

	<p align="center">Officer Key Decision 23 October 2020</p>
	<p align="center">Report for the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</p>
<p align="center">To enter into a grant funding agreement with the Youth Justice Board for the COVID-19 Response to Over Represented Children Pathfinder</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix 1 Grant Conditions Appendix 2 Grant Funding payment claim
Background Papers:	
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Sue Gates Head of Early Help Email: sue.gates@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the Youth Justice Board funded, 'COVID-19 Response to Over Represented Children Pathfinder project', in order to enable the Strategic Director, Children and Young People to agree to enter into a grant agreement with the Youth Justice Board.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Strategic Director, Children and Young People:

- 2.1 Notes the basis on which the Council has made application to the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales for a grant as set out in Section 3 and Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Agrees to receive grant funding and enter into a grant agreement with the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales for a COVID-19 Response to Over-represented Children Pathfinder.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Early Help Service within the Children and Young People Directorate (“CYP”) bid for a grant from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (“YJB”) for a pathfinder project entitled ‘COVID-19 Response to Over Represented Children’. The bid was agreed by Senior Managers in CYP and signed off by the Director of CYP.
- 3.2 Following several requests for additional information and clarification of aspects of the funding bid from the YJB, an offer of grant funding was made and grant conditions (Appendix1) issued to the Council on Friday 16th October. The Council’s bid had set out that services would start to be delivered during the month of October in line with the requirements set out by the funder. This included mapping work that will inform the rest of the project. Arrangements are in place to second a data analyst to this project and back-fill the post. This recruitment needs to take place as soon as possible. The YJB stipulated that services should commence in line with the grant funding proposal. There is therefore urgency to agree to receive grant funding and sign the grant agreement.
- 3.3 Acceptance of the grant and entering into the grant funding agreement is considered to be a Key Decision due to the value of the overall grant (£696k to 31st March 2023) and its significance in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions of the borough. Given the need for the Council to urgently enter into the grant agreement, it was necessary for Officers to seek approval from the Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to dispense with the usual requirements for prior notice of the decision and to disapply the usual call-in period following the decision. This consent was given on 20 October 2020, thereby allowing the Strategic Director of CYP to agree to accept grant funding and approve entry into the grant with YJB. The grant funding payment claim at Appendix 2 can then be returned to the YJB to trigger the payment of the grant and initiate the reporting requirements.
- 3.4 Full information about the grant is contained in the Grant Funding Agreement at Appendix 1. In particular Annex 2 of the Grant Funding Agreement sets out the funded activities and background and purpose of the grant. The funding bid detailed how Brent’s children and young people will benefit from these funded activities. Annex 6 demonstrates the outputs and expected outcomes of the project. The project’s success depends on the early work being completed as this will provide the information that will determine the pathway for the rest of the project activity. If the decision was not taken with immediate effect there will be a delay to delivery of the project aimed at supporting children from BAME communities who have been adversely affected by Covid-19. As infection rates rise and the likelihood of further restrictions on movement are implemented it is important that this project commences immediately as it will help mitigate any further negative effects on young people from BAME backgrounds.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The grant funding will be a total of £696,803 over 3 years from October 2020 – March 2023 and each part of the funding has specific outcomes that need to be evidenced.
- Year 1 - £197,100 including £60,000 start-up funding to mobilise the project.
 - Year 2 - £249,703
 - Year 3 - £250,000.

4.2 The funding will impact outcomes for disproportionately affected CYP experiencing trauma from COVID-19. The payment schedule is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Chief Officers have delegated powers to enter into grant agreements pursuant to section 1(a) of the table at paragraph 9.5 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

5.2 As indicated at paragraph 3.3, acceptance of the grant and entering into the grant funding agreement is considered to be a Key Decision due to the value of the overall grant and its significance in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions of the borough. This would ordinarily require notice of the key decision to be publicised for 28 days prior to the key decision being taken and for the decision not to be implemented until the expiry of a call in period. The Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has however agreed to dispense with the usual requirements for prior notice of the decision and to disapply the usual call-in period following the decision. In the circumstances, the Strategic Director of CYP is able to proceed with agreement to receive grant funding and enter into the grant agreement without further delay.

5.3 Legal Services have reviewed the grant funding agreement and confirm that the terms of the funding agreement are acceptable from a legal perspective.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 The project is aimed at vulnerable CYP and those most affected by trauma and COVID-19. It is not universally available but addresses some of the negative equality implications experienced by these CYP.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 The bid and the grant agreement requirements have been discussed with the Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 There are some short term secondment opportunities for CYP staff, in particular during the mobilisation phase.

8.2 All recruitment and Secondment processes will follow appropriate policies and equal opportunities guidance.

Report sign off:

GAIL TOLLEY
Strategic Director, Children &
Young People