

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Lewisham Future Programme 2015/16 Revenue Savings Update – K2 Youth Offending Services		
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item	5
Class	Part 1 (open)	03 February 2015	

1. Summary

1.1. This report provides an update on the proposed savings to the Youth Offending Service's (YOS) budget for 2015 – 2018. The savings proposals are to reduce funding to this service by £200,000 (12.5% of the total budget) over the next year through a combination of:

- Efficiency savings through reduced contract values
- Reductions in service capacity

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the readiness to implement the YOS budget reductions to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee:

- The reduction in YOS general overheads (£16k)
- The reduction in YOS externally funded reparation programmes (£40k)
- The reduction in YOS externally funded programmes and contracts (£101k)
- The deletion of a vacant post in the YOS (£43k)

3. Recommendation

3.1. Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are recommended to consider and comment on the information set out in this report regarding the process for making the budget reductions.

4. Background

4.1. Following the 2015/16 savings proposals being considered by Select Committees and the Mayor during October and November 2014, updates on a number of proposals are now returning to Select Committees prior to their consideration by the Mayor in February 2015..

4.2. In England and Wales a Youth Offending Team (YOT), also known as a Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency team that is coordinated by a local authority, which is overseen by the Youth Justice Board. It deals with young offenders, sets up community services and reparation plans, and attempts to prevent youth recidivism and incarceration. YOTs were set up following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act with the intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend.

- 4.3. Youth Offending Teams engage in a wide variety of work with young offenders (those under 18) in order to achieve their aims. YOTs supervise young people who have been ordered by the court to serve sentences in the community or in the secure estate. Sometimes, teams organise meetings between offenders and victims to encourage apologies and reparation. Youth Offending Teams also arrange for Appropriate Adults to accompany under 18s after their arrest in order to advise and support the young person, and observe that they are treated fairly.
- 4.4. In Lewisham, youth offending interventions are provided by the Youth Offending Service and a range of small sub contracts. The YOS is a team within the Community Services Directorate.
- 4.5. In considering these budgets cuts Officers have consulted with other departments of the Council. In particular they have discussed the proposed cuts with the Youth Service. The Youth Service have not yet finalised their proposed budget reductions to commissioned services. Officers will continue to liaise with the Youth Service regarding the organisations that the budget cuts will affect in order to assess the wider impact of the cuts. There are likely to be two organisations affected by the likely cuts.

5. Reparation Consultation

- 5.1. The YOS has a statutory obligation to deliver reparation activities. The lists below show what Officers will cease to commission and what Officers will be delivering. The Reparation budget will reduce from £50,000 to £10,000.
- 5.2. Officers consulted with TCV regarding the reduction in funding. Officers will no longer be funding The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) for the delivery of the Firhill Road allotment programme. However TCV have confirmed that they have secured funding to continue the delivery of the programme for a two year period 2015 – 2017. The reparation activity will be expanded as part of this to accommodate the delivery of Unpaid Work.
- 5.3. Officers have consulted with Surrey Docks Farm regarding the £2,000 reduction in funding to £4,000. This had previously been discussed with them and they have accommodated the reduction into their budget planning. This is a provision based in Southwark and they do not receive any other core grant funding.
- 5.4. Officers have consulted with the Young Lewisham Project (YLP) regarding the reduction in funding for the bike restoration programme. This was a pilot programme for 2014/15 and funding for future programmes had not been confirmed. Officers have reviewed the programme and the outputs that Officers wish to achieve for 2015/16 and believe that this can be delivered within the proposed budget. YLP are facing budget cuts from other Council sources such as the Youth Service. YLP has previously received main grant funding in the region of £90,200 towards salaries and running costs, and additional funding from Lewisham Youth Service of £20,254. The organisation was previously successful to secure one-off funding to develop the new Garden Project from Environmental Green Scene LBL. However this is not sustainable funding. YLP are at risk due to overall funding reductions however this is not as a direct result of the planned YOS budget cut.

- 5.5. Proposals will not affect the Community Panel Member Training, Supporting the Food Banks, Youth Engagement Programme or the Anti Social Behaviour Programme. No consultation has taken place with these providers.
- 5.6. Agency staff have been used in the current year to allow the new Youth Support Officers time to train across the service, with a particular focus on Triage and the new out of court disposals. This will no longer be necessary in 2015/16. There will be a reduction of £10,000 in staffing however this will not result in any redundancies as these posts are agency posts who are due to leave in December 2014. Consultation has not taken place as this was a planned and temporary piece of work.
- 5.7. Below is a summary of the forecast reduction in expenditure.

Project	2014/15 Funding	2015/16 Funding
Staffing	£10,000	£0
TCV	£20,000	£0
Food Bank	£0	£0
Bike Maintenance	£10,000	£4,000
Youth Engagement Group	£0	£0
Surrey Docks Farm	£5,000	£4,000
Training CPMs	£0	£0
ASB Programme	£0	£0
General (costs for materials etc for YOS delivered programmes)	£1,000	£2,000
Sessional Staffing	£4,000	£0
Total	£50,000	£10,000

6. Programmes and Interventions Consultation

- 6.1. Officers have met with Elevating Success who will no longer be commissioned to deliver holiday programmes to young people on Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) or high risk young people. They have confirmed that they are seeking alternative funding to deliver the programme and that this reduction in funding will not affect the viability of the organisations.
- 6.2. PYE will not be commissioned to deliver Double Edge Knife Crime Programme. PYE will not be commissioned to deliver MVP Offender Behaviour Programme. PYE are not funded by other areas of the Council. Officers have consulted with them.
- 6.3. Kinetic Youth will only deliver resettlement programmes at one custodial estate based on need. They have received an increasing in funding from other sources and so services to young people will not be affected.
- 6.4. Some discussions have taken place with providers about their viability as an organisation and the impact that these budget changes will have on their work. Elevating Success and Kinetic Youth have both confirmed that this will not impact on their organisation and their ability to deliver work.

7. Arts Programmes

- 7.1. Lewisham YOS have delivered the Summer Arts College (SAC) for six years in partnership with Occupy My Time and Unitas. SAC is delivered by Occupy my Time and funded through Unitas. The YOS has been in a fortunate position to provide additional funding to enhance the programme.
- 7.2. The following table shows what has been spent this year, split by Unitas and L B Lewisham's contribution. Next year's budget is not yet known. The figure from this table has been incorporated into the main table at the end of this section.
- 7.3. Officers have consulted with the current provider and with other providers who are based in other London Boroughs. They have all confirmed that they could deliver for the fixed amount of funding that Unitas are likely to allocate to Lewisham.

	2013/14 Unitas contribution	2013/14 Lewisham additional contribution
Summer Arts College	£5,000	£1,577
Discover and Explore	£5,400	£1,000
Silver Award	0	£4,543
Total	£10,400	£7,120

8. Appropriate Adults

- 8.1. Lewisham YOS has a statutory obligation to provide Appropriate Adults to young people who are arrested and have no adult available to support them while they are at the Police station. Negotiations have taken place with the provider Catch 22 and the service can be delivered for £30,000 securing a saving of £10,000. This is based on them having secured contracts from other London Boroughs which will allow economies of scale. A Single Action Tender process will take place in line with the Local Authority procurement guidelines.

9. Staffing

- 9.1. One vacant YOS Officer post will be deleted. This post has been covered by an agency worker during the current year in order to meet demand. Caseloads will be realigned in order for the case and work load to be manageable. This will allow a saving of £44,358. A consultation process is underway with staff regarding the deletion of the post. Staff have been made aware of the deletion and a meeting is taking place on Tuesday 20th January. The consultation will be finalised on Friday 30th January with implementation from 1st April 2015.
- 9.2. Lewisham has now been notified of our Youth Justice Board Grant allocation for 2015/16. The delay to the process has been due to this announcement. Had the amount been less than anticipated the Council may have had to make greater cuts to the staff team.

10. General Overheads

- 10.1. The reduction in overheads has commenced and the office is moving to a paper free office. There has already been a reduction in the level of paper ordered and a shift from all young people known to the service having paper files created, with everything being scanned and held online. This will be further implemented by April 2015 with the reduction of Court paperwork.
- 10.2. Discussions are currently taking place with the Court to implement the reductions further by reducing the paperwork that the YOS are required to prepare for Magistrates and District Judges.

11. Legal Implications

- 11.1. Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the named statutory partners to form a YOT. Section 38 (1, 2) identifies the statutory partners and places upon them a duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area. These statutory partners are the local authority, police, the probation service and health.
- 11.2. To support the YOT, additional partners may also be recruited to the joint strategic effort to prevent offending by children and young people. The Act does not prescribe how services are delivered, but sets out two principal statutory functions assigned to each YOT in Section 39 (7):
 - to co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services for all those in the authority's area who need them
 - to carry out such functions assigned in the youth justice plan formulated by the local authority.
- 11.3. In addition, by providing the youth justice services outlined at Section 38 (4) of the Act, the local authority also addresses its duty, under paragraph 7(b) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989, to take reasonable steps designed to encourage children and young people within the area not to commit offences.
- 11.4. The budget reductions outlined in this report will have no impact on the YOS's ability to meet its legal requirements and so there are no legal implications at this stage.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1. There are financial implications as a result of the proposals outlined in this report. They are to reduce the YOS budget by £200,000. The impact will be seen on both internal departments and external partners.
- 12.2. Officers have looked at wider cuts across the Council and there are no cumulative effects on organisations as far as it is able to assess at this stage.

13. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 13.1. As outlined in 10.1, the YOS was created under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and has responsibilities outlined in the Act. However the recommendations made in

this Act should not have any adverse impact on the Service's ability to meet the legislative requirements.

14. Equal Opportunities Implications

- 14.1. The Youth Offending Service delivers interventions to young people who have offended. There are a disproportionate number of young people in the youth justice system who are male and from a black and minority ethnic background. As most services will continue to be delivered, albeit via a different delivery route, it is envisaged that there will be no specific implications arising.
- 14.2. The YOS vacancy that is being delivered is currently vacant and so there are no equal opportunities arising as a result.

15. Environmental Implications

- 15.1. There are no specific implications arising.

16. Conclusion

- 16.1. The majority of organisations who will experience a reduction of funding from Lewisham YOS in 2015 will not be adversely affected by a reduction in funding from other Council departments. Officers have looked at wider cuts across the Council and there are no cumulative effects on organisations as far as can be assessed at this stage. Several organisations have already identified funding sources in order to continue services to Lewisham YOS young people. Several agencies are awaiting confirmation of funding from charities and private providers. Lewisham YOS will continue to work with these agencies to secure funding and resources.

For further information please contact Tanya Edwards, Strategic YOS Manager on 020 8314 9884.