

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee – For Information Community and Children’s Services Committee – For Information	7/02/2022 11/02/2022
Subject: Provision for Young People in the City of London	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of funding?	N/A
Has this funding source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Greg Knight, Interim Senior Commissioning Manager, Commissioning and Partnerships	

Summary

This report provides Members with highlights of universal youth and play provision in the City of London. It sets out the services, aims, providers, quarter three (Q3) highlights, and the opportunities identified for improvement.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Commissioning Team leads on the key activities and procurements for youth service contracts within the Department of Community and Children’s Services (DCCS). The team manages all elements of the commissioning cycle, including analysing, planning, implementing and reviewing these services, through quarterly monitoring meetings.
2. This report has been prepared on the request of Members of the DCCS Committee to provide details of the current provision for young people in the City of London.
3. The scope of the report includes details of the universal youth and play services and associated initiatives which are commissioned to meet statutory government requirements. The report does not include the full details of the range of Education and Early Years and 0–19 Public Health

services. Further information relating to the wider service offer can be found on the City of London's Family Information Service website directory.

Current Position

4. The current commissioned provision available to young people in the City of London consists of the following services:
 - Universal Youth and Play- Golden Lane
 - Universal Youth and Play- Portsoken
 - City Youth Forum
 - Afghan Youth Service
 - Community Sports Development Service
 - Holiday and Food (HAF) Programme.
5. The services target young people that live in the City of London. The Youth Forum is available for people that live, work or study within the square mile.
6. All commissioned providers are required to have safeguarding and insurance policies in place, which are to be comprehensive and reviewed annually. Additionally, staff delivering the services are to be trained and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked.
7. In addition to the commissioned services, young people in the City benefit from non-contractual arrangements, including the grant-funded provision of the Scout Association, and the youth provision delivered by YMCA London City and North, independent from its leased building on Whitecross Street.
8. The Commissioning Team is currently in the process of retendering the universal youth and play service, which will replace the current Golden Lane and Portsoken provision. The procurement approach seeks to appoint one provider to deliver across the City and will begin in Q1 of 2022/23.

Commissioned services highlights

9. This section sets out the key providers, service aims, quarter highlights and the opportunities for improvement within the commissioned services.

10. Universal Youth and Play- Golden Lane

Provider: YMCA London City and North

Contract expiry: 31/03/22

Overarching service aim: To deliver youth services that adhere to the youth work and play principles and that raise the aspirations of children and young people in the City of London.

Service users: 8–19 year olds (25 years for care leavers and those with SEND).

Delivery: Weekly at Golden Lane Community Centre. An additional service, which is not commissioned by the department, is provided from Whitecross Street.

Priority groups: Looked-after children, children leaving care, SEND, identify as LGBTQIA+, young carers, at risk of offending, Bangladeshi background, not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people living on the Mansell Street, Middlesex Street and Golden Lane estates.

Quarter highlights:

- Sessions delivered: 21
- Young people engaged: 29
- Total attendance: 315. There has been a steady growth in the number of people attending throughout the duration of the service.
- Attendance from Golden Lane Estate residents: 6
- Young people with SEND engaging in the service: 1
- Bangladeshi girls: 0
- Volunteers in the service: 2
- Service user satisfaction: 100%
- Programme delivery included activities such as archery, a Christmas dinner and attendance of the Aldgate Lantern Festival.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Delivery of the new universal youth and play service, which is scheduled to begin in Q1 of 2022/23.
- Increasing engagement and participation among older age groups and priority groups.
- Increase the number of time credits issued to young people within the service.
- Increased online promotion and social media presence.

11. Universal Youth and Play- Portsoken

Provider: YMCA London City and North (formerly the London Borough Tower Hamlets)

Contract expiry: 31/03/22

Overarching service aim: To deliver youth services that adhere to the youth work and play principles and that raise the aspirations of children and young people in the City of London.

Service users: 13–19 year olds (25 years for care leavers and people with SEND).

Priority groups: Looked-after children, leaving care, SEND, identify as LGBTQIA+, young carers, at risk of offending, Bangladeshi background, NEET, and young people living on the Mansell Street, Middlesex Street and Golden Lane estates.

Delivery: Weekly at Portsoken Community Centre.

Quarter highlights:

- Sessions delivered per quarter: 24
- Young people engaged: 26
- Young people with SEND engaging in the service: 2
- Bangladeshi girls: 6
- Good links with Golden Lane Leisure Centre, the City's Information Advice and Guidance service, and City Police created.
- Service delivery included a range of activities such as CV writing, sports sessions, a community fun day, and outreach programmes.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Delivery of the new universal youth and play service, which is scheduled to begin in Q1 of 2022/23.
- Increase the number of time credits issued to young people within the service.
- Increased online promotion and social media presence.
- Maximising the use and benefits of the new Portsoken Community Centre.

12. City Youth Forum

Provider: Prospects

Contract expiry: 31/01/23

Overarching service aim: To provide young people who live, work or study within the square mile the opportunity to shape services, get involved in campaigns, community initiatives and volunteering, and build friendships with like-minded people nationally.

Service users: 11–19 year olds (25 years for care leavers and people with SEND).

Priority groups: Looked-after children, leaving care, SEND, identify as LGBTQIA+, young carers, at risk of offending, Bangladeshi background, NEET, and young people living on the Mansell Street, Middlesex Street and Golden Lane estates.

Delivery: Monthly youth forums

Quarter highlights:

- Session delivered per quarter: 3
- Attendance in the quarter: 17

- Young people with SEND engaging in the service: 2
- Attendance from City residents on estates: 5
- The forum's activity focused on the City of London's climate strategy, with Corporation officers and members attending a session delivered at the Guildhall. The campaign and its benefits were then promoted on the forum's Instagram page.
- Provision of a drop-in session enabled young people to complete exam preparation and focus on their education and career goals. Participants who completed the sessions received specialist information, advice, and guidance to support their development.

Areas for improvement:

- Increase participation among City residents and priority groups.
- Review and implement opportunities for increased social media presence and engagement.
- The implementation of a new programme of commitments for the next elected Member and Deputy Members of Youth Parliament.
- Increase the number of time credits issued to young people within the service.

13. Afghan Youth Service

Provider: YMCA London City and North

Contract expiry: 30/06/22

Overarching service aim: To support people aged between 16 and 25 years old with their transition to living in England, with language and culture, facilitating engagement and the integration with different groups within the community, and to raise their aspirations.

Service users: 16+ year olds staying in the two Hotels in the City, as part of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Highlights: The service has been newly commissioned to start in January 2022 following partnership work across the Corporation, which identified the specific need and approaches to meeting it. A taster session was delivered during the Christmas holidays and 38 young people attended.

Areas for improvement: The service will be reviewed regularly as part of the Commissioning Team's quarterly contract monitoring schedule, to develop and improve the service.

14. Community Sports Development Service

Provider: Fusion Lifestyle

Contract expiry: 31/03/23

Service users: All ages

Overarching service aim: To provide a balanced programme of recreational, sporting and community activity that supports the improved health and wellbeing of people living, studying and working in the Square Mile.

Delivery: Fusion Lifestyle deliver a range of targeted sports participation programmes for young people.

Quarter highlights:

- Total attendance: Over 1,175
- Junior activity attendance: 1,080
- Young people with SEND engaging in the service: 10
- Attendances for girls' school football at City of London School: 388
- Increasing London Youth Games participation, with 29 runners representing the City of London, resulting in a 13th place finish out of 33 London Boroughs
- Free use of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre sports hall to enable City of London Police to provide indoor cricket to primary-age Afghan young people
- Successful application to the Tackling Inequalities Fund in partnership with the London Sport and the City Parent Carer Forum to provide an inclusive offer to support families with young people with SEND.

Quotes from the SEND programme:

“Joining this gym (Golden Lane Leisure Centre) has helped me transform to the level I’m at now. It’s really helped me progress in building my muscles and this training has really paid off. It makes me feel better and more confident.” – Young person

“... [he] loves coming to the sessions, and it’s been wonderful to see his confidence and self-esteem grow. They also give him a really accessible opportunity to socialise with kids his age.” – Parent

Opportunities for improvement:

- Increase outreach delivery within estates and in the community. Fusion Lifestyle have plans to deliver sessions from Mansell Street estate in the spring.
- Continue to increase the number of City teams entered in the London Youth Games.
- Increase the number of City residents accessing the service.

15. Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Provider: Fit for Sport/ The Aldgate School

Contract period: Easter, summer and Christmas holidays 2021 onwards

Service users: Children that live or go to school in the City, who are eligible for free school meals

Overarching service aim: The HAF Programme, funded by the Department for Education, provides children who are eligible for free school meals with activities, food and healthy eating support during the school holidays. The offer must include four hours of activity a day for four days a week, over a total of six weeks.

Christmas HAF highlights:

- Four full-day sports camps were delivered at Golden Lane Leisure Centre by Fit for Sport, an Ofsted-registered holiday camp provider. The service delivered a safe, supportive, and fun sporting environment.
- Eligible HAF children who attended over Christmas: 20
- Total attendance: 72
- Food vouchers provided to all eligible free school meal children.
- Food boxes provided to HAF participants.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Collaboration with neighbouring boroughs, expanding the range of provision available.
- Continue to drive the attendance and uptake of the HAF programme.
- Increase the offer and scope of healthy eating options.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. The Commissioning Team's work on youth services continues to support the overarching Corporate Plan and Departmental Business Plan objectives, most notably the aim to 'Contribute to a flourishing society'.

Financial implications

17. The Commissioning Team continues to focus on delivering value for money within services and as part of the recommissioning of the universal youth and play service. The team will also continue to work with our partners, providers and local authorities to maximise the use of available provision and funding to provide added value.

Resource implications

18. Not applicable.

Legal implications

19. Not applicable.

Risk implications

20. Not applicable.

Equalities implications

21. Equalities considerations are included throughout the commissioning and performance management of the youth provision. Youth providers are required to report on the service's outcomes, key performance indicators and the take-up of services from target groups.

Climate implications

22. Not applicable.

Security implications

23. Not applicable.

Conclusion

24. There is a wide range of service provision available to young people in the City. The DCCS Commissioning Team continues to manage contracts to ensure continuous improvement and to address any poor performance.

Appendices

- None

Greg Knight

Interim Senior Commissioning Manager, Commissioning and Partnerships

T: 07821301628

E: greg.knight@cityoflondon.gov.uk