

Youth Alliance Grant 2023/24

Report of the Head of Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Operational Board approved a £100,000 grant to the Youth Alliance, (YA), for the financial year 2022/23. This report is to ask to further support the work of the Alliance and recommends a continued grant commitment of £100,000 for 2023/24.
- 1.2 The work of the Youth Alliance supports the ambitions of Derby Homes' Children and Young People's Strategy 2021 to 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 co-ordinating 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 to 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 to 2024 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 is committed to supporting Derby's children and young people, by 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 to 2024 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 (YA) is a collaboration of partner agencies working across the city with a purpose of reducing risks and improving the opportunities and the 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 YA 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 work 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:

'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 by the YA in 2022/23 was able to achieve the following outcomes:

- An increased partnership number for the Youth Alliance. There are now 9 strategic partners working together, and a wider approved alliance of 12 providers.
- The Children and Young People's network through Community Action and

the YA have merged to see an increased network of 30 providers. The group meetings every 2 months.

- Successful funding for 3 years for a Youth Alliance Coordinator.
- Delivery of 8 projects from the Inspire and Innovate fund.
- Agreed working with Derby City Council for careleavers and their families.
- A mapping exercise for the city blended with The Opportunity Area project which can be found at <https://derbydirection.org.uk/youth-alliance/>
- The Alliance have received 180 person referrals (to date) which includes 12 place referrals from Derby Homes and a further 14 family referrals.
- A pilot project took place in summer 2022 with Grampian Primary School around child exploitation, which is a request from the school to the YA. The project engaged 8 young people and their families and it will be aimed to offer the programme again in Spring 2023.
- Partners of YA are being supported on the implementation of in-house mentoring programmes, ensuring the structure, processes and systems are in place to deliver a mentoring programme to their clients. They are running this project again in April 2023
- 15 mentors across the partners of the YA were trained in mentoring skills, they are also being supervised to ensure ongoing development, reflection and quality assurance. These mentors are now supporting young people that come through their organisation to provide them with additional, on-going support, improving their aspirations and situation post COVID.
- 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 took place between February - November 2022. 58 young people were originally referred via the SDSA from Derby city schools. In total, 48 young people engaged and from this approximately 40 carried on with the mentoring to their post 16 destination. YMCA are looking at leading on this over the next financial year.

Next steps for the Alliance includes:

- Planning to get schools linked into the network. Current school involvement is from Littleover and Derby Moor. Key schools would be Noel Baker and Merrill Academy. The aim is to highlight the support on offer in the city and engage with young people and parents.
- Youth Alliance Coordinator to start in February 2023.
- Review and agree the 13 bids to the Inspire and Innovate fund – helping youth organisations in Derby develop specific projects for their communities.

- Increase resource at Spondon in conjunction with the Craddock Food Bank and West Park school food bank. Working with Baby People and Mantis Marial Arts to increase community space for kids and teens in Spondon.
- 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.
- Derbion Project – during the summer 2022 partners came together and ran a 6 week programme in Derbion with outreach support and signposting young people to activities. After its success, the alliance are looking to keep this project going with partners including Safe and Sound, Enthusiasm, Sporting Communities, Community One and YMCA.

4.6 Other organisations are also looking to financially support the development of the Alliance. For example, commitment has been received from the following organisations towards the project:

- Metropolitan Thames Valley Homes
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire Police
- Derbion
- School Development Support Agency
- Shared Property Fund.

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.

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.

IMPLICATIONS

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 the City Council's panel Voices in Action when deciding on projects as part of the Alliance. Part of their next steps are to create their own Youth Voice working within their network.

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). Many of the referrals are made with consent after conversations with the families involved.

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

Finance Director	Michael Kirk	27.02.2023
Company Solicitor	Taran Lalria	28.02.2023
Head of Service	Carl Tring-Willis	30.01.2023