

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee

The Cabinet

Date of Committee

7th December 2006

Report Title

**Area Community Education Councils
– Funding arrangements**

Summary

This report seeks Cabinet approval for the future arrangements for allocation of ACEC funding. The report relates only to the funds used to support work with 0-19 year olds. The 19+ funds will be the subject of a separate report.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]

No

Background papers

- Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2006
- Strategic Review of Services for Young People, Cabinet reports 24.2.05, 21.7.05, 17.11.05 and 13.7.06
- Area Committees – May 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

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Local Member(s)

Not applicable

Other Elected Members

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Helen McCarthy – “Support the recommendations and note the funding available”
Cllr Richard Grant
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell

- Cabinet Member Cllr Colin Hayfield
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe - *“Approve for consideration by Cabinet.”*
Cllr Alan Cockburn
- Chief Executive
- Legal Greta Needham – *“Comments incorporated into report.”*
- Finance David Clarke – *“Comments incorporated into report.”*
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

The Cabinet – 7th December 2006

**Area Community Education Councils –
Funding arrangements**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families**

Recommendation:

That Cabinet agrees the process outlined in Paragraph 3.2 of this report to allocate and monitor ACEC funds.

1. Introduction and context

- 1.1 Area Community Education Councils (ACECs) were formed in 1992 against a background of the Authority being an enabler of services. All funding for the Youth Service (other than that required to keep premises open, e.g. rates) and Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services [WCVYS] was devolved to ACECs. Towards the end of the 1990s, the Authority began to put additional resources into the Youth Service (including WCVYS) and changed its role to a provider and enabler. This also coincided with a government move towards lifelong learning and an increase of resources through the Standards Fund.
- 1.2 Members' priority was for Youth Service capacity and full time staff to grow. At the same time, there was an increase in the resources available to the voluntary sector through Area Committees and lottery funding. ACECs have since then been funding the priority bids of the Youth Service to support direct delivery voluntary organisations to deliver youth services, as well as services for young people over 19 and community use of schools.
- 1.3 The establishment of a new Directorate for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) in April 2006 means that a number of services are reorganising. As a result of the Strategic Review of Services for Young People, the Adult Learning Service and Youth Service, which were part of the Community Education Service, have been operating as discrete services since March 2005. From April 2006, Adult Learning transferred to the Adult, Health and Community Directorate and the Youth Service (including WCVYS) is now part of the CYPF Directorate.

- 1.4 The Implementation Plan for the Strategic Review of Services for Young People identified the need to keep ACECs until March 2006 as a transitional arrangement.
- 1.5 Cabinet decided that this issue should be taken forward through the governance paper on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board. The governance paper covers a range of issues, relating to the new CYPF Directorate with its focus on integrated services to children and young people, and the major transformation of services this will require. At its meeting on 12th May, the Strategic Partnership Board confirmed its own governance arrangements with the formation of an Executive Board and wider Forum. The Forum embraces representatives from the Voluntary Sector Forum.
- 1.6 On 13th July Cabinet resolved that a further report be brought back by the Strategic Director of Performance & Development and the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families in the Autumn of 2006, including proposals on funds for the over 19 age group and for the centrally-held commissioning fund. This paper, together with **Appendix A**, outlines proposals on the commissioning fund only.

2. Funds to commission the voluntary sector under 19s

- 2.1 Following consultation with Area Committees in May 2006, transitional arrangements are in place for 2006/07 so that no group will suddenly find itself without an income. Area Committees will receive detailed reports at their November meetings in the usual manner on which groups have received support.

2.2 Future Issues for commissioning the voluntary youth sector

- 2.2.1 £82,108 has been removed from the ACEC budget as part of the CYPF Directorate's targeting strategy for meeting County Council Efficiency savings that are requested each year. This represents about 25% of the total ACEC budget. Without this budget reduction there would have been redundancies in front-line staff.
- 2.2.2 The Government has ceased the Transforming Development Fund that was controlled by the Youth Service. We are now working with the Youth Opportunity Fund, which is directly in the hands of young people. It could be argued that it has become the young people's version of the former Area Community Education Council.
- 2.2.3 This Youth Opportunity Fund is short term with a commitment of only two years of funding. This makes it very difficult to recruit staff other than on temporary/session contracts, which then impacts on the Service's ability to have a stable workforce that can develop its work across the County.
- 2.2.4 In the past ACECs' funding has been allocated across the County on the basis of population, free school meals, rural indicators, percentage of BME populations and unemployment. The new process will enable a review of this

approach and consider what gaps there are against a clearly established needs analysis. The funds need to be allocated to meet clearly determined outcomes, which stem from the Every Child Matters Agenda. There will be some commonality across the Districts and Boroughs and also some that are specific, such as rural issues.

3. Proposals for continuing with the funding stream for 2007/08

- 3.1 We need to maximise the ability of the voluntary sector to draw in funds from other grant-making bodies and this is achieved by County Council support being targeted at the infrastructure of voluntary organisations. There is little support from grant bodies for the infrastructure of a voluntary organisation. A well supported infrastructure enables organisations to have confidence in applying to other grant-making bodies for specific, often short-term projects. This approach creates the security of sustaining employment in voluntary organisations whilst also drawing in other funds that will add value to our work with children, young people and families.
- 3.2 It is recommended that officers from the Services to Young People Division work with a small a group of elected Members consisting of representation from each party and representatives of the Youth Parliament, acting as a Task and Finish Group:
- To prepare draft proposals for consideration by Cabinet for a strategic approach to the allocation of the central commissioning pot against the recognised needs analysis ; and
 - To meet up to three times a year to monitor the allocations to ensure they meet the gaps and identified need.
- 3.3 This would facilitate the implementation of:
- Service level agreements with voluntary organisations as part of the Youth Offer; and.
 - Enhance the role of WCVYS and support its well established grant programme.

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28th November 2006

Area Community Education Councils

Funding available

The total funding available in 2005/06 was £329,608, of this £36,961 was directed towards the over 19 age group.

In the November round of Area Committee reports, more detailed information will be available on how individual organisations received grants.

The total funding for 2006/07 is £247,500, of this £149,648 had already been allocated by the end of October. This includes the over 19 funds. The breakdown by Area so far is:

	Nuneaton & Bedworth	North Warwickshire	Rugby	Warwick	Stratford
Allocation	£57,000	£29,500	£45,000	£64,000	£52,000
Spent	£45,872	£21,278	£20,448	£31,450	£30,600