

# Cabinet

28 January 2021

## Targeted Youth Support – Strategic Approach

### Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1) Endorses the Warwickshire Targeted Youth Services Approach 2020-2023 set out in the Appendix
- 2) Asks that the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to including in its work programme consideration of an Annual Report detailing outcomes and progress in 12 months' time.

### 1.0 Targeted Youth Support

- 1.1 £12m of additional one-off funding will be invested into the Children and Families service across all areas of work between 2020/21 to 2022/23 (a small amount of funding was received in 2019/20). The council has been successfully awarded £3.993m from the Department for Education (DfE) and the remainder of the £12m is provided by the Council's Children Transformation fund (sourced from two years of social care grants and residual Children and Families Transformation funds) agreed by the Council in February 2019 and 2020.
- 1.2 The money will be spent across an ambitious 29 different work areas, two of those being focussed on Targeted Youth Services:

1: To expand the Targeted Youth Support offer

2: To establishing a Youth Community Fund

From the total investment fund a total of £1.497m has been agreed by Council to be invested within Youth Services between 2020/21 to 2022/23.

- 1.3 Our approach across the Children & Families Service and Targeted Youth is to deliver services in a restorative manner, in line with the principles of Restorative Practice. The organisational direction to become a well-connected and child friendly organisation.
- 1.4 Targeted Youth Support has developed a new approach for 2020-2023. The Appendix sets out how the investment will be allocated and the outcomes the County Council intends to achieve through the additional investment.

- 1.5 In summary the approach taken is to ensure a mixed economy of services. This means expanding the offer from the Council Council's own delivery of Targeted Youth Services. In addition, we value and want to support the excellent work of Voluntary and Community groups providing Youth Work within their localities. To this end the approach includes a Youth Community Fund and the establishment of new youth work alliance to provide support to the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.6 Our ambition is to create learning and development opportunities to enable more youth work to be delivered in Warwickshire of a high standard and with strong risk based knowledge of issues such as child exploitation and bladed weapon crime, for example, to have the sufficient practical application of that in-depth knowledge.
- 1.7 Warwickshire County Council is utilising £900,000 (£100,000 training investment fund and £800,000 direct funding) from the 1.497m investment to enable Targeted Youth Support in the development of Voluntary and Community Youth groups to help them increase capacity and capability. The fund will be split into "funding windows" over a 24-month period. Voluntary and Community sector groups will be supported to apply to a panel which includes members from across Political Parties within the County Council and senior officers.
- 1.8 There will be an expectation that successful groups will agree to work in collaboration with WCC Targeted Youth support and agree to the funding terms and conditions.
- 1.9 The Youth Work Alliance will be established, inviting all Warwickshire groups to participate. It is an expectation that successful bidders will collaborate with the alliance in order to shape the support for young people in Warwickshire in the future. The County Council will through the alliance provide training to the sector, linked to Youth Work Standards and a quality assurance process with a Warwickshire Youth Work Quality Mark. This will recognise good quality youth work practice, young person participation and management.
- 1.10 A Senior Youth Worker has been appointed as the vital link between WCC and the youth work voluntary sector. This post will co-ordinate the operational access to both strands of funding.

## **2.0 Targeted Youth Support Services**

- 2.1 The new approach illustrates the range of services and support offered by Warwickshire County Council Targeted Youth Support. Following feedback from schools and other partner agencies we have established Early Help group work which will be delivered within schools at no cost to schools, involving activities and discussion groups aimed at young people needing support to prevent escalation in behaviours that could be detrimental to meeting their potential. Through to specialist help, such as 1-2-1 support with

a Targeted Support Youth Worker, Health store or residential. Our approach will continue to evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of young people

### **3.0 Young Persons Participation**

- 3.1 Young people are key in shaping the services delivered by targeted Youth Support. To ensure this opportunity is available all young people can have a voice in what affects them and their communities in Warwickshire through the area forums and youth council. The Area forums represent the 5 areas of Warwickshire and focus on more local issues affecting young people. This project is open to all young people who are interested in making a difference in their communities.
- 3.2 Warwickshire Youth Council is affiliated with the British Youth Council and is an active member of the regional Midlands branch enabling Warwickshire young people's voices to be heard. The Council is made up of elected young people who represent the area they live. It meets monthly at Shire Hall and regularly online. Young people choose what issues they want to influence, challenge and support.

### **4.0 Impact and outcomes**

- 4.1 Targeted Youth Support are implementing a new measuring and recording method which will allow more effective evaluation of the youth work delivery. A substantial piece of development work to improve recording in the electronic recording system MOSIAC has been completed, which will enable outcomes for young people to be recorded and reported more effectively. It is proposed an annual update on progress, including a focus on the outcomes and impact for young people is provided to Children & Youth Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Details of the financial implications of the proposals as set out in this report can be found in section 1 and the appendix.

### **6.0 Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 Targeted youth work and services delivered through youth centres will in some instances include environmental enhancements for the community.

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendix**

Targeted Youth Strategic Approach

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This report has been considered by

- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 17th November 2020
- Corporate Board 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020