

Appendices: 0



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Trusted Relationships Funding – Youth Gang Violence
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	12 September 2018
Key Decision:	YES
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	No
Service Area:	Housing and Wellbeing
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Anna King
Ward(s)	Borough Wide

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Cabinet that the Council has been successful in securing funding from the Trusted relationship, Home Office Fund for 2018-19, with the potential of additional funding for a further two years.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 approves the acceptance of the grant funding from the Home Office to deliver the outcomes of the project
- 2.2 approves the Council as the accountable body for the facilitating of the grant funding.
- 2.3 delegates authority to the Head of Housing and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety to undertake such actions necessary to enter into a grant funding agreement with the Home Office to accept the grant funding and Free2Talk to enable the successful delivery of the Trusted Relationships, Home Office funding objectives and outcomes.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 On 25 February 2018, the Home Office launched a £13 million 'Trusted Relationships' fund to help Local Authorities work with community organisations to build trusted and protective relationships with children and young people affected by sexual exploitation, gangs, child criminal exploitation and trafficking.
- 3.1.2 Northampton has witnessed a significant increase in issues that have arisen around gangs, gang culture, Child Sexual Exploitation and organised crime groups in Northampton. There has been an increase, both nationally and regionally in the number of children and young people being groomed for criminal and sexual exploitation with many young people requiring more support
- 3.1.3 The Council has provided a small amount of grant funding over the past 12 months to Free2Talk to deliver youth provision in the Town, where we have experienced issues with violence and gangs.
- 3.1.4 Free2Talk is a not for profit organisation which provides realistic and effective solutions to challenges that arise for children, young people, families and communities. As a consolidated frontline support service, Free2Talk proactively aims to compliment and add to Health, Social Care and Children and Young People's Services. The Council, in partnership with Free2Talk applied to the Home Office, Trusted Relationships Fund at the beginning of June this year, in hope that we could build on the great work that was taking place.
- 3.1.5 There were 118 applications submitted to the Home Office, and Northampton Borough Council were one of the 11 areas, which were successful in securing funding.
- 3.1.6 Following the application a successful bid was made by Northampton Borough Council and will receive funding of £354,706 with the potential of additional funding for a further two years (a total of £470,936) which will allow innovative programmes aimed at offering support and realistic and effective solutions to challenges that arise for children, young people and families and vulnerable young adults.
- 3.1.7 The objective of the Trusted Relationships Fund is to reduce young people's involvement in exploitation and abuse, as victims and/or perpetrators, through
- increasing the consistency and quality of support for children and young people at risk of becoming involved in exploitation and abuse;
 - improving trust between young people and adults who are there to support them;

- developing protective factors that build resilience in children and young people (including support networks; positive role models; sense of purpose; self-esteem; critical thinking skills).

3.1.8 It is considered that the funding will enable Northampton Borough Council and Free2Talk, to deliver interventions and mentoring services to young people most at risk of getting involved in gangs and violent crime. It will provide a support service to young people, encouraging them to take a more positive path, contributing to a reduction in exploitation and abuse, missing episodes and interactions with the youth justice system. Young people from vulnerable communities will also be given the opportunity to input into the support programme, as their help will be sought to develop informal education programmes in youth centres.

3.1.9 Free2Talk have already built up strong relationships with people at risk of exploitation, additional capacity and support will enable further delivery.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 Due to the nature of the funding and the project, there are no negative implications for either the Council or the general public.

3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 To accept the funding that has been awarded to the Council and enter into a grant agreement with Free2Talk. This will enable intensive work to be carried out with the young people who are currently falling through the gaps between Early Help and Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation, 'RISE' until they come back to prominence either as a victim or by entering the criminal justice system.

3.3.2 To decline the funding awarded from the Home Office and choose not to enter into a grant agreement with Free2Talk.

To decline the funding would mean the status quo would remain and many young people would continue to be at risk.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The funding supports the Community Safety Partnership Plan and also the Corporate Plan, 'Building Safer Communities', 'Resilient Communities' and 'Tackling Serious Organised Crime, including Child Sexual Exploitation and Violence'

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no such implications in this report.

The funding is an external grant, with a set financial income for two years, £177,353 per annum, with further potential for funding to be allocated post the Government Spending Review, for an additional two years.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Legal Services will review and advise on the grant funding agreement with the Home Office and as the accountable body, the Council will be required to passport the grant funding obligations to Free2Talk to deliver the funding objectives and outcomes.

4.3.2 Consideration has been given to any potential state aid implications arising from forwarding the grant funding directly to Free2Talk. Due to the local delivery area ie within the Borough of Northampton and its local impact, the grant funding is unlikely to attract interest from member states. The grant funding is not subsidising a service it is paying for the project to be delivered and this reduces any risks although these cannot be eliminated entirely.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 There are no such implications in this report.
The purpose of the funding is to work with young people that are on the periphery of getting involved in gangs/associated and involved with causing violence. The data suggests that many of these young people have been marginalised, they are at risk and vulnerable. i.e. on the edge of social care, looked after and or exploited.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 When writing the application, numerous of partners were engaged, consulted and in support of the intended outcomes. A formal partnership agreement was drawn up and signed by key partners, including; Free2Talk, Northamptonshire Police, Police Crime Commissioners Office, Youth Offending Service and Northampton Partnership Homes.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 This report is consistent with the aims of the council's Corporate Plan and has the potential to contribute to a wide range of the Council's priority outcomes. Specifically; Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods, a place where visitors and residents from all communities feel safe, secure and protected.

4.6.2 Deliver the Community Safety Strategy action plan to improve safety across the town, in particular: Work in partnership to deliver a programme of projects throughout the year to tackle local priority issues; alcohol related violent crime, anti-social behaviour and serious acquisitive crime.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 No further implications to consider.

5. Background Papers

5.1.1 Grant Application Form

5.1.2 Partnership Statement of Commitment – 5 June 2018

5.1.3 Grant Acceptance Letter – 17 August 2018

**Marion Goodman,
Head of Customers and Communities**