

Report to:

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Relevant Officer:

Lisa Arnold, Head of Parks, Leisure and Catering Services
Sara McCartan, Head of Adolescent Services

Date of Meeting:

7 October 2021

REVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview of the youth provision review currently being undertaken across Blackpool, including scope, purpose and timescales.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To support the youth provision review currently being undertaken.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure the youth provision review is thorough and rounded, ultimately providing clear recommendations and ambitions for developing youth provision across the town.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The youth review will predominantly contribute to priority two, however it is likely that there will also be some indirect contribution to priority one:

- Priority One - The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.
- Priority Two - Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 Scope of the Report:

The report provides an overview of the scope of the youth review and how this was developed.

6.2 Following a number of meetings with third sector youth providers, it was agreed that a review of youth provision across the town was required to understand the current position. A sub-group has been established and includes representatives from the following organisations:

- The Boathouse Youth
- The Boys and Girls Club
- The Magic Club
- Street Life
- Blackpool Football Club Community Trust

6.3 In addition, the sub-group has two Councillor representatives – Cllr Hugo and Cllr Galley.

6.4 An in-depth specification was developed collaboratively by the sub-group and submissions collectively scored. Following the scoring, the National Youth Agency (NYA) have been appointed to undertake the review.

6.5 An overview of the specification is outlined below:

Analysis of existing youth provision in Blackpool including:

- Geographical mapping of youth provision across Blackpool;
- Quality of physical assets used by identified youth providers for youth provision;
- Level of engagement and provision;
- Comparison of engagement figures with comparable authorities/areas;
- Skills analysis of youth provision sector;

- Impact of current youth provision on the lives of young people in Blackpool through a social return on investment calculation.
- 6.6 Review of youth club operation including:
- Management
 - Governance
 - Workforce
 - Delivery
- 6.7 Engagement with young people, including:
- Findings from 1000 surveys with young people to understand what services they want and need, covering both those engaged and not engaged in youth provision;
 - In-depth interviews through a minimum of ten focus groups with young people, both those who are already engaged in youth activities provision and those that are not engaged in youth provision. Focus groups will include targeted cohorts such as Our Children and Care Experienced Young People, Children not accessing mainstream education and targeted areas with a prevalence of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 6.8 Engagement with key stakeholders:
- Findings from surveys, in-depth interviews and focus groups, and any other engagement with key stakeholders including youth providers;
 - Findings from minimum 100 surveys completed by parents/ carers of Blackpool children and young people.
- 6.9 Summary of data gathering and consultation, including:
- Identify gaps, taking into account the analysis carried out;
 - Identify key themes emerging.
- 6.10 Development Plan that:
- Demonstrates consideration of the demographics of Blackpool;
 - Outlines future opportunities for youth provision in Blackpool;
 - Outlines opportunities for links/partnerships with wider services and partners;
 - Makes recommendations using evidence from data analysis and consultation undertaken;
 - Includes consideration of best practice examples;
 - Outlines key objectives linked to identified themes.
- 6.11 NYA will provide the following reports:
- Report 1 - A stand-alone executive summary setting out the key messages for the Council arising from the assessment;

- Report 2 - A stand-alone report detailing the engagement with young people, including the analysis on a question by question basis;
- Report 3 - A detailed report to include the literature review, good practice, data analysis, qualitative analysis, a summary of the key themes emerging from the qualitative comments in emails/letters and a high level summary of the detailed submissions;
- Report 4 - An aspirational development plan that outlines the future potential of youth provision in Blackpool.

6.12 **Next Steps**

The review commenced in early September 2021, with questionnaires being developed collaboratively with the youth review sub-group. Over the next two months consultation will be carried out with children and young people and wider stakeholders. Alongside this will be the review of youth club operations and a desktop exercise to map out current provision across the town.

6.13 It is anticipated the review will be complete in early 2022, with the required reports and development plans produced in February 2022.

6.14 **Budget Information**

The cost of this review is £68,385 in total. Blackpool Council will contribute £38,385 whilst the NYA anticipate securing Department for Education funding for the remaining £30,000, which will be funded at risk by the NYA in the interim.

6.15 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 The review will seek to consult with young people from a variety of backgrounds, with the consultation processes being accessible through a number of different methods. The review may identify gaps in existing provision for specific population groups, which will be addressed through the development plan and help shape future priorities.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

None.

13.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:

Stakeholder consultation will be undertaken as part of the review.

14.0 Background papers:

None.