWEB Youth Partnership

11. The Youth Partnership meets four times a year and holds an Annual General Meeting where the grants are also presented.
12. Regular attendees at these meetings include the Town Council, Parish Councils, Police, Fairthorne Manor, King's Community Church, Wildern School, Scouts and the Young Carers. The meetings are viewed by partners as useful for reporting on activities, sharing best practice and maintaining good networks. However comments were also made about focussing on issues and although this body is able to authorise funding, it will shortly run out of money.
13. The content of the Review was shared with Councillors at its team meeting on 22 July. Members of the HEWEB Youth Partnership discussed the draft recommendations on 4 June. These recommendations are now presented to the Committee for approval.

Recommendations

14. The HEWEB Youth Leader's position should not be filled with a like-for-like replacement and the funding should be re-allocated in line with the following:-
 - a. The Assistant Local Area Manager should provide administrative support to the HEWEB Youth Partnership to assist with convening meetings and publicising the work of the partners. This post holder would oversee the revamping of the "youth council" to ensure proportionate representation across the HEWEB area and would oversee the HEWEB youth grants scheme in its entirety.
 - b. The Local Area Committee should target funding and resources to address priority needs in each area. The Assistant Local Area Manager and the Partnership should review these needs which are currently:
 - i. General provision for 11+ in Hedge End;
 - ii. Additional needs provision in West End; and
 - iii. General provision and detached work in Botley.
 - c. The Assistant Local Area Manager should work with the Partnership and the existing Community Grants Panel and Review Group, currently, Councillors Gomer, Jurd, Trace and Garton, to develop criteria to enable improved targeting of this Committee's funding. This must meet local needs and promote the inclusion of young people from low income backgrounds or other vulnerable groups by, for example, overcoming barriers to engagement such as membership fees or other expenses.
 - d. Recommendations for funding should be agreed by members of the Community Grants Panel and Review Group to ensure representation across HEWEB.
 - e. Provide funding to the HEWEB Youth Partnership to be allocated as grants to promote the delivery of youth services to interested organisations. Grants would be available to support one-off costs either capital or revenue. (Schemes must be sustainable without on-going recourse to HEWEB grants. Subsidised places within chargeable schemes for disadvantaged young people could be offered with information to highlight how those young people would be selected and how the outcomes will be reported).
 - f. Consideration by the Partnership of engagement methods to enable young people's voices to be heard, possibly via a conference or an informal meeting with young people and the Partnership with the aim of increasing understanding of local needs, possible co-designing of future schemes and projects and influencing the new grants' allocation.
 - g. A review of membership fees via the Partnership is also recommended in order to encourage youth groups to remain sustainable.

- h. It is proposed that £6,500 is allocated towards the Assistant Local Area Manager's salary and the remainder is allocated based on the recommendations of the Panel and Review Group.
- i. An annual review of this expenditure and the Partnership's Plan should be presented to this Committee.

Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications as the budget for the HEWEB Youth Leader has not been spent in this financial year. It is hoped that by improving the targeting of this money, the outcomes for an increased number of local young people will be improved.

Risk Assessment

16. There are sufficient checks and balances to ensure that the funding is allocated in a fair and proportionate manner.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. The Equality Act is relevant to some of the decisions in this report as they relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity or fostering good relations between different people in the following ways:-
 - Establishing criteria and reallocating funding to increase access to youth services particularly for those with disabilities and low income families

A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out because while there are some equality impacts, it is not proportionate to carry out a full EIA.

Conclusion

18. The recommendations have been made after a comprehensive review with partners and councillors are asked for their approval.

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LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached:	None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

HEWEB Youth Services Review 2019