

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE**



**Tuesday, 14 October 2008**

**at 10.00 am**

**in Committee Room A**

Councillor Hill, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

**1. KEY DECISIONS**

None

**2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 2.1 Aiming High – Short Break Respite Care - *Director of Children's Services*
- 2.2 Phase 3 Children's Centres - *Director of Children's Services*
- 2.3 Youth Capital Fund Plus - *Director of Children's Services*

**3. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

None

**4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

**EXEMPT ITEMS**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

**5. KEY DECISION**

None

**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1 Children's Homes: Regulation 33/34 Reports (para 1) - *Director of Children's Services*

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder

14 October 2008



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** AIMING HIGH – SHORT BREAK RESPITE CARE

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### **SUMMARY**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. For the Portfolio Holder to note the funding and development for short break respite care as part of the Aiming High developments.

#### **SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

- 2.1 The Government published *Aiming High for Disabled Children* in 2007. It is a transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. The document sets out the vision behind the programme and the key improvements that Government wants to see developing and continuing in services and support for disabled children and their families. The programme is led jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH).
- 2.2 The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is for all families with disabled children have the support they need to live ordinary family lives, as a matter of course. As part of this programme funding has been allocated to develop short break respite care. This funding has been allocated via the General Sure Start Grant.

#### **RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

3. The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Children's Services issues.

**TYPE OF DECISION**

4. Non- key.

**DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

5. Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

6. For the Portfolio Holder to note the funding and development for short break respite care as part of the Aiming High developments.

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** AIMING HIGH – SHORT BREAK RESPITE CARE

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 For the Portfolio Holder to note the funding and development for short break respite care as part of the Aiming High developments.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Government published *Aiming High for Disabled Children* in 2007. It is a transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. The document sets out the vision behind the programme and the key improvements that Government wants to see developing and continuing in services and support for disabled children and their families. The programme is led jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH).
- 2.2 The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is for all families with disabled children have the support they need to live ordinary family lives, as a matter of course. As part of this programme funding has been allocated to develop short break respite care. This funding has been allocated via the General Sure Start Grant.

**3. SHORT BREAK RESPITE CARE**

- 3.1 Aiming High for Disabled Children: Short Breaks implementation guidance has been issued which sets out the requirements for Local Authorities over the next three years. It sets out a full service core offer for short break respite care that needs developing as follows:
- be based on a needs assessment of the local disabled child population, taking into account the voice of disabled children, young people and their families;
  - offer a significantly greater volume of short break care provision set against a 2007 -2008 baseline, reflecting the additional funding levels available from government;
  - use fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria that enable short breaks to be used as a preventative service and

which do not restrict provision to those threatened by family breakdown or crisis;

- offer a wide range of reliable local short break provision, tailored to families needs and including:
  - a) support for disabled children and young people in accessing activities in universal settings, delivered through the following:
    - the support of a befriending, sitting or sessional service;
    - measures that build the skills of universal service providers;
    - measures specific to severely disabled children that are undertaken to meet their physical access requirements in universal settings. These would build on and exceed DDA compliance and ensure that the most disabled are not disadvantaged;
  - b) overnight breaks, with care available in both the child's own home *and* elsewhere;
  - c) significant breaks during the day, with care available in the child's own home *and* elsewhere;
- provide positive experiences for children by promoting friendships and by encouraging social activities, new experiences and supportive relationships with carers;
- provide culturally appropriate provision that meets the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of disabled children and their families;
- ensure that provision is available on a planned and regular basis and at the times when families and young people, need breaks – this should include evenings, weekends and holiday provision, and have the capacity to respond to urgent care requirements;
- provide fit for purpose and age appropriate provision which ensures the following groups are not disadvantaged in accessing short breaks:
  - a) children and young people with ASD. These are likely to have other impairments, such as severe learning disabilities or have behaviour, which is challenging. Not all children on the Autistic Spectrum will require specialist additional short break services;
  - b) children and young people with complex health needs which includes those with disability and life limiting conditions who have reached the palliative care stage of their life cycle as well as other children and young people with complex health

needs as well as other impairments – physical, cognitive or sensory impairments;

- c) children and young people aged 11+ with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations. These children are likely to have physical impairments, and many of them will also have cognitive impairments and / or sensory impairments;
  - d) children and young people where challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments (e.g. severe learning disability). Children in this group will display behaviour which challenges services or behaviour which causes injury to themselves or others;
  - e) young people 14+. The young people who fall into this group are young people who are severely disabled and require services that are appropriate to their age:
- utilise the service provider that offers the best possible combination of skills and experience to deliver services of the highest possible quality to meet individual needs at the most efficient cost.

3.2 The Local Authority needs to demonstrate its readiness in relation to the above core offer by March 2009. A planning group has been set up to begin to develop an implementation plan. The planning group includes Children's Services officers covering early years, play, disability and care co-ordination (Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager; Penny Thompson, Childcare Market Officer; Tracey Liveras, Young People and Play Co-ordinator; Mark Gwilt, Disability Team Manager and Julie Hutchinson, Care Co-ordinator Development Officer). Following this there will be two task groups established to implement the programme. This will include a strategic and operational group.

3.3 The DCSF has commissioned 'Together for Disabled Children' to monitor the roll out of the programme nationally and regional advisers have been appointed to support the process. An initial self-assessment and first meeting with the adviser allocated to Hartlepool have taken place.

#### 4. FUNDING

4.1 The following funding is available through the General Sure Start Grant for short break respite care:

	Revenue	Capital
2008/2009	£40,000	£0
2009/2010	£107,200	£53,600
2010/2011	£345,800	£125,100

- 4.2 The government have also allocated funding for short break respite care to Primary Care Trusts. This funding is part of the PCTs base budget and the PCT is unable to provide an exact figure of the amount involved. However, health needs associated with respite care will be identified so that the PCT can be asked to commission these.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 This programme is specifically for disabled children as set out in the core offer. Disabled children and their families will be fully involved in the development of future short break services. Officers within the children with disabilities team, Specialist and Safeguarding division have contacted all families in the care co-ordination process to request their involvement. A number of families have indicated that they want to be involved and have been contacted to begin this process. Officers are also working with Contact a Family to support the participation of parents.
- 5.2 A key priority within this piece of work is the involvement of children and young people. Workers within the children with disabilities team have begun initial discussions with children and young people but this needs developing. This area has been identified as a priority both within the development of short break respite care and also the participation strategy.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 For the Portfolio Holder to note the funding and development for short break respite care as part of the Aiming High developments. A further report will be brought to inform the Portfolio holder of progress and proposals in relation to the development of short break care.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager  
01429 523671

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder

14 October 2008



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** PHASE 3 CHILDREN'S CENTRES

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### **SUMMARY**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the development of a Phase 3 Children's Centre at Throston Primary School.
- 1.2 To note the possible reconfiguration of the reach of the Phase 1 Children's Centres.

#### **SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

- 2.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on Local Authorities to improve the outcomes of children aged 0-5 years old through the development of Children's Centres. Children's Centres need to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support, outreach to parents and child and family health services.
- 2.2 Hartlepool were required to develop five Phase 1 Children's Centres in the 15% most deprived areas of town and two Phase 2 Children's Centres in the 30% most deprived areas of town. These centres have been designated and are open to children and families. The Local Authority is required to develop one further centre by March 2010 to ensure all areas of the town are covered.

#### **RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

3. The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Children's Services issues.

#### **TYPE OF DECISION**

4. Non- key.



**DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

5. Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the development of a Phase 3 Children's Centre at Throston Primary School.
- 6.2 The Portfolio Holder to note the situation in relation to further Phase 3 Children's Centre services.

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** PHASE 3 CHILDREN'S CENTRES

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the development of a Phase 3 Children's Centre at Throston Primary School.
- 1.2 To note the possible reconfiguration of the reach of the Phase 1 Children's Centres.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on Local Authorities to improve the outcomes of children aged 0-5 years old through the development of Children's Centres. Children's Centres need to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support, outreach to parents and child and family health services.
- 2.2 Children's Centre guidance (DFES 2004) set out the requirement to develop Phase 1 Children's Centres in the 15% most deprived areas of the town. A public consultation took place and the following centres were developed:
  - Headland Children's Centre
  - St John Vianney Children's Centre
  - Chatham House Children's Centre
  - Lowthian Road/Lynnfield Children's Centre
  - Rossmere and St Teresa's Children's Centre
- 2.3 Further guidance was issued in 2005 to develop Phase 2 Children's Centres in the 30% most deprived areas of the town. The 30% most deprived areas of town that were not covered by Phase 1 Children's Centres were Stranton and Rift House. Following a public consultation centres have been developed at Stranton Primary School, and Rift House and Kingsley Primary Schools.

**3. PHASE 3 CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

- 3.1 Phase 3 Children's Centre guidance (DCSF) was issued in 2007 setting out the requirements for Phase 3 Children's Centres. The Local Authority need to ensure that Phase 1, 2 and 3 centres reach all areas of the town.

3.2 Phase 3 Children's Centres do not have to deliver the full core offer as delivered by Phase 1 and 2 centres. Phase 3 centres will develop sessional universal services and signpost to targeted and specialist services.

3.3 Together for Children have been contracted by the DCSF to support and monitor the development of Children's Centres across the country. Officers have met with the regional adviser for Together for Children to identify the areas which need to be covered by the final children's centre. Analysis has been carried out on the numbers of children currently reached by a Children's Centre and the levels of deprivation in each area. Following this analysis Together for Children have identified three areas that need reaching in the development of one further centre and the reconfiguration of current centres as follows:

- Throston
- Seaton Carew
- Fens

Based on levels of deprivation (IIMD 2007) Throston has the higher levels of deprivation. The Local Authority is therefore required to develop a centre in the Throston ward and develop outreach services in the Seaton and Fens wards. This is in line with the requirements of the Children's Centre guidance and will ensure that Together for Children designate the Phase 3 centre. If Throston is not designated the Local Authority would not achieve its target.

3.4 Primary Schools and health centres are cited in the guidance as delivery points for Phase 3 Children's Centres as they already have a large number of children and families engaging with them. The PCT have carried out a consultation in the Throston ward to develop GP services. Unfortunately the timescales for these developments do not fit with the Children's Centres timescales. Therefore the only other site that could be developed as a children's centre would be Throston Primary School.

3.5 Initial discussions have taken place with the Headteacher of Throston Primary School. The school and governors have indicated that they would welcome a Phase 3 children's centre on the school site.

#### **4. RECONFIGURATION OF PHASE 1 CENTRES TO COVER SEATON AND FENS WARDS**

4.1 In order to ensure all areas of the town are covered by Children's Centres there needs to be a reconfiguration of existing centres. The current reach of Children's Centres does not officially include Fens ward and Seaton Carew ward although outreach work is taking place in both these areas.

- 4.2 In Phase 1 development of the Children's Centres programme (2004) Rossmere and St Teresa's Children's Centres was designated with The Link, Lealholme Road being a delivery point. Officers are in discussions with Together for Children to designate The Link separately to the Rossmere building (Rossmere Way). This would enable Rossmere and St Teresa's Children's Centre to reach the Fens ward and The Link, Lealholme Road to reach the Seaton Carew ward. The services developed in the Fens and Seaton wards would be outreach as they are not in the most deprived wards.
- 4.3 Services are already being developed for the Seaton area of town in partnership with Seaton Carew Nursery. These services will continue to be developed through outreach work. Capital work is not currently planned in the Seaton area due to the Schools Transformation programme. The Children's Centres capital fund needs committing by January 2009 and to be spent by March 2010 therefore it will not be possible to spend Children's Centre capital in the Seaton area. Early Years Funding in 2009/2011 is available to further develop early years services and therefore dependent on the outcome of the School Transformation programme will be available for settings in the Seaton area if a need is identified.
- 4.4 Services are also being developed in the Fens ward. Fens Primary School has committed their devolved capital funding to build a community facility attached the school. The Integration Support Manager for the South locality is in discussions with the Headteacher to deliver children's centres services at the school.

## **5. BUDGET**

- 5.1 Funding for Children's Centres is received into the Local Authority via the General Sure Start Grant. This grant is received direct from the DCSF and is ringfenced.
- 5.2 The Children's Centres funding is split into capital and revenue. Capital funding will be used to develop a Children's Centre building at Throston Primary School. Revenue funding for the Throston Children's centre will be available once the building is open for services. This funding will be allocated to services by the Integration Support Manager in the North 2 locality.
- 5.3 Revenue funding is also available for the development of services in the Fens and Seaton wards and will be allocated by the Integration Support Manager in the South locality in partnership with stakeholders.

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on the local authority to improve outcomes for children aged 0 – 5 years old. The Local Authority is required to develop one Phase 3 Children's Centre by 2010. The development of a Children's Centre in the Throston ward will ensure our targets are met.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 Children's Centres must be accessible to all children and families. Locality staff ensure that all vulnerable groups are included in the planning and delivery of service. The Children's Centres are represented on the Children's Services diversity steering group.

## **8. SECTION 17**

- 8.1 The development of children's centres supports early intervention to those families who are disadvantaged and in need in order to support them in parenting and supporting successful outcomes for their children.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 For the Portfolio Holder to approve the development of a Phase 3 Children's Centre at Throston Primary School.
- 9.2 To note the possible reconfiguration of the reach of the Phase 1 Children's Centres.

## **10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure the Local Authority duty to improve outcomes through Children's Centres is met.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager  
01429 523671

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder

14 October 2008



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services.

**Subject:** Youth Capital Fund Plus

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### **SUMMARY**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform and seek comments from the Portfolio Holder about funding received in Hartlepool for the provision of youth facilities in areas of crime and need.

#### **2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

The report concerns the provision of capital funding from the Department for Children Schools and Families, via the Youth Taskforce, in the form of Youth Capital Fund Plus. This initiative builds on the excellent work existing in Hartlepool in relation to the Youth Opportunity (YOF) and Youth Capital Funds (YCF). Via these processes, young people bid for youth activities and capital funding, to a group of young people, (Hartlepool Grant Givers – "GGs"), who then disperse the funding according to given criteria. This system, with appropriate support and safeguards, has worked very well, and the Youth Capital Fund Plus builds on this.

The report gives the criteria linked to the Youth Capital Fund Plus, and goes on to identify 3 priority areas based on these. Based on the experience of YOF and YCF, an appropriate process and risks are identified, to inform the use of Youth Capital Fund Plus.

#### **3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

The provision of youth facilities and activities is a key area of interest and responsibility of the Portfolio Holder.

**4.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

The level of funding is significant and would normally be the basis of a key decision. However, the process associated with the funding is pre-determined by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the decisions on spending must be made by young people.

**5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Via the Children's Services Portfolio Holder.

**6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to note and comment on the report.

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** Youth Capital Fund Plus

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Youth Opportunity (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) have been operating successfully in Hartlepool since 2006, on behalf of the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF). A group of Hartlepool young people, (Hartlepool Grant Givers – “GGs”), have been trained and supported to disperse the funds to young people who apply for finance to carry out appropriate positive activities.
- 1.2 The main principle of young people applying, and young people dispersing the funds is well established in Hartlepool. The scheme is regarded very highly in the town and the quality and expertise, shown by the young people, has been independently endorsed by academic study (“Young People and Decision Making: Hartlepool Grant Givers” – part of PhD thesis, Durham University). Further, their work is audited annually by Government Office on behalf of the DCSF.
- 1.3 To date the GGs have supported many groups and individuals in Hartlepool, with a strong emphasis on those more disadvantaged or vulnerable. In this financial year the group will distribute funding as follows: Youth Opportunity Fund £135,500; Youth Capital Fund £65,000.
- 1.4 Longer term the Government's aspiration is that young people should be actively shaping decisions on at least 25% of local authorities' budgets for positive activities by 2018.

## **2. YOUTH CAPITAL FUND PLUS**

- 2.1 For this year only, the 50 most deprived authorities, via the Government's Youth Taskforce, will receive an additional £452,000 in the form of the Youth Capital Fund Plus (YCF Plus).
- 2.2 YCF Plus is a one-off addition to fund new or refurbished youth facilities in neighbourhoods with high levels of deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour and which currently lack good quality youth provision.
- 2.3 The YCF Plus should build on the principles of YOF and YCF to bring young people and the local community together in the design and delivery of youth facilities. Young people, parents and community members should be encouraged to volunteer in the delivery of activities.



- 2.4 YCF Plus may be used to refurbish existing facilities or amenities in the identified local area, but should be driven by an ambition to deliver high quality facilities which signify major capital investment in the most deprived neighbourhoods.
- 2.5 In years 2009/10 and 2010/11, additional YOF money, (£50,000), is available as revenue to support the development of YCF Plus.

### **3. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR YCF PLUS**

- 3.1 YCF Plus has been allocated entirely in 2008/9, however, as soon as an authority submits its detailed spending plans, the Government Office may make arrangements with DCSF to re-profile their £452,000 allocation, to allow spending to be carried forward where necessary. Whilst DCSF expects the new facilities to be available to young people as soon as possible, preferably during 2008-09, it recognises the fact that these more ambitious projects, (new builds/refurbishments), are likely to take some time to complete.
- 3.2 A local authority must evidence to the Youth Taskforce that they have a thorough and up-to-date audit of what provision and facilities are available in their area as part of the statutory duty to publicise the activities to young people in their local area. This audit of provision should be compared with an analysis of neighbourhoods with high levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and deprivation in order to identify which neighbourhood would benefit most from additional resources in youth facilities. Hartlepool has completed this task as part of the Myplace process, and has involved a group of up to 90 partners and young people in determining the priority areas. The results are shown in the following table, where Dyke House, Owton and Stranton Wards are identified in the highest priority.

<u>WARD</u>	<u>YP aged 13-19 + LDD (June 08)</u>	<u>Under 18 Conception Latest figures.</u>	<u>Offences YP (07/08)</u>	<u>NEET (June 08)</u>
Brus ▲ 2	606		132	36
Burn Valley ■ 3	525	33		
Dyke House ● 1	567	42	111	29
Elwick	120			
Fens	416			
Foggy Furze ■ 3	507		90	
Grange ▲ 2	449	38		28
Greatham	180			
Hart	434			
Owton ● 1	618	42	155	34
Park	497			
Rift House	582			
Rossmere ■ 3	467	27		
St. Hild's ▲ 2	478		127	34
Seaton	507			
Stranton ● 1	588	32	140	55
Throston	524			

● 1 = Highest priority

▲ = 2<sup>nd</sup> priority■ 3 = 3<sup>rd</sup> priority

- 3.3 The local authority must show how young people, parents and the community are actively involved in shaping and delivering the investment in the youth facilities in the identified neighbourhood. Young people should retain the final decision over investment.
- 3.4 Local authorities will be required to provide an initial project plan, including a clear timeline for completion, and regular progress updates regarding the development and delivery of facilities in the selected neighbourhoods with a high level of crime, anti-social behaviour and deprivation. The Youth Taskforce will support the development through regular visits, dissemination of good practice and showcase events. Further guidance from the Youth Taskforce was recently received in September at a regional seminar.
- 3.5 The additional YOF monies should provide the necessary revenue to deliver activity through the facilities developed using YCF Plus. Decisions on how to use the additional YOF should be shaped and driven by the young people and involve the community in the identified neighbourhood. Local areas must commit to delivering activities at the times that young people and the local community want, including on Friday and Saturday nights.
- 3.6 Although there is no formal requirement for co-financing of projects, DCSF expects local authorities to seek, and lever in, involvement in both capital and revenue from other resources, including business and private sector organisations, as well as using the expertise of good voluntary and community organisations, as an indicator of genuine partnership in the delivery of youth activities.
- 3.7 Financial monitoring will be in line with that in existence for YOF and YCF, involving our own Finance Officers and Government Office.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The YCF Plus is a one off grant that is to be used as soon as possible, to provide appropriate facilities for young people in line with the guidance given. It has no financial implications longer-term providing that guidance is followed.
- 4.2 The YOF provides an additional £50,000 for years 2009/10 and 2010/11, as revenue to support the programme. The longer term revenue implications will depend on the nature of the successful bid(s). If buildings are refurbished then existing revenue should be able to be reconfigured during that time to meet longer term needs. Where young people are minded to approve new builds they will be guided to consider issues of sustainability to ensure projects will be able to continue beyond the two years when revenue is available.

## 5. TAKING THE SCHEME FORWARD

- 5.1 Following further guidance and consultation, we are now in a position to progress the YCF Plus. The Grant Givers (GGs) have had further training regarding YCF Plus and have revised their processes to accommodate this, (e.g. revising criteria and publicity).
- 5.2 Consultation with partners and young people via the Myplace process has identified 3 priority wards, which match the criteria given in the guidance. These communities will be invited to submit proposals to secure YCF Plus funds, which will add new or refurbish existing youth facilities in their area.
- 5.3 Young people, (GGs), in line with the guidance “will retain the final decisions over investment”, and will receive further appropriate support to do this, as has occurred regularly over the YOF and YCF programmes.

## 6. RISKS

- 6.1 Timescales are extremely tight and the funding is available only for this year. However, further development of our initial project plan, to give robust timelines for completion, details of the project chosen, spending plans, etc will be submitted to Government Office, allowing a re-profiling of spending plans as describe in the conditions at 2.1. which state:

“Whilst DCSF (Youth Taskforce), expects new facilities to be available to young people as soon as possible, preferably during 2008-09, it recognises the fact that these more ambitious projects (new builds/refurbishments) are likely to take some time to complete.”

- 6.2 Given the sums involved, and the known costs for new build/refurbishment, it is likely only one community will be successful. There will be inevitable disappointment to those unsuccessful. However, the transparency of the whole process, will mitigate this as far as is possible.

## 7. DECISION

No formal decision is required as the process is pre-determined by the Youth Taskforce. However, the development is significant, and consequently the Portfolio Holder is requested to note and comment on the content of this report.

### **Contact Officer:**

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