

YOUTH ALLIANCE GRANT 2022/23

Report of the Head of Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Operational Board approved a £100,000 grant to the Youth Alliance for 2021/2022. This report is to ask to further support the work of the Alliance and recommends a continued grant commitment of £100,000 for 2022/23.
- 1.2 The work of the Youth Alliance supports the ambitions of Derby Homes' Children and Young People's Strategy 2021/2024, the grant will be funded from within existing Derby Homes budgets.
- 1.3 The Youth Alliance is a collaborative approach between the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE), Derby Homes (DH) and Derby City Council (DCC) to co-design and deliver youth provision within the City. The coordinating organisation for the Youth Alliance is Community Action Derby.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 To grant fund the Youth Alliance £100,000 to deliver preventative and diversionary activities across the city. The aim of the grant is to reduce risk and improve wellbeing and services for young people living in Derby City.
- 2.2 The grant is subject to the approval of Derby City Council.

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To support the Derby Homes' Children and Young People Strategy 2021/24 and its ambitions, through the delivery of interventions which are preventative and/or diversionary, and/or improve wellbeing and services for those at risk of anti-social behaviour and crime in homes and estates that we manage.

4. MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Derby Homes are committed to supporting Derby's children and young people through identifying the right services and providing opportunities which can help make a positive impact. The Derby Homes Children and Young People's (CYP) Strategy 2021/24 acknowledges that young people living in the homes we manage may face more adversities due to current economic and social divisions. These challenges can be supported more effectively when working in partnership across the city.
- 4.2 The Youth Alliance is a collaboration of partner agencies working across the city with a purpose of reducing risks and improving the opportunities and wellbeing of young people. They do this through regular consultations with the youth of Derby

city, alongside seamless reflection of city-wide strategies and initiatives. As part of the CYP strategy, Derby Homes committed to supporting the Youth Alliance as a partnership for the future, to help with services for young people. Their model is collaborative working with existing specialist and grass-roots organisations, to deliver interventions across a multitude of intersections, of individual young people, families, and hot-spot areas in the community.

- 4.3 The aims and objectives of the Youth Alliance are mirrored in the CYP strategy, working towards raising aspirations, assisting in breaking the cycle of low educational attainment, tackling worklessness', and promoting citizenship. Through partnership we can deliver enhanced engagement that addresses these issues and helps overcome barriers faced by young people.
- 4.4 Over the past year, the Youth Alliance have been ensuring their strapline, values and mission is reflective of the partnership work. The group consulted and have decided on the following:

Their agreed strapline is: 'Derby Youth Alliance, working in and with communities to help young people feel safe to enhance their life chances and choices.'

The vision of the Derby Youth Alliance is to work towards Derby being:

- a city where young people are safe, feel supported and are celebrated
- a city with diverse opportunities for young people to do activities in safe supported environments
- a city that puts the needs of the most challenged young people first
- an inclusive city where young people are listened to and have a voice
- a city where young people feel happy, safe, and empowered

Their mission statement is: To provide a network of providers working collaboratively to support Derby City's young people to be safe, to develop and prosper. The focus of the Youth Alliance should always be based around the needs of the most vulnerable and challenged young people and deprived communities.

- 4.5 In addition to the increased collaboration and strategic direction from the partnership, the grant received in 2021/22 was able to achieve the following outcomes:
- An increased partnership number for the Youth Alliance. There are now 8 strategic partners working together, and a wider approved alliance of 12 providers.
 - New projects and initiatives have been offered from partners and the group have agreed the key performance indicators for these.
 - A large-scale mapping exercise is underway in the city. The Youth Alliance is identifying areas where there is youth provision, seeking clarification through the wider provider network. This will create an accurate picture of current provision and help the alliance to identify gaps.
 - The Alliance is creating its own youth voice, asking 2 young people from each of the partner organisations to become a member. This is being coproduced and delivered with young people to set their aims and objectives.
 - The Alliance have received 85 person referrals (to date) which includes outreach referrals from Derby Homes.

- The Alliance were successful in their first stage of lottery funding to provide a dedicated, full-time coordinator based within Community Action.
- Relationships are developing well in primary schools and secondary schools to raise awareness of the Alliance and increase involvement in the project.
- A pilot project will be taking place with Grampian Primary School around child exploitation, which is a request from the school to the Youth Alliance.
- A 'Train the Mentor' programme is underway and due to be completed by the end of March 2022. This is to increase the pool of mentors and peer mentors available to the YA, in addition to consistency of quality standards.
- The School Development Support Agency (SDSA) are working with the Alliance to look at funding opportunities for those in Year 11 who have been identified as potential risk of Not in Employment, Education or Training. This work is taking place between February - November 2022.

4.6 Other organisations are also looking to financially support the development of the Alliance. For example, the Youth Offending Service have committed £26,000 to the project to specifically target high-risk young offenders. The Derby Recovery Grant Fund has contributed £5,000 towards the mentoring project, as well as each strategic partner from the YA are also contributing financially to this project.

4.7 Through working with the Youth Alliance, there is greater opportunity to give our communities access to skills and experience they may not have been able to access previously. The strength of the Alliance is the ability to provide several opportunities that are tailored to the needs of the individual and the community.

4.8 As part of the steering and networking group of the Alliance, Derby Homes are in a strong position to drive aspirations, coordinate solutions and influence services.

4.9 The Alliance continues to demonstrate that VCSE sector can co-produce and collaborate on projects that are much more cost-effective than silo working.

5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

6. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Consultation has taken place with council colleagues to ensure that the proposed projects fit within the Council's wider Corporate objectives. The Youth Alliance continues to work collaboratively with city wide partnerships and boards which helps shape the project delivery such as the Serious Youth Violence Board.

6.2 The Youth Alliance Governance includes an Equalities subgroup and an Insight and Intelligence subgroup. The Alliance frequently consult with Derby Homes Youth Panel Ignite and Connect, and the City Council's panel Voices in Action when deciding on projects as part of the Alliance.

7. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The £100,000 grant would be contained within the existing budget for Children and Young People's preventative and diversionary activities from the Customer Engagement and Community Development budget.

8. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Grant allocations will be recorded with the necessary procurement waivers obtained. A grant agreement will be developed between the Youth Alliance and Derby Homes and will include an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA).

9. COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Derby Homes Memorandum states:

“(18) Subject to the prior written consent of the City Council to make donations, grants or loans or provide services or assistance to such persons and organisations and on such terms as the Board shall think fit to further the objects of the Organisation.”

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Youth Alliance are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity, and promoting good relationships across all agencies providing Young People's services across the city. This is reflected in the YA strapline, Mission and Vision of the group.
- 10.2 The Alliance recognise its obligations in respect of Equality Impact Assessments and acknowledges that discrimination and disadvantage may emerge from how it operates, and that the Alliance has a responsibility to identify what changes and improvements are needed.
- 10.3 The Youth Alliance model states that the partnership has a moral duty to conduct its operation with morality and ethical reasoning, therefore all members pledge to:
- Treat all with equality and dignity
 - Conduct all its business within a framework that is not detrimental to the lives of others or the environment
 - Act within law and not encourage, assist, or collude with others engaged in conduct, which is dishonest, unprofessional, or discriminatory
- 10.4 The Youth Alliance work with Approved Alliance Providers (AAP); local youth partners who meet the Youth Alliance Quality Assessment (QA) criteria, which includes having an Equality and Diversity Policy and Safeguarding Policy
- 10.5 The Youth Alliance are committed to completing Equality Impact Assessments at the beginning of any new project. There is also an

emerging Equality Alliance within the City, led by Community Action Derby. The YA are fundamentally linked to this and will consult this body on any Equalities issues which arise from the Youth Alliance.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Derby Homes intends to work with City partners through the Stronger Communities Board to work towards a cohesive Children and Young People's strategy for the city. Analysis on the Serious Youth Violence Board indicate a need for preventative and diversionary activities for young people involved or at risk of crime and anti-social behaviour. A decision not to support the application will mean that there is unlikely to be any targeted preventative work on our estates.

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

Financial and Business Plan
Personnel
Environmental
Health & Safety
Policy Review

For more information please contact:

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Background information: None

List of appendices None

This report has been approved by the following

Managing Director	Maria Murphy	21/2/22
Finance Director/Derby Homes Accountant	Helen Samuel	11/2/2022
Company Solicitor	Taran Lalria	28/02/2022
Head of Service	Lorraine Testro	01/02/2022