

<b>MAYOR AND CABINET</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Commissioning the Positive Activities Fund (PAF) for programmes to be delivered in 2012/13	
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Children and Young People Executive Director for Resources Head of Law	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 15 February 2012

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Mayor with recommendations for the use of the Positive Activities Fund (PAF), funded through the Early Intervention Grant, for the financial year 2012/13. It details proposals received and the outcomes of appraisals by young people and professionals.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Mayor is asked to agree to:

(a) The allocation of funding as detailed in Appendix 1 to enable Positive Activities for young people to be provided throughout this period.

(b) The rejection of applications for funding, as explained in Appendix 3.

(c) Delegate authority to Frankie Sulke, Executive Director for Children and Young People, to agree the allocation of a total surplus funding of approximately £66k over the rest of the financial year.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy 'Shaping our Future' sets out a vision for Lewisham, and the priority outcomes to be worked towards in order to make this a reality. Positive Activities is key to this as it contributes to the following policy areas of the plan:

- Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime
- Services for disabled children
- First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

- 3.2 The Children and Young People's Plan also sets out priorities for development in line with the Sustainable Communities' Plan, with early

intervention as a key element. Positive Activities contributes to the following key outcomes of the Plan as follows :

- EWB2 – Reduce further the number of young people who are NEET
- EWB3 – Raise participation and achievement at age 19
- EWB4 – Secure a diverse 14-19 offer which meets the needs and aspirations of learners

This includes delivering on the following CYPP actions:

- Achieving a positive youth image - creating opportunities for young people to demonstrate and celebrate their success.
- Providing more opportunities for all young people to make informed choices about their lives
- Ensuring that all children have opportunities to play and that all young people have a range of accessible leisure activities available to them
- Reducing childhood obesity
- Increasing access to positive activities

3.4 Positive Activities also contributes significantly to early intervention, one of the main Key Area's of Impact within the CYPP and the expected purpose of the Early Intervention Grant, as it helps break *"the cycles of underachievement which blight some of our poorest communities"*.<sup>1</sup>

3.3 The newly published *Positive for Youth* Government policy (December 2011) also reinforces this approach, as it sets out a shared vision for how all parts of society – including councils, schools, charities, businesses – can work together in partnership to support families and improve outcomes for young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged or vulnerable. A key area of focus is 'the valuable role of services for young people' in which local authorities have a clear role:

*"Some young people don't get the support or opportunities they need through their families or communities. To help counter this disadvantage, youth workers and other services for young people have an important role to play in:*

- *supporting young people's personal and social development – which includes developing important skills and qualities needed for life, learning, and work;*
- *making sure all young people are able to participate and achieve in education or training; and*
- *raising young people's aspirations and thereby reducing teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and crime.*

*The Government will therefore retain the duty on councils to secure young people's access to sufficient activities and services to improve their wellbeing,*

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Review into Early Intervention, July 2010

*including their duty to seek and take account of young people's views in decisions about these activities.*<sup>2</sup>

- 3.4 At present, councils are accountable primarily to local people for how well young people do, how well their services support them, and for commissioning appropriate services. Young people must be in the driving seat to inform decisions, shape provision, and inspect quality.
- 3.5 The Government has also committed to providing clearer guidance on the key challenge for local authorities (LAs) in fulfilling this role - to improve the provision of positive activities for young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged as detailed in section 507B of The Education Act 1996 (introduced by Section 6 of The Education and Inspections Act 2006). This places a statutory duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to positive activities, and that authorities ascertain young people's views on provision and consider alternative providers.
- 3.6 As part of *Positive for Youth*, the Government will publish annually national measures of young people's positive outcomes, and an audit at the end of 2012 of overall progress towards creating a society which is more positive for youth. The PAF commissioned projects will contribute to achieving these outcomes in Lewisham.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Positive Activities Fund (PAF) is managed by the Positive Activities Team within the Youth Support Service.
- 4.2 PAF funded activities are open to all young people aged 8 to 19, and up to 25 with LDD, and are able to respond to the needs of young people from disadvantaged groups, particularly young people with disabilities, children in care, young care leavers, young offenders, young carers, young refugees, young homeless people, those not in education, employment or training and other groups with protected characteristics.
- 4.3 The PAF programme specific aims are to:
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour both in the short and long term;
  - Support young people back into employment, education or training and help them stay there, by working with those at risk of truancy and exclusion;
  - Ensure young people are supported as they move from primary to secondary school;
  - Offer access to high-quality arts, sport and cultural activities, and provide those with an interest and/or talent to continue after the programme has ended;

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<sup>2</sup> p. 6, *Positive for Youth*, Executive Summary, December 2011, HM Government

- Bring together young people from different geographical and ethnic communities to help break down prejudice and misunderstanding;
- Give young people opportunities for personal development including building self discipline, self-respect and self-confidence, helping them communicate more effectively with a range of people and work well in a team;
- Encourage young people to contribute to their communities through volunteering and active citizenship.
- Provide young people with inclusive, positive activities all-year round at times they want e.g. weekends and evenings

## 5. Commissioning

- 5.1 In order to support strategic planning and provide young people and organisations with sufficient time to develop high quality applications, we began the commissioning process for programmes running from April 2012 until March 2013 in November 2011.
- 5.2 The total funding available for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 is **£462,000.00**. In addition this year, in recognition of Lewisham's position as a gateway to the Games and the capital there is also a special PAF Olympic/Paralympics ring fenced fund of **£25,000**. Projects were able to apply to this additional fund for a maximum of **£1,250** to deliver cultural, creative and sports activities and events from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 that encapsulate the Olympic and Paralympics Values:

Friendship	Inspiration
Respect	Courage
Excellence	Equality
	Determination

- 5.3 At the beginning of the PAF process a maximum unit cost per young person attending a project was developed to establish a measure of best value for money for the delivery of projects. This is based on the allocations to PAF projects in previous years and provides a maximum expected cost per project, alongside a minimum number of young people to be worked with. Details of these expectations were included in a table in the application form as a basis upon which providers had to base their costings. Projects that exceeded the maximum amount available, or could not deliver to the minimum number of young people required, were rejected at an early stage of the commissioning process as not demonstrating value for money. The scoring process recognised those projects which indicated that they would deliver to more young people than the minimum number identified, and therefore demonstrated increased value for money, in the form of extra marks.
- 5.4 The application form also required organisations to provide a number of other details which were used to score bids. This included:

- project description
- ward(s) the project will run in
- how many days will be spent working with young people
- type of activities to be run e.g. Sports, Arts, Media, I.T or Life skills and whether the young person would receive accreditation
- age range and number of young people to be worked with
- delivery period e.g. After School, Daytime, Holiday, Weekend or Summer
- how young people had been involved in the development of the project, and how they would be involved in delivery and quality assurance

5.5 The scoring process reflected local and national commitment to young people-led decision-making processes, whilst ensuring a fair process which meets the needs of our young people. Each application has been marked by Lewisham's Young Commissioners scored by two professional markers. The scoring process and final shortlist has also been validated by two panels made up of the Head of Access and Support CYP, Service Manager for the Youth Support Service, the Head of the Community Sector Unit, Positive Activities Manager and Team Leader for Positive Activities.

5.6 The Young Commissioners involved were drawn from the Young Mayor's Advisors group, schools including Knight's Academy and Sydenham Girls, and from local youth groups and were trained and supported by Youth workers. Professional markers were drawn from a range of services including the Youth Service, Community Services and the Mayor's Office. Each bid was assessed by young people and the professionals against the criteria as set out in Appendix 2.

5.7 127 applications were received seeking funding for 411 projects, of which we are proposing to fund 140 projects from 28 different organisations. Of those that applied for funding, 81% were voluntary organisations, of which 80% are amongst the successful proposals.

5.8 The proposed final shortlist, based on the recommendations of young people and the panel are in this report (**Appendix 1**). In summary, the shortlist ensures high quality provision by only offering funding to those projects scoring over 80% marks (18 out of 22 marks available and above). We have also ensured those selected allow provision across required age ranges and delivery periods throughout 2012/13, and that the full programme meets priority needs in the borough.

5.9 Olympic projects were assessed and scored in the same way. Only 9 applications were made to this ring-fenced funding available, of which 7 met the quality threshold and are proposed for funding.

- 5.10 Projects which were unsuccessful across the entire fund are detailed in **Appendix 3**, with the rationale for rejection; e.g incomplete application form, high unit costs, low scores individually explained.
- 5.11 Due to the lack of projects meeting the required quality threshold, the two proposed shortlists allows for the allocation of only £415k of the available £462k PAF and only £7k of £25k Olympics. This totals a surplus of £66k.
- 5.12 It is proposed that delegated authority is given to Frankie Sulke, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Directorate, to agree the allocation of this total surplus funding, approximately £66k, over the rest of the financial year. This will be used in a further commissioning process to fund projects that meet priorities across the borough e.g. further NEET and pre-NEET provision across the borough, support to specific geographical areas with a high level of vulnerable young people and to meet any additional need to young people from groups with protected characteristics.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Council to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.
- 6.2 Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 imposes a duty on the local authority to promote the well-being of persons aged 13 -19 (and of persons aged up to 25 with learning difficulties) by securing access for them to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities and facilities, so far as is reasonably practicable. A local authority can fulfil this duty by providing activities and facilities, assisting others to do so, or by making other arrangements to facilitate access, which can include the provision of transport, financial assistance or information.
- 6.3 In performing its duties under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 the local authority is required to ascertain from young people in its area their views on existing provision and the need for any additional provision and to take those views into account.
- 6.4 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty), replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. The new duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.5 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.6 As was the case for the original separate duties, the new duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

6.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission issued guides in January 2011 providing an overview of the new equality duty, including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. The guides cover what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guides were based on the then draft specific duties so are no longer fully up-to-date, although regard may still be had to them until the revised guides are produced. The guides do not have legal standing unlike the statutory Code of Practice on the public sector equality duty, However, that Code is not due to be published until April 2012. The guides can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-duties/new-public-sector-equality-duty-guidance/>

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1. The total PAF budget available for 2012/13 commissioning is **£462,000, with £25,000** available for Olympics related provision. The proposals in Annex 1 of the report total approximately £414,000 and £7,000 respectively. The proposals made total £421,000 leaving a sum of £66,000 to be allocated during the year. The funding is available within the Early Intervention Grant allocation for 2012/13.

## 8. Equalities

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed on the PAF commissioning process, as detailed in Appendix 4. This has identified that, of the proposed successful groups, there are very few which are targeting young people who are looked after, and teenage parents and pregnant teenagers, all of which are indicated in the application process as priority groups. As such, these groups will be among the priorities addressed in the commissioning of any surplus funding along with any other groups we identify.

## **9. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 9.1 Providing Positive Activities for young people is a major strand of the Youth Crime Action Plan, and reflects local and national priorities for ensuring young people are diverted from negative outcomes, and reducing anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

## **10. Environmental Implications**

- 10.1 There are two projects part of the successful proposals funds which are directly related to the environment and will contribute positively to this agenda:
- Ahoy Sailing – plan to deliver a programme teaching young people how to sail, with related safety and environmental education
  - Jumbo's World of Timber – a programme that aims to teach young people how to make sustainable, natural wood products that will be the utilised in Lewisham's local adventure playgrounds
- 10.2 No negative implications to the environment resulting from the PAF commissioning process and delivery have been identified.

## **11. Risk Assessment**

- 11.1 A risk register has been completed (Appendix 5) which identifies the major risks associated with commissioning Positive Activities. None of the risks identified are higher than medium risk in rating, and the register clearly sets out how these will be mitigated.

## **12. Conclusion**

- 12.1 Young people have been engaged in determining the programme for the new PAF funding. They are advising the Mayor on this programme.

## **13. Background Papers:**

Positive for Youth, 2012:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/Positive%20for%20Youth>

**Report Originator: Elaine Smith, Positive Activities Manager**

Appendix 2 – Application marking sheets

**EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR POSITIVE ACTIVITY APPLICATIONS 2012-13**

ORGANISATION: \_\_\_\_\_ PROJECT NAME:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

ASSESSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL SCORE:

**SCORING SYSTEM** – Score the application as follows, and total the points in the box above. *Please note, you must add comments for any scoring of ‘maybe’ or ‘no.’*

- Yes – 2 points
- Maybe – 1 point
- No – 0 points

	QUESTION	YES	NO	MAYB E	COMMENTS
<b>Skills/ Support</b>					
1.	Is it evident that the organisation has stated aims and objectives for the delivery of the project? (Refer to Section C, 1a & Questions 4 & 5)				

	QUESTION	YES	NO	MAYBE	COMMENTS
2	Will it provide young people with qualifications/accreditation? ( <i>Refer to Section B</i> )				
3.	If the application is for the Olympic/Paralympics fund, does the project clearly meet the stated values? ( <i>Refer to Section A &amp; Section C, 1c</i> )				
4.	Will the organisation provide effective support after the activity has finished? ( <i>Refer to Question 1d</i> )				
5.	Is there a clearly defined impact the project is seeking to make in the lives of young people? ( <i>Refer to Section C, 1b</i> )				

	QUESTION	YES	NO	MAYBE	COMMENTS
<b>Young People's Participation</b>					
<b>6.</b>	Have young people been involved in the planning of the project? <i>(Refer to Section C, Question 2)</i>				
<b>7.</b>	Does the bid mention young people are involved in evaluation and monitoring i.e. through peer inspection or satisfaction monitoring forms? <i>(Refer to Section C, 1b and Question 2)</i>				
<b>8.</b>	Is there evidence that young people are involved in the delivery of the project? i.e. Peer workers/ young mentors <i>(Refer to Section C, Question 2)</i>				

	QUESTION	YES	NO	MAYB E	COMMENTS
9.	Will the organisation be working with more than the minimum number of young people specified as per the delivery period? <i>(Refer to Section B)</i>				
<b>Partnershi p Working</b>					
10.	Is this organisation working with at least 3 partners? <i>(Refer to Section A &amp; Section C, Question 3)</i>				
11.	Is there evidence that effective referrals are in place with other agencies? <i>(Refer to Section C, Question 3b)</i>				
<b>Effective Managem ent</b>					
12.	Is there evidence that the organisation has effective policies and procedures in place, i.e. an equal opportunity policy? <i>(Refer to Section C, 1a, b &amp; Section E, Checklist of Enclosures)</i>				

	QUESTION	YES	NO	MAYB E	COMMENTS
<b>TOTAL</b>					

Appendix 5 – Risk Register

PAF RISK REGISTER 2012/13

Risk No.	RISK IDENTIFICATION	IMPACT (Description)	LIKELIHOOD 1 - 5	IMPACT 1 - 5	RISK SCORE (Lxl) & RATING (Low, Medium, High)	CONTINGENCY (counter-measures)	3 Resp.	DATE IDENTIFIED	DATE LAST UPDATED	CURRENT STATUS Risk rating after contingency
	RISK IDENTIFICATION	Expected amount of YP not offered activity and surplus funding unallocated. Causes of inability to spend may relate to quality of delivery.	3	3	9 (High)	Regular monitoring throughout the year will ensure delivery. Projects which are stopped due to unforeseen circumstances, including potential breach of agreements, will have funding used in a retendering process for short term needs focused projects or put up as a saving.	VG /SH	Jan 2012	Jan 2012	LOW

2.	Organisations go into administration prior to delivery of provision	Gaps in provision leaving young people without services	2	3	6 (Medium)	Paying 20% costs up front to support set-up costs for delivery of project, and only a further 80% once programme is delivered, spot checks (monitoring) to ensure programmes are delivering when scheduled, SLA requires organisations to inform the Council if unable to deliver. See above for action re surplus funds	ES /VG /SH	Jan 2012	Jan 2012	LOW
3.	Low numbers of young people attending funded provision	Not attaining value for money, young people not getting the support/activities needed	2	4	8 (High)	Sufficient publicity across Lewisham websites e.g. B-Involved, publications and internal circulations. Active PR from Lewisham YSS and use of Young people's peer networks should ensure full programmes. Support will be offered to those programmes who report low numbers asap with a level of altered delivery allowed if beneficial to increasing numbers.	VG SH	Jan 2012	Jan 2012	LOW

4.	Commissioned provision not fully meeting local priorities	Priority issues are not being addressed, resulting in negative outcomes for certain vulnerable groups	2	3	6 (Medium)	Regular monitoring, and the requirement for organisations to regularly provide monitoring info on the young people worked with, will allow us to ensure priority needs are being met. Surplus funding can meet any gaps identified after the initial commissioning process	VG/S H	Jan 2012	Jan 2012	LOW
5.	Commissioned provision not fully meeting equalities agenda	Needs of young people with protected characteristics are not met and does not contribute to positive outcomes	3	3	9 (Medium)	Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, with gaps for under-represented groups identified, which we will be one of the priorities addressed when commissioning any surplus funding.	ES/V G	Jan 2012	Jan 2012	LOW