

# Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday 29 October 2015

## Youth Work Services Redesign

Item number 7.14  
Report number  
Executive/routine  
Wards All

### Executive summary

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Children and Families (Schools and Community Services) have contracts with 11 organisations that come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The department is keen to provide some continuity of service whilst undertaking a consultation process to design a new service specification that prioritises open access youth work. The voice of young people will be particularly important in shaping the new specification. The waiver will enable extensions of elements of some existing contracts to be offered from April 2016 to September 2016.

### Links

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Coalition pledges [P1, P5](#)  
Council outcomes [CO1, CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5, CO6](#)  
Single Outcome Agreement [SO3](#)

## Youth Work Services Redesign

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 To agree the award of extensions of contracts for up to 8 providers based on the negotiated specifications that reflect a renewed focus on open youth work provision.

### Background

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- 2.1 The youth work contracts have been reviewed and extended with little amendment of the service specifications which were primarily based on the original grant applications back in 2010.
- 2.2 In July 2015 the Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium (EYWC) brought together representatives from the Council's Community Learning and Development Service (CLD), the voluntary youth work sector and other interested parties to identify priorities for youth work that give prominence to universal provision. The result of these discussions was a Youth Work Statement of Intent.

### Main report

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- 3.1 Children and Families wishes to redesign the youth work services using co-production contractual arrangements with the providers listed in the appendix. The specifications covering the extension period will be revised to fit with the priorities articulated in the Youth Work Statement of Intent in the initial phase of the new project. These will be further developed for new contracts to be awarded in October 2016. A key feature will be how the new specifications incorporate the views of young people and stakeholders to meet strategic outcomes.
- 3.2 The current specifications of service have been analysed by officers and meetings held with the relevant providers to work together to identify the elements of these specifications that would be consistent with the priorities identified within the Youth Work Statement of Intent. These include:
  - 3.2.1 Universal/open access;
  - 3.2.2 For 11 – 25 year olds, with a particular emphasis on 11 – 18 year olds;
  - 3.2.3 Undertaken voluntarily;
  - 3.2.4 Builds from where young people are;

- 3.2.5 Recognises the young person and the youth worker as partners in a learning process.
- 3.3 Work has begun on a wide scale consultation process with young people and other stakeholders to draw together their views about youth work. The service area has sent out a survey for young people to complete and it is anticipated that over 500 young people will respond. To complement this approach, a series of focus groups will be set up to gain further views from young people. These will pick up on themes from the returned surveys and explore them in more detail. Other external and internal stakeholders will also be consulted to ensure a wider representation of views.
- 3.4 In addition, officers will review a range of existing information gathered from young people. This will include the results of the Youth Talks activities in South Edinburgh and Total Craigroyston.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that this information gathering process will be completed by March 2016 at the latest to inform the new service from October 2016.
- 3.6 The Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) state that for services in excess of £25,000 a public advertisement followed by an invitation to tender should be carried out before the award of contract. Under Paragraph 9, the CSOs can be waived if justified as a legislative exemption or in the Council's best interests. It is considered that in these circumstances a waiver is justified in the Council's best interests and that these contracts are currently exempt from the full EU tendering requirements as being "Social Services".

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 Children and Families agrees up to 8 extensions of contract with the providers listed in the appendix for a period of 6 months (1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016) with a focus on universal open youth work services.
- 4.2 Children and Families develops a service specification to tender in spring 2016.
- 4.3 A revised youth work service based on the new specification is in place by October 2016.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 The total value of the contracts covered by this waiver report was £934,462 in 2015-16.
- 5.2 The maximum potential value of the 6 month waiver is £350,098.
- 5.3 Anticipated savings to be achieved from the initial re-design are £234,265.

## **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 Should the waiver not be agreed there is a high risk that young people could lose their service in an unplanned manner.
- 6.2 There is a risk, should the waiver not be agreed, that best value is not being demonstrated in line with CSO's that require all services valued above £25,000 to be competitively tendered. However quality and price are part of continuous improvement discussions and reporting with the incumbent providers.
- 6.3 The contract values for the proposed contracts are above the minimum threshold set for public contracts that are regulated by the European Procurement Regulations, as such there is a risk of challenge to the direct award of these contracts should there be any potential cross-border interest. However, "Social Services" are currently exempt from the strict application of full EU tendering requirements, but will be incorporated into these requirements through new legislation during 2016.
- 6.4 The Regulations require as a minimum a notification when a contract is awarded for social welfare contracts. There is an opportunity to confirm contract award to meet the Council's obligations, thus reducing potential risk of future challenge.
- 6.5 The risk of challenge by an alternative provider is very low given the nature of the service provided and the short length of the contract.
- 6.6 Organisations will apply to the new Children and Families grants programme for support and will drop out of the redesign process.
- 6.7 The required level of savings is not achieved in the extension period of April to September 2016.

## **Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 An Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment is being developed as part of the redesign work.

## **Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 The duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 have been considered in respect of this report. Implementation of the redesign does not contradict our duties as a public body under this legislation.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 A co-production approach is being used to deliver the redesigned specifications of service.

## Background reading/external references

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Youth Work Statement of Intent (Appendix 2)

[Youthlink Scotland's Statement on the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work](#)

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## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P1 – Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care P5 – Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities CO3 – Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy CO5 – Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities CO6 – Our children's and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO3 – Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – List of current providers

Appendix 1

Current providers

Name of Organisation	Value of contract 2015/16 (£)
Canongate Youth	157,000
Citadel Youth Centre	154,237
Edinburgh City Youth Café (6VT)	58,242
Pilton Retreat	55,768
Pilton Youth & Children's Project	160,170
SCOREscotland	62,326
The BIG Project	33,845
WHALE Arts Agency	64,306
West Granton Community Trust	89,505
Wester Hailes Youth Agency	99,108
TOTAL	934,462



## **Statement of Intent for Youth Work in Edinburgh August 2015**

### **Context**

The critical role played by universal youth work in improving outcomes for young people has recently been re-affirmed by the Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium and Edinburgh University literature review 'Universal Youth Work – a critical review' 1. This is also echoed in the current National Youth Work Strategy (2014-19) and 'Believing in Young People', the existing youth work strategy for Edinburgh published in 2008.

Youth work is embedded in the recently approved Community Learning and Development (CLD) Strategy for Edinburgh (2015-18) which reinforces the need for universal youth work, stressing its role as an anchoring and foundation service that enables relationships to be established and other community based services for young people to develop.

The current funding climate provides a challenging environment for youth work and offers both threats and opportunities for the development of youth work provision in the city. Reducing budgets continue to place enormous pressures on youth work services both locally and city wide. It is important to ensure that both funders and providers have a shared view of the key priorities for the youth work sector that can shape and inform respective decisions and actions.

In July 2015 the Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium brought together representatives from the CLD Service, the voluntary youth work sector and other interested parties to identify what these priorities are. This 'Statement of Intent' is the result of these joint discussions and seeks to set out priorities for youth work that give prominence to universal provision.

### **The scale and nature of youth Work in Edinburgh**

Youth Work in Scotland is defined by 'The Statement on the Nature and Purpose of Youth Work' 2 produced by Youthlink Scotland which affirms its voluntary nature; a learning partnership and builds from where young people are. This has secured universal acceptance, and provides clear and unambiguous principles of practice that differentiate youth work from other forms of work with young people.

1 <http://www.morayhouse.me/public/Universal-Youth-Work-Summary-2015.pdf>

2 <http://www.youthlinkscotland.org/webs/245/documents/StatementnatureYW.pdf>

Youth work is also defined by those who use its services. In broad terms these are recognised as being children and young people of school age, although work often continues into young adulthood. The strength of universal youth work provision is that it is shaped and informed by the local community it serves. Universal youth work fosters an important sense of belonging, within which it offers a threefold response to young people's needs:

1. Universal provision - accessible to all young people
2. Thematic approaches - with a focus on particular topics, issues, or areas of development and
3. Supported places - where young people within universal provision have been sign posted to or identified as in need of extra support which may involve feedback to other agencies

There is an emphasis on community based approaches which reflects Edinburgh City Council's desire to deliver and manage services at a locality level and fits with Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium's view that all young people are entitled to youth work provision in their local area.

### **Priorities for youth work in Edinburgh**

In the course of these initial discussions facilitated by the Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium and informed by current policy documents, the following critical areas of youth work have been identified to strengthen the place of universal youth work in the city:

1. Young people have an entitlement to local youth work provision. Gaps in service therefore need to be identified, and opportunities for new initiatives explored.
2. A more systematic approach is required to recruit, train and support youth workers, particularly volunteers drawn from local communities and young people who have come through local youth work.
3. A pool of experienced youth work trainers should be developed, drawing from the statutory and voluntary sectors in order to develop and deliver core youth work training.
4. An action plan for youth work in the city should be developed, informed by the CLD Strategic Plan, and based on current voluntary and statutory partnerships. We need to secure young people's engagement in shaping and delivering the action plan.
5. The youth work sector's capacity to evaluate and assess the difference and impact it makes needs to be enhanced - through the use of shared (but not imposed) evaluation frameworks.
6. We should promote and support those who wish to use accredited youth work schemes.

## **Consulting the sector**

Further to the joint discussions to date it is imperative that the youth work sector is consulted to ensure that this 'statement' is shaped by and reflective of the aspirations of the sector. This will create the greatest likelihood of a framework that can helpfully inform future funding and practice.

**Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium**

**August 2015**