

# **FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **AGENDA**



**Thursday 21 March 2019**

**at 10.00 am**

**in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

**MEMBERS:** FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Brewer, Brown, Cranney, Harrison, Marshall, Moore, Smith, Thomas and Young.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 11 March 2019 (to follow).

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

No items

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

No items.

**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1 Use of the Child and Family Poverty Reserve – Proposed Extension of the Children's 5-19 Activities Grant for 12 Months – *Director of Finance and Policy* (to follow)

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No items.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**



# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> March 2019



**Report of:** Director Finance and Policy

**Subject:** USE OF CHILD POVERTY RESERVE – PROPOSED  
EXTENSION OF THE CHILDREN'S 5 – 19  
ACTIVITIES GRANT FOR 12 MONTHS

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Key Decision (test (i)/(ii) apply) (Previous general exception provisions apply).

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To consider the potential use of the Child Poverty Reserve for the proposed Extension of the Children's 5-19 Activities Grant for 12 months.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The establishment of the Child Poverty Reserve was originally approved by Council on 10 December 2015 and authority delegated to Finance and Policy Committee to approve the use of these one off funds. The current uncommitted balance of this reserve is £35,000.
- 3.2 As determined by Finance and Policy Committee on 17 December 2018 a significant contribution will be made to this reserve from the windfall payment the Council will receive from the sale of the King John's Tavern to JD Wetherspoon. The necessary legal processes are currently progressing between JD Wetherspoon's and the owners of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. It is not anticipated that there will be any issues in relation to the completion of the legal processes, although until this work is complete the Council will not receive the windfall payment.

## 4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 On 19 February 2019 the Children's Services Committee considered a report (Appendix A) which outlined a proposal to extend the Children's 5-19 Activities Grant for a further period of 12 months. The Children's Services Committee then referred this issue to Children's Services Committee

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP**

**25 February 2019**

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm in Committee Room C,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Brenda Harrison (Chair)

Councillors: Marjorie James, Ann Marshall and Shane Moore

Officers: Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning  
Services  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Lauderdale and Sue Little.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. EXTENSION OF THE CHILDREN'S 5-19 ACTIVITIES GRANT FOR 12 MONTHS – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services***

At the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 19 February 2019 a proposal to extend the Children's 5-19 Activities Grant for a further period of 12 months and to refer this matter to Finance and Policy Committee for a funding decision was considered. During this meeting, Members requested further detailed funding information from the Consortium who were providing the current Children's 5-19 Activities. Members agreed that a Working Group would be arranged to consider informally the potential options for the provision of this funding, including match funding up to a total of £50k.

Since the meeting of the Committee, information had been provided by the Consortium which outlined the support for juniors and holiday activities.

A discussion ensued on the funding previously allocated to the Consortium by the Council which had enabled the organisations to deliver the activities programme over the previous two years having taken a decision to cease commissioning the service for the 2017/18 financial year. Concern was

expressed by Members, that previous reassurances from the Consortium of securing additional external funding had not been realised. In addition to this, Members were disappointed to note that the Young People's Foundation had not developed as expected.

During the discussions that followed Members highlighted that the child and family poverty funding reserve was created to fund activities for children and young people across the whole town and there were a number of other organisations providing such activities that did so without the benefit of additional funding. Members expressed a desire to maximise the impact of the Child and Family Poverty Reserve by exploring new initiatives or projects that had a wider scope and reached a greater number of children and families.

### **Recommendations**

That the Children's Services Committee do not support the provision of further funding to the Consortium for the provision of Children's 5-19 Activities.

The meeting concluded at 1.55 pm

CHAIR

Working Group on 25 February 2019 and the notes from this meeting will be considered by Children's Services Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (Appendix B). A verbal update following Children's Services Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 will be provided at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting.

- 4.2 Finance and Policy Committee is requested to consider the issues detailed in Appendices A and B and determine whether they wish support an extension of the Children's 5-19 Activities Grant for a further period of 12 months.

## 5. FINANCIAL AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The potential costs of extending the Children's 5-19 Activities Grant for a further period of 12 months can be funded from the forecast Child Poverty Reserve, subject to receipt of the receipt of the windfall payment the Council will receive from the sale of the King John's Tavern to JD Wetherspoon. As detailed earlier in the report the risk of receiving these monies is low.

## 6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Legal Considerations	Detailed in Appendix A.
Consultation	No relevant issues.
Staff Considerations	Detailed in Appendix A.
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant issues.
Equality and Diversity Considerations	Not applicable.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members:
- i) Determine if they wish support a new 5-19 Activities Grant initiative for a period of 12 months and the amount to be provided from the Child Poverty Reserve, subject to:
- individual organisations providing match funding;
  - the agreement of service specification by the Children's Services Committee;
  - Council funding being conditional on the provision of monthly performance monitoring information;
  - Council funding being conditional on individual organisations providing an exit strategy by 30 September 2019 to manage the non-recurrent nature of his funding.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Included as Appendix A and B.

## 9. CONTACT OFFICERS

9.1 Chris Little  
Director Finance and Policy  
01429 523003  
[Chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Sign Off:-

Chief Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Finance and Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chief Solicitor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

19 February 2019



**Report of:** DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S AND JOINT  
COMMISSIONING SERVICES

**Subject:** EXTENSION OF THE CHILDREN'S 5 -19  
ACTIVITIES GRANT FOR 12 MONTHS

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key decision (general exception provisions apply)

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek Members' views on the proposal to extend the Children's 5 – 19 Activities Grant for a further period of 12 months and to refer this matter to Finance and Policy Committee for a funding decision.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 As part of the Children's Services savings proposals for the financial year 2017/18, a decision was taken to cease to commission a 5 – 19 Activities programme with a proposed saving of £320,000. At the same meeting, Committee also took the decision to phase this funding reduction over two years and for the financial year 2017/18 a grant of £160,000 was provided.

3.2 Following discussion on the impact of the cessation of this grant funding at a meeting of Children's Services Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Chair of Children's Services Committee proposed at the following Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 18 September 2017 that an extension of funding for this service be provided for a six month period (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018) at a cost of £64,000 and for this to be funded from the Child and Family Poverty Initiatives Reserve. Finance and Policy Committee approved the proposal.

3.3 At a Children's Services Committee held on 20 February 2018, it was proposed that the grant be extended for the further six month period through to the end of the financial year 2018/19. This proposal was accepted and the

matter was referred to Finance and Policy Committee for a decision which was taken on 12 March 2018.

- 3.4 Over the last twelve months the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consortium providers have continued to deliver weekly activity programmes and holiday schemes across four locations covering the community of Hartlepool. At the same time, the Consortium, in partnership with the local authority, has managed the development of the Young People's Foundation, the umbrella organisation designed to work on behalf of the VCS to bring grant funding into Hartlepool to create sustainability to the programmes delivered by the VCS.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider a proposal that a grant of £100,000 be provided to support the continuance of the 5 – 19 activities programme in Hartlepool delivered by the VCS Consortium for the financial year 2019/20. The Consortium has been successful in attracting a number of small grants to contribute to the running of services. However, unfortunately, a turnover of staff within the Foundation, the Consortium has not yet been able to secure sustainability funding to support the whole activities programme. The Consortium remains committed to the Hartlepool Youth Foundation and to date has raised £120,000 ringfenced funding to support the further development of Foundation. The Board of Trustees has recently engaged Youth Focus North East to review the process so far and advise on the sustainability.
- 4.2 If Members support this proposal, it is further proposed, as condition of the grant being provided, that the Consortium provide the local authority with an action plan outlining their transition plan for sustainability when the funding ceased at the end of March 2020. The implementation of this action will be monitored by the Council for the duration of the funding period so that the grant funding fully ceases by the end of this financial year.

#### **5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 If additional funding is not provided for the financial year 2019/20 the support and opportunities provided to vulnerable children across Hartlepool through the activities programme will cease on 31 March 2019.

#### **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 If Members determine they wish to support this funding request, this issue will need to be referred to Finance and Policy Committee for a funding decision as there is no existing budget provision.



**7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 There are no legal considerations arising from this report.

**8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)**

9.1 A Child and Family Poverty impact assessment is attached at **Appendix A**

**10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)**

10.1 Not applicable

**11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

11.1 There are no staffing considerations relating to Council-employed staff.

**12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

12.1 There are no asset management considerations arising from this report.

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 That Members determine whether they wish to support the proposal to extend the activities 5 -19 grant for a further 12 months at a value of £100,000 and if they, do this proposal will need to be referred to Finance and Policy Committee for a funding decision as there is no existing budget provision.

13.2 That Members consider the proposal that this funding is conditional upon the development and delivery of a financial sustainability plan that will enable the grant to cease in the 2020/21 financial year.

**14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

14.1 Members are committed to providing support services to build better beginnings and better futures for the children of Hartlepool. Providing a further grant enables support to children and young people to continue whilst

further work is undertaken to develop a financial sustainability plan through the Young People's Foundation.

- 14.2 Finance and Policy Committee have delegated authority to approve spend from the Child and Family Poverty Initiatives Reserve therefore any decision by this Committee would need to be referred to Finance and Policy Committee.

## **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 Children's Services Committee – Savings Programme 2018/19 and 2019/20 – Children's Services – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Finance and Policy Committee – Urgent Business – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Children's Services Committee – Proposal to Extend the Children's 5 -19 Activities Grant by a Further 6 Months and 'Poverty Proofing the School Day' – 20 February 2018  
Finance and Policy Committee – Proposal to Commit Funding from the Child and Family Poverty Initiatives Reserve – 12 March 2018.

## **16. CONTACT OFFICER**

- 16.1 Sally Robinson  
Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
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01429 523910

Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒