

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE – 21 JULY 2011

SUBJECT:	YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND – 2011/2012
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DAVID ARMSTRONG
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet about the proposed allocation process for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) in 2011/12.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 Approval is sought for the young people's grant panel to allocate £180,000 YOF in 2011/12 against the funding priorities set out in the Grant Allocation Process in Appendix 1, section 3.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 The YOF allocation is now part of the Children and Young People's Department budget funded through the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). Therefore, Cabinet approval is required for the allocation process.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 In 2006, Wirral was allocated YOF and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) from the then Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The two funds were for young people aged 13-19 years and aimed to:
1. Give young people a voice in making decisions
 2. Help involve disadvantaged and hard to reach young people
 3. Improve things to do and places to go for young people in their neighbourhoods
 4. Increase investment in youth facilities, particularly in deprived areas
 5. Contribute to Every Child Matters (ECM) outcome areas
- Part of the criteria for the allocation of these funds was that young people, aged 13-19 years, were the decision makers, applicants and beneficiaries.

- 4.2 The YOF was for young people to bid for new activities, for example residential. Whereas, the YCF was to be spent on capital items which included refurbishments, IT equipment, youth shelters etc.
- 4.3 Over the past five years the YOF has supported niche and innovative projects which have created new opportunities for young people to experience. Recipient groups have reported that the YOF has enabled young people to enjoy experiences that are often out of their financial reach or beyond the core capacity of the supporting organisation. The funding has been instrumental in the development of relationships between the Local Authority and voluntary sector providers to create a broader Integrated Youth Support Service; the outcome of which has ultimately enhanced the Youth Offer throughout each of the districts across Wirral.
- 4.4 The YOF is now part of the Early Intervention Grant within the Children and Young People's Department budget. It is proposed that the amount available in 2011/12 for young people to allocate should be £180,000. This sum can be met from within the existing budget provision.
- 4.5 The suggested allocation process for 2010/11 is attached at Appendix 1.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 This report outlines an allocation process, therefore no risks are outlined.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 As this report outlines an allocation process, this is not applicable.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The draft allocation process will be taken to the young people's grant panel for further consultation.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 Voluntary, community and faith youth organisations will be directly involved in the grant panel.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 The grant panel will be supported by Youth Service personnel.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The successful applications will aim to increase the opportunities available to vulnerable and hard to reach young people. The grant panel is representative of young people from diverse groups across Wirral.

11.2 No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are none.

Background papers

- *Youth Matters* - 2005
- *Participation Next Steps* – Youth Service Advisory Committee, 21st September 2006
- *Youth Opportunity Fund & Youth Capital Fund* – Youth Service Advisory Committee, 14th December 2006
- *Youth Challenge Competition Fund* – “Actions Speak Louder”, Youth Service Advisory Committee, 15th March 2007
- *Aiming High for Young People* – 2007
- *Youth Opportunity Fund & Youth Capital Fund* – Youth & Play Service Advisory Committee, 8th October 2007
- Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund 2006-2009 – Youth & Play Service Advisory Committee, 12 February 2009

REPORT AUTHOR: **Lindsay Davidson**
Principal Manager, Youth & Play Service
telephone: (0151 637 6370)
email: lindsaydavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – 2011/12 YOF – Grant Panel, Allocation Process and Criteria

Appendix 1

2011/12 YOF – Grant Panel, Allocation Process and Criteria

It is intended that the grant panel application process and funding priorities set out below follow the same structure established in previous years.

1) Grant Panel

Over the past years, numerous young people have been invited to be part of the grant panel including those from schools, voluntary and statutory youth groups and Area Youth Forums. In addition, young people have been asked if they wished to be part of a future panel at events such as United Kingdom Youth Parliament and Youth Conference/Parliament. Young people who were harder to reach have been specifically targeted to be represented on the panel, such as Children in Care, young people with disabilities or learning difficulties and young people from black and minority ethnic groups.

Prior to any decision making, the grant panel undertakes a comprehensive training programme. The training covers the process of scoring applications against set criteria with particular emphasis on equality of opportunity and confidentiality. For the past two panels the training has been jointly facilitated by young people from the previous year's grant panel and youth workers. Recruitment to add to the existing young people's grant panel will commence in July 2011.

2) Application Process

August 2011	The fund will be advertised
Mid September 2011	Closing date for applications
September 2011	Grant panel desk top evaluation
October 2011	Applicants presentations and interviews
October 2011	Final decisions and allocations
October 2011 – March 2012	Monitoring visits by panel
31 March 2012	Successful projects finish
15 June 2012	Deadline for project evaluation reports

The funds will be advertised in the local media, TeenWirral and via the Council website. Notification will also be emailed to all schools, youth units and the voluntary, community and faith youth sectors.

Applicants will receive an application pack with comprehensive guidance about the fund's criteria and the process of application.

Once the application forms are received the grant panel will undertake a desk top evaluation, scoring each one against set essential criteria. If an application meets all of these essential elements, the young people who have applied will be asked to give a short presentation to the panel. At the presentation the grant panel ask the

applicants various questions regarding their application and once again, score the presentation on set criteria.

Following the presentations all applications will be brought back to the full grant panel for ratification and if they are successful, for decisions regarding the amount of funding allocated.

Independent observers will be invited to sit at presentations and crucial grant panel decision making meetings.

Once the allocations have been agreed successful groups will be invited to a briefing to ensure that they understand the monitoring and evaluation requirements for these funds.

3) Funding Priorities

In the first year of operation the money for both funds was indicatively allocated to the four Children and Young People's Department districts, with an amount 'top sliced' for vulnerable and Wirral-wide groups.

Since then, the young people on the grant panel have consulted with numerous young people and as a direct result, have developed their understanding and awareness of the issues important to Wirral young people. This led to certain funding priorities, namely:

- Access to transport – e.g. Saveaways
- Teenage pregnancy – e.g. Virtual Babies Project
- Drug and alcohol misuse – e.g. Mistakes and Bladdered Board Game
- Youth arts and music projects – e.g. Totally Talented
- Homelessness – Forum Housing Association
- Environmental projects which benefit the community – e.g. Dig It Project

It is proposed that these priorities are maintained for 2011/12.

In light of the recent Early Intervention Grant (EIG) Commissioning round, pertaining to young people's risk taking behaviour (RTB) the grant panel will ensure that they communicate with the EIG Commissioners to ensure synergy between the two funds.

4) Intended Outcomes

Outcomes for young people will vary depending on whether they are members of the grant panel, applicants or beneficiaries:

Grant Panel

Outcomes for the grant panel will include:

- Enabling young people to have a voice in making decisions, particularly those who are disadvantaged and harder to reach

- Developing skills in - Interviewing; decision making; equality of opportunities and diversity; team work; accountability; working under pressure to meet tight deadlines; understanding service priorities; needs and targets; budget and resource management; value for money.

Applicants

Outcomes for young people who apply will include developing skills in:

- Writing funding applications; preparing and delivering presentations; interview techniques; costing projects; monitoring and evaluating projects; writing evaluation reports.

Beneficiaries

Outcomes for young people as beneficiaries of successful applications will include:

- Enabling enjoyable experiences that are often out of young people's financial reach or beyond the capacity of the supporting organisation
- Through the development of partnership work, resources will be shared between various agencies, thus enhancing opportunities on offer
- An enhanced youth offer available across the four Wirral Districts, improving things to do and places to go for young people in their neighbourhoods
- Increased investment in youth provision, particularly in deprived areas