

YMCA INNOVATION PILOT PROJECT - 6 MONTH UPDATE

Report of the Head of Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Operational Board approved a £75,000 grant in February 2020 to fund the YMCA Innovation Pilot Project.
- 1.2 This report provides an update to the Board on the progression of the project since its approval.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the progress of the project since its approval.

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To keep the Operational Board updated about the use of the grant and the progression of the project.

4. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The Operational Board and Derby City Council agreed for Derby Homes to support the YMCA Innovation Pilot project through a £75,000 grant. This was confirmed in February 2020.
- 4.2 Since the approval of the project, delivery and implementation has been paused due to the coronavirus. However, during the pause in the project, there has been several activities and work still taken place to organise contract agreements, outline the governance arrangements and review the service delivery in line with government guidance.
- 4.3 One of the most useful pieces of work YMCA have carried out during the lockdown period is working with Derby County Community Trust (DCCT) and Baby People to research the impact of the lockdown on young people to try and understand how the project may be tailored to their needs and support any mental health issues or feeling of isolation.
- 4.4 DCCT has continued to carry out face-to-face delivery (where Government guidance has allowed) but have also embraced technology. They have reported great work on engaging young people in online activities. Using Zoom, WhatsApp, Google Hangout and Instagram, they have been able to engage and communicate with young and vulnerable people within the communities and remain a strong influence. Further to this, they have offered a range of support including general chats, structured activities, therapeutic one-to-one counselling

and facilitated online closed social media groups to encourage healthy conversations.

- 4.5 Baby People's delivery throughout Covid-19 has seen a significant increase in young people reaching out for support, regular direct messages to their Instagram account or hanging around after sessions for longer just to have somewhere to go or someone to be with. The leader also has seen an increase of young people showing up at their buildings unannounced waiting for the activities to start.
- 4.6 In May 2020 YMCA Derbyshire carried out peer led consultation to ask the real effects of Covid-19 on young people, and the two key findings showed that young people were feeling disconnected and were experiencing a significant deterioration in their mental wellbeing.
- 4.7 Therefore, the feedback from all three groups is that young people are feeling isolated, they are struggling with boredom, and this is affecting their mental wellbeing. Since receiving this feedback they have shaped their support to ensure they have multiple WhatsApp groups for people to join, send regular videos of how to stay mentally and physically fit throughout this period, and let them know that they are there for support.
- 4.8 Further to this, the groups want to bring this excellent work forward into the launch of the Innovation pilot and are working with Derby Homes to identify the geographical areas most in need. This is in co-production with wider housing management teams.
- 4.9 To outline some of the timeline changes to the action plan, the project is now on-track to:
- Start at the end of July 2020
 - Deliver a phased start to the project
 - Recruit the first youth worker in July and the second youth worker in September.
 - Continue with online support for young people
 - Move to face to face support with progression to some open space activities in September
 - Promote the project through online platforms, leaflet drops and posters in key local areas, decided by Derby Homes
 - Ensure the support offer is ingrained in Derby Homes with the referrals process ready for September.
- 4.10 As well as being ready to continue to adapt and shape the project further to meet the young people's needs as Government guidance changes, all outputs and outcomes of the project will remain the same except for:
- Delay in the start date from March to July 2020
 - 100% of young people will have engaged at a minimum of 10 hours with one or more activity sessions
 - 40 will be trained as young mentors to support participants.

The project will continue to be led through co-production with engaged young people and with a clear monitoring and evaluation plan to monitor all the outputs, outcomes and progress of the young people involved.

5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

IMPLICATIONS

6. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The grant contribution to the YMCA is funded within existing budgets. Due to the revised works and delays because of COVID, the grant period has been revised to 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The revised staged payments have been adjusted to:

Amount of Grant Payable	Date of Payment
£18,750	1 Sept 2020
£18,750	1 Dec 2020
£18,750	1 March 2021
£18,750	1 June 2021

8. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A revised grant agreement is required to be signed by both the YMCA and Derby Homes to note the changes in delivery plans and dates.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Risk assessments have been carried out and sent to Derby Homes for clarification. All further documentation will be agreed with the Customer Engagement and Community Development Manager.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Consultation
Financial and Business Plan
Legal and Confidentiality
Council
Personnel
Environmental
Equalities Impact Assessment
Health & Safety
Policy Review

If Board Members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact:

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Background Information: None

Supporting Information: Operational Board Report February 2020

This report has been approved by the following

Managing Director	Maria Murphy	27.07.2020
Head of Service	Lorraine Testro	24.07.2020
Head of Service – Finance & Income	Michael Kirk	
Head of Governance and Corporate Services	Taran Lalria	
Company Solicitor		