


## REPORT TO CABINET

17 April 2019

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Approval of the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) bid</b>
<b>Presenting Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Children's Services – Lesley Hagger</b>
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Forward Plan (28 day notice) Reference:</b>	SMBC07/04/2019
<b>Cabinet Member Approval and Date:</b>	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services: 20/3/2019
<b>Director Approval:</b>	Executive Director of Children's Services – Lesley Hagger: 20/3/2019
<b>Reason for Urgency:</b>	Urgency provisions do not apply
<b>Exempt Information Ref:</b>	Exemption provisions do not apply
<b>Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):</b>	Ward Councillors not consulted to date
<b>Scrutiny Consultation Considered?</b>	Scrutiny has not been consulted
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Peter Forth Senior Commissioning Manager <a href="mailto:peter_forth@sandwell.gov.uk">peter_forth@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

### That Cabinet:

1. Authorises, subject to outcome of a financial appraisal of the bid, to be undertaken by the Financial Reporting and Systems team, the Executive Director - Resources, in consultation with the Leader, to approve the implementation of the Supporting Families and Youth Crime bid.

## 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to gain Cabinet approval to proceed with the implementation of the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime bid.
- 1.2 The bid was submitted in December 2018 and was subsequently approved by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in February 2019.
- 1.3 Funding of £372,520 as detailed in the bid was granted to Sandwell MBC to implement the programme.

## 2 IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The programme will contribute towards the Council's 2030 ambitions as noted below.
- 2.2 **Ambition 1.** Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.
  - The programme is designed to be preventative in nature identifying children at risk and offering support to them and their families in the key transition period from Year 6 to Year 7.
- 2.3 **Ambition 5.** Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that we ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.
  - The programme is designed to support children and young people in making positive choices, resolving conflict and identifying where to go for support.
  - In addition, the programme will work with parents to give them support in addressing issues as necessary.

- 2.4 **Ambition 10.** Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.
- Sandwell responded quickly to this grant funding opportunity and has worked with local partners to submit the bid which was ultimately successful.
  - Working collaboratively with partners the planning will now move swiftly into programme delivery

### 3 **BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 On 20 October 2018 the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a new fund: Supporting Families Against Youth Crime.
- 3.2 The emphasis of the fund is on supporting the early intervention and prevention theme of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy.
- 3.3 The Sandwell bid notes that the highest levels of youth crime in the borough are in West Bromwich and Smethwick. The bid therefore seeks to focus on:
- Children and families in West Bromwich and Smethwick
  - Children in transition from Years 6 to 7
  - Working closely with key secondary schools and associated feeder primary schools.

### 4 **THE CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 A funding bid was submitted to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government by Sandwell MBC and partners on 7 December 2018 as required.
- 4.2 On 22 February 2019 (about a month later than the previously quoted expected date) it was announced that the bid from Sandwell had been successful.
- 4.3 A total of £372,520 was approved for expenditure by the end of 2019/20 as per the bid submitted by Sandwell.

### 5 **CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 5.1 The bid was compiled by the local authority in consultation with staff from a range of agencies including Children's Trust, SCVO and Police.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The only option available is to decline the offer of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This would impact on any future bids for funding and the authority would miss the opportunity to pilot this preventative approach in the borough.
- 6.2 The funding was granted against the specific bid submitted by the authority so there is little opportunity to deviate too far from the bid. It is expected however that given the catchment area for the different schools in the Smethwick and West Bromwich areas that children from other areas of the borough will benefit from the programme.
- 6.3 Other delivery options were considered in the process of compiling the bid but for a variety of reasons these were not included in the final submission.

## **7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Grant funding, of £372,520, has been allocated until the end of financial year 2019/20.
- 7.2 Due to the timescales involved a financial appraisal has not been completed by the Financial Reporting and Systems team in time for the Cabinet meeting.
- 7.3 Therefore, Cabinet are requested to authorise Executive Director - Resources, in consultation with the Leader, to approve receipt of the grant, subject to the outcome of the financial appraisal.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The bid was submitted in the name of the local authority. Responsibility for monitoring progress of the bid will lie with the Children's Exploitation Group.

## **9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 The programme seeks to take a universal approach in engaging with children and families in the specified areas of the borough.
- 9.2 An equality impact assessment has been completed and has identified no significant equality implications.

## **10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 It is planned that the programme will utilise the existing multiagency Early Help system for recording work with children, young people and families. The finer details of how this will work in practice are currently being addressed.
- 10.2 The Early Help system has existing policies and procedures which underpin the use by different agencies. These will be reviewed in light of this bid but no issues have been identified to date.
- 10.3 Data used in relation to this programme will comply with current data protection legislation and regulations.

## **11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 11.1 The bid is clearly defined as a preventative approach to supporting children, young people and families.
- 11.2 The bid will dovetail with other programmes, for example the Early Intervention Fund bid, which is targeted at individual young people already known to organisations in the area.
- 11.3 The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision/project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks. If this report is not agreed, then the council will risk losing the investment allocated by central government and there would be an associated impact on the authority's reputation for getting things done.
- 11.4 The greatest risk for the programme is the timescale for delivery. Management and staffing resources need to be identified; mentors recruited, training completed and universal packages of delivery established in a very short period of time. Delays in this process will impact on the delivery programme.
- 11.5 Engagement with schools in the compilation of the bid was good but there are risks in moving forward as they are key delivery partners.

## **12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

- 12.1 The bid is designed to maximise existing voluntary sector networks and build up the skills of staff from a range of agencies to act as mentors for children, young people and families.
- 12.2 The programme will also seek to recruit and train local young people as mentors to extend the range of support options available for individual young people.
- 12.3 The programme will continue to maximise other services to support children, young people and families as necessary.
- 12.4 There is no funding currently identified to extend this programme beyond 31.3.20

## **13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

- 13.1 A key element of the bid is the use of mentors to offer individual support to children, young people and their parents/carers as appropriate through this key transition phase.
- 13.2 The bid as noted in section 12 seeks to utilise local voluntary sector organisations and recruit local mentors. This will be extended to include young people in the area.

## **14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

- 14.1 There is no impact on any Council managed property or land.

## **15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 Sandwell was successful in this specific bid against a range of other bids from across the country.
- 15.2 The bid gives the opportunity to trial new ways of working in a preventative approach at a key transition point for children and young people and their families.
- 15.3 The approach will be subject to on-going review and evaluation.

## 16 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 Supporting Families Against Youth Crime Fund Prospectus – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. October 2018.

**Lesley Hagger**  
**Executive Director of Children's Services**