

Committee: Grants Panel	Date: 15 October 2009	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services Originating officer(s) Dinar Hossain, Head of Youth and Connexions Services		Title: Update on the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds in Tower Hamlets Wards Affected: All		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the implementation of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds in Tower Hamlets in 2009/10.
- 1.2 **Appendix A** contains the list of the projects funded by the Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds Grants Panel from 1 April to 30 September 2009

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Grants Panel is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Note the report on the implementation of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds in 2009/10.

**Local Government Act, 2000 (Section 97)
List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of "back ground papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
Youth Matters: Next Steps	Antonia Dixey, 020 7364 3092 Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG
Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund Guidance Notes	Antonia Dixey, 020 7364 3092 Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 'Youth Matters: Next Steps' challenged Local Authorities to put young people themselves in control of the things to do and places to go in their area. It proposed putting buying power directly in the hands of young people by providing an 'Opportunity Fund' and 'Capital Fund' in each Local Authority to be spent on local projects that young people want. Following an initial pilot of the funds from 2006/08, the DCSF has made provision for the funds for 2008/2011. Tower Hamlets has been allocated additional Youth Opportunity Fund funding through the Mayor's Offer in 2008/10.
- 3.2 The Government made available a budget in each Local Authority to be spent at young people's discretion on projects to improve things to do and places to go in their area. They proposed the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) to enable young people to establish their own small-scale projects, such as renting space in a community centre to put on activities, establishing a neighbourhood council or youth café, or running sports leagues and tournaments. They also established a line of capital funding over two years from April 2006, called the Youth Capital Fund (YCF), to enable Local Authorities to develop, in conjunction with young people, new approaches to strategic investment in youth facilities.
- 3.3 The aim of the Youth Capital Fund is to "provide a discrete capital budget to be spent on what young people want and need". The DCSF guidance states that "it is designed to work in tandem with the YOF to develop projects which contain both a capital and revenue element, noting that YOF must not be used to meet any ongoing costs associated with capital investment because of the risks around sustainability. Similarly YCF is not a substitute for mainstream capital funding and wherever possible should be matched from other sources".
- 3.5 Youth Matters stated that Local Authorities, building on existing practice, may adopt different approaches, but the key aim was for young people themselves to decide how the fund could be spent. In particular, the DCSF guidance stresses that YCF is "to be spent on what young people want and need" and one of the grant conditions is that "arrangements for implementing YCF should allow for the active involvement of young people, with particular emphasis on those who are disadvantaged, in all aspects of planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the YCF. This involvement should be developed with a view to mainstreaming it into capital and asset management more generally in the authority".
- 3.6 In 2009/10 Tower Hamlets has been allocated £427,000 for the Youth Opportunity Fund, £125,320 additional Youth Opportunity Fund funding through the Mayor's Offer and £183,600 for the Youth Capital Fund.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDS

- 4.1 Officers from Youth and Connexions Services worked closely with young people to develop and administer the funds. We also worked in partnership with Youth Bank Tower Hamlets, drawing on their knowledge and experience of youth led grant-making. They have played a fundamental role in training the panel members and supporting young people to make applications.
- 4.2 Based on an evaluation of the Funds carried out in February 2009 and recommendations from Members' Grants Panel in October 2008, the implementation of both the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds has included:
- Setting a maximum grant size – of £500-£5,000 for Youth Opportunity Fund projects and £5000-£10,000 for local Youth Capital Fund projects;
 - Increasing the opportunities for young people to get involved in grant making – by training an additional 24 young people in grant making in May 2009;
 - Ensuring a fair distribution of grants across the borough – by allocating specific amounts of funding per paired LAP area;
 - Improving the speed of grant-making – by having set deadlines for applications to the Funds and reducing the time of the full process to 10 weeks from application to decision;
 - Increasing the number of groups monitored – by increasing this from 10% in 2006/08 to 30% in 2009/10; and
 - Only awarding grants to organisations that have completed the Youth and Connexions Services registration scheme. Additional information has been sought from organisations offered funding to ensure it is used appropriately.
- 4.3 The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund panel were recruited from across the borough and have received accredited training in grant-making. There are representatives from each LAP area and a good balance of young people experienced in delivery of the Funds in previous years and those new to the process. Some of the young people have now given over 500 hours of their time as volunteers and should be commended for their huge contribution to the community.
- 4.4 The process for distributing the Youth Opportunity Fund was as follows:
The Panel recommended that we would have three rounds of funding:
- Round 1: May 29 – July 29
 - Round 2: July 31 - September 30
 - Round 3: October 2 – December 2

Applications were sought through a series of East End Life adverts and targeted recruitment to marginalised and disadvantaged groups across the borough including but not exclusive of: Connexions; Young Carers; Looked After Young

People; Travellers; Asylum seekers; third sector Youth Offending Team; Youth Inclusion Team; disabled young people and the Somalian community

Successful applications would be granted 70% of the grant payment to start their project. Upon completion of projects, participants are asked to submit an evaluation form to release the further 30%.

A breakdown of costs per funding round and LAP area can be found below:

	LAP 1 + 2	LAP 3 + 4	LAP 5 + 6	LAP 7 + 8	TOTAL
Round 1	14,500	14,500	14,500	14,500	58,000
Round 2	36,250	36,250	36,250	36,250	145,000
Round 3	21,750	21,750	21,750	21,750	87,000

4.5 The panel intended that the Youth Capital Fund would be allocated alongside the Youth Opportunity Fund, in line with the grant limits established in 4.2. However it became clear in May 2009 that allocating the full capital amount would be extremely difficult if only local applications were funded due to the low number of applications received. The panel therefore agreed to allocate the majority of the Youth Capital Fund on the following basis:

- Supporting one capital development in each LAP area up to the value of £20,000. If no suitable application was received in a particular LAP the panel aimed to withhold some of the available funding to allocate to a specific project where a need has been identified;
- All projects required to have some match funding from other sources;
- Any remaining funding to be used for smaller developments, such as signage, lighting and capital equipment. However, the smallest 'capital' applications, for goods which are not depreciable, should be treated as Youth Opportunity Funding. Applications which are genuinely for capital, costing £5000 - £10,000, should continue to be seen on a paired-LAP basis. The Panel also has oversight of grants for significant equipment purchases; and
- Ensure that there is good project management support for groups to develop their schemes. Our experience with the NRF/LPSA funded schemes were that groups struggled to spend their funding, secure value for money, complete their schemes to time and develop their programme of subsequent activities. Strong project management is required to support the groups, receive and approve quotes and monitor progress.

4.5 The process for distributing the Youth Capital Fund was therefore as follows:

- The fund was widely promoted and guidance provided for organisations on ensuring young people's involvement in developing applications for this funding stream;

- There was a public call for expressions of interest from organisations and young people and an opportunity was offered for all voluntary and community organisations to submit proposals for funding;
- Tower Hamlets in partnership with Youthbank Tower Hamlets worked proactively with identified groups where there was a need to help them develop strong applications, rather than wait and hope for them to apply. A number of potential schemes were identified for development based on existing capital programmes, a building audit undertaken of all Youth and Connexions Services contracted provision and from previous Youth Opportunity Fund applications received.

4.6 The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund panel members worked on a set of criteria for the Funds, based on the DCSF guidance notes and local strategic priorities and agreed the following criteria for the funds:

- Genuinely comes from young people’s ideas, and that the application booklet was completed by young people;
- Includes a wide range of young people, particularly those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- Helps and benefits the local community;
- Helps young people achieve something positive;
- Accredits young people – that they get a qualification or nationally recognised certificate for their participation in the project;
- Helps bring communities and different young people together;
- Helps young people to achieve one of the Every Child Matters outcomes;
- Provides more places to go and things to do for young people; and
- Is supported by an organisation with a track record of working successfully with young people.

5. **PROJECTS SUPPORTED**

5.1 In the period from April 2009 – September 2009, 73 YOF applications for funding were being considered. Of these:

- 21 grants have been approved;
- 22 applications have failed at either initial assessment or panel stage;
- 0 groups have failed to arrive at panel on two or more occasions and have been asked to resubmit applications; and
- 0 decisions have been deferred awaiting further information from the applicant groups.

5.2 A more detailed breakdown of the applications is in the table below:

	YOF	YCF	TOTAL
Number of applications for grants	73	19	92
Number of grants approved	21	10	31

Application failed at either initial assessment or panel stage	22	6	28
Applicant group failed to arrive at panel on two or more occasions (and have therefore been asked to resubmit application)	0	0	0
Decision deferred by panel awaiting further information from applicant group	0	0	0
Application received and awaiting presentation to panel	22 + round 3	0	22 + round 3

5.3 Appendix A contains a list of all projects supported through the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds from April - September 2009.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

6.1 The funding for the Youth Opportunity Fund (£427,000) and Youth Capital Fund (£183,600) is fully funded via grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Additional Youth Opportunity funding (£125,320) is fully funded via grant from the London Development Agency. This is released to the Local Authority in 2 tranches, one at the start of each financial year and the other at 6 months, on completion of a satisfactory report back to Government Office for London.

6.2 Financial management of the funds is restricted by the conditions attached to each grant by the DCSF and practice is consistent with these requirements.

7. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

7.1 The arrangements in Tower Hamlets are consistent with the Guidance issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and paragraphs 3.1-3.6 of this report provide details of the Government conditions the Council will be required to meet in order to access the available funds.

7.2 Although there are no immediate legal issues arising from this report it will be essential that careful monitoring is undertaken of any grants made to applicants in order to ensure that the Council is properly protected in its administrative role.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Youth work aims to make a significant contribution toward realising equal opportunities. The arrangements for the implementation of the funds seek to ensure that all young people have equality of opportunity and have access to the funds. Specific work has been done in implementing the funds to ensure the involvement of disadvantaged and marginalized young people and those traditionally underrepresented in youth work settings.

9. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Youth work aims to tackle poverty and to engage young people who are at risk of social and economic exclusion. The arrangements for the implementation of the funds seek to ensure that the needs of disadvantaged young people are appropriately met.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 There are no direct sustainable action for a greener environment implications arising from this report. However, a priority of the youth work curriculum is to develop young people's global and environmental awareness and some of applications for funds have contributed to this.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 To ensure that risks associated with the funds are well managed a comprehensive monitoring and reporting process has been established. It has been identified that strong project management is essential for quality delivery of the projects.
- 11.2 In the event that funded organisations are not able to deliver the projects we will identify other partners that can support delivery of the projects or alternative projects.

Appendix A

Newark Globe FC

The project idea is to further develop a newly created football team in the Globe Town area. This activity will encourage other young people to get involved in active sports and competitions.

Attlee Youth Jam

The project idea is to develop a chill out zone within the youth club specifically for those who are aged 13+. This area would be used as a relaxation area as well as a space for getting support for school/college work, job support/placements.

Spitalfields Boys Youth Project

The project idea is to develop a youth club specifically for boys to be held at the Hanbury Centre. The applicants also state that they wish to acquire funds for a residential trip.

Somali Girls in Action

The project idea is Somali girls to create a short film which will explore the cultural life of the Somali community and expectations of Somali girls. The film will also include Somali comedy both in Somali and translated in English

Redcoat Youth Project – Redcoat Youth Restoration Project

The project idea is to restore Redcoat Youth Project in a building as the youth project has been closed for the last 5 years. A building has been identified and the applicant is asking for assistance with purchasing of equipment.

New Expressions – Youth Communications Project

The project idea is to provide a Communications training course for girls with the aim of helping young people to communicate more effectively by understanding different methods of communication.

Taster of Football Coaching (Part 2) Project

The project idea is to provide football coaching sessions twice weekly. Participants will then be able to take part in the SNC Youth Football League taking place during winter through summer.

Your identity as a young Bangladeshi in Britain Project

The project idea is to work with BBC Radio Jockeys to develop a programme entitled 'Your identity as a young Bangladeshi in Britain'. Young People and the BBC Team will plan out a series of events to include group consultation, workshops on research and findings on young Bangladeshi in Britain, using interview techniques and recordings.

Off the streets

The project Idea is to set up an area within SYC for young people to receive help and assistance on receiving with looking for employment and career opportunities during

the day. During the evening it will be an area for young people to chill out or do their homework.

Girls Club

The project idea is to further develop activities at the newly created girls club at Urban Base. Proposed activities include an 8-week art project; learn how to cook projected associated day trips to art projects and a restaurant kitchen

Multi Youth Bow

The project idea is to develop a safe and supervised meeting place for local young people who will offer educational activities, indoor and outdoor games. This will take place at Multi Youth Centre, Roman Road in Bow.

Sister Hood

The project Idea is to connect social excluded Somali Girls especially new-comers into the community. This will be done by encouraging girls to work on a fashion design project combining traditional Somali fashion with western influences. This will take place at the Multi Youth Centre.

Aberfeldy Youth Music Project

The project idea is to further develop an existing music project to create a vocal training programme.

Stars of the Future

The idea is to produce and film a mini drama using members of the club to direct, produce and act in film as well as taking on roles such as make up artist and costume design.

Climbing Club

The project Idea is to have a rock climbing training by attending the climbing club after school then using those rock climbing skills on a residential which will be open to young people from variety of schools

Olympic Sailing group

The project Idea is to have 8 training sailing sessions in London then go on a residential trip to Essex and sail out on the open see

Grassroots Orchestra

The project Idea is to encourage local young people to learn to play musical instruments, form a Grassroots Band and host a musical event on the Aberfeldy estate.

Out 'n' about

The project Idea is to get a group of young people together to manage and organise trips for other young people in the Limehouse area. Many young people have been outside Tower Hamlets so it is hope that the excursions will widen their perspectives.

The Clean Up Project

The project idea is to redecorate the youth centre and to buy new furniture in order to facilitate future activities. It is proposed that the young people will participate in decorating the club.

Café Reconnect

The project idea is refurbish and redecorate the Café Reconnect Centre on St. Paul's Way in order that young people are able to run the café and elements of the centre (with the assistance of youth leaders). At the moment the Centre is only open two hours a day at lunchtimes. After refurbishment, it is hoped that the opening hours can be extended to six hours a day and also open at weekends.

Caxton Hall Late Night Project

The project idea is to make the youth club more appealing by upgrading the premises by improving access for disabled users, create a safer environment by installing better outdoor lighting and cutting back overgrown bushes and mending the perimeter fence as well as general painting and decorating of the interior.

The Tenants and Residents Association will also use the building.

Fair Trade Tuck Shop

The project idea is to create and build a secure space and breakfast bar within St Andrews Wharf to enable the establishment of a fair trade tuck shop selling healthy and drinks for young people attending the youth centre and other people within the community. Young people will man the tuck shop as volunteers. Any profit generated will go towards the young people's fund for future projects.

Music Space Capital Build

The project idea is to convert areas of the Brady Centre into rehearsal rooms for bands and young musicians and to create accessible recording facilities as the space currently being used is not ideal for such purposes.

Concordia Centre Youth Development Project

The project idea is to develop Concordia Community Centre into a Multi purpose youth centre. Three Somali organisations currently use the facility. These organisations would like to make structural changes to the building in order to use space more effectively in order to deliver more activities and training programmes for larger groups as currently they have to hire other venues for some youth activities.

Helping Achieve Youth Ambitions

The project idea is to refurbish and renovate Collingwood Hall in order to make greater use of the space available. An area that is currently disused has been earmarked as an IT suite. The application states that improvements are also necessary in the kitchen area to increase access for disabled users and flooring in the toilets and common hallways need to be replaced as they are currently in a bad state.

The Tenants and Residents Association also use this building

Osmani Capital Redevelopment

The project idea is to purchase fixtures, fittings and equipment for the new youth centre being constructed at the Osmani Trust. This project forms part of a larger scheme which consists of a £4.4m redevelopment of the site (funded by LBTH) and reconstruction of a new Centre for the Osmani Trust. The new building will incorporate a gym, meeting rooms, IT suite, cafeteria, TV room, full disabled access.

Late Night Opening B Studio

The project idea is to provide late night opening of the B music studio for young people to gain support from a qualified sound engineer but cannot afford to pay for time in the studio.

Duke of Edinburgh

The project idea is to buy equipment in order that participants to the youth centre are able to take part in aspects of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme (particularly going on expeditions).

Panna and Outreach

The project idea is to get a Panna Cage for the youth centre to benefit the Street Sports project and will also be used in mini football tournaments, training programmes and sessions. The project also wishes to purchase bicycles and walkie-talkies for outreach detached sports work.

Mile End East Senior Provision (Café Reconnect)

The project idea is to create a football team for under-privileged young people in the Mile End east area. It is hoped that the football team will be a diversion from negative influences affecting local youths, such as gang violence and drug abuse as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles.

ROOTS

The project idea is to develop a football team as a distraction from gang warfare.

Youth Leadership

The project idea is to develop a youth leadership programme which will take place one evening a week for six weeks. The programme will cover Effective Leadership, Motivation, Influencing Others and Self Expression. It is hoped that this project will help participants to improve poor inter-personal skills.

Mulberry Mini Model UN

The project idea is to run a Model United Nations Conference in December 2009 for students across London to discuss the elimination of landmines with Mulberry Mini UN acting as the conference Secretariat.

CFC

The project idea is to develop a football team for the Shadwell Area as a way of encouraging young people not to be drawn into a life of crime or commit ASB.

Building and horticultural improvement

The project idea is to refurbish the current office in Stepney which is in a dilapidated state in order to be able to restart the One to One Support with future careers and CV building exercises with volunteers from the East London Business Alliance as well as carry out a number of workshops and courses to aid self improvement.