

Report title	Youth Development Fund Update
Report author	Chantal Noble, Community Development Manager
Department	Community Development, Community Services
Exempt?	No
Exemption type	Not applicable
Reasons for exemption	Not applicable

Purpose of report:

To resolve

Synopsis of report:

- 1) To provide contextual background information on the Youth Development Fund;**
- 2) To provide an overview of the expenditure in 2023/2024 and to set out the proposed allocation of the Youth Development Fund for 2024/2025; and**
- 3) To detail the application from Egham Cricket Club to the Youth Development Fund**

Recommendation(s):

- i) The proposed expenditure plan, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report, for the Youth Development budget in 2024/2025, be approved; and**
- ii) Members approve the delegated authority to award a grant to Egham Cricket Club, following ongoing discussion and as outlined, to the Corporate Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Community Services Committee.**

1. Context and background of report

1.1 The Youth Development budget is an annual budget held by Community Services. The budget for 2024/25 is £215,000. It was agreed at the September 2023 Community Services Committee that £47,000 of this budget would be committed to playground redevelopments, leaving a budget for 2024/25 of £168,000 to be allocated, please refer to table 2.3.

1.2 The majority of the projects within the Youth Development Fund have been completed and will be summarised in this report.

1.3 The 2024/25 Service Area Plan for Community Services does not outline intended expenditure of this budget. Therefore, given that expenditure relating to this budget line is required to be approved by this Committee, this report sets out how the budget is proposed to be allocated for next financial year.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

2.1 The table below provides a summary of the projects delivered with the 2023/24 budget.

Project	Summary	Budget	Update
Subsidised school holiday provision working with established local providers	Working with partners to provide subsidised spaces or increased capacity within school holiday activity sessions to encourage participation by children and young people.	£5,000	82 spaces on Club4 (Easter, Summer & Christmas) and 28 spaces over October, Christmas and Easter holidays at the Big Hat Bushcamp in Lyne.
Treasure map trails	Provide free at the point of access, treasure map trails to encourage families to use parks and open spaces across the borough, providing an opportunity to learn about local history and heritage	£8,000 (4 x treasure map trails)	1000 treasure map trails produced for Englefield Green, Chertsey, Addlestone and Egham
Self-Defence Classes	Provide free self-defence classes, delivered either in partnership with schools or via open access venues within the Community. Potential to focus on some girls only sessions as part of the project, linking to community safety etc.	£2,000 (10 x sessions)	11 workshops were delivered in six different schools/clubs with 196 children participating. Feedback was received from 191 participants. 99% enjoyed taking part in the Self Defence workshop, 93% stated they would benefit from taking part in another self defence workshop and 88% feel more confident after completing the workshop
Xplorer Orienteering Activity in Council Parks and Open Spaces	Free activity for families within Council parks and open spaces through the creation of 4x orienteering maps and associated tokens to find.	£2,000 (subscription & 4x orienteering maps)	Maps were created for four parks, attendance at events throughout 2023/2024 was over 177.

Friday Night Project (ACE youth project)	Diversions activities, linked to ASB reduction, for young people aged 11-18 years through sport and enrichment activities. Sessions last for 2 hours on a specified evening and include activities such as gym swimming, football, basketball. Proposed to run sessions at Egham Orbit and Chertsey/ Addlestone	£29,000 (If successful in year one, this project may require annual budget provision from Youth Development Budget)	This project started on 19 February. Delivery is in KickX (Addlestone), Gogmore Farm Park (Chertsey) and Egham Orbit (Egham). The cost is £2 per session. Final 50% payment delivered after 6 months
Sportability Extension	To deliver an extended Sportability offer in the borough, with activity in both the North and South of the borough over two days. This project has been discussed previously with Members in Community Services Committee	£6,000 (If successful in year one, this project may require annual budget provision from Youth Development Budget)	This event is scheduled to take place 24 April at Royal Holloway University. There are six schools registered and seven sports / sessions
Family Support – Access to Activity Funding	Provide support for children, young people and families engaged in the Family Support Programme to access leisure and recreation activity to strengthen family relationships, support families in financial hardship etc.	£2,000	
Junior Citizen	Development of revised Junior Citizen programme in Runnymede, following intended withdrawal of funding by SCC	£5,000 (Committed annually for three years as previously approved by Committee)	Junior Citizen took place in November. Over 750 children attended with seven sets delivered by six agencies
Youth Arts Projects	Engagement of young people in arts projects including but not limited to drama projects, graffiti projects etc. Intention is to consider initiatives successfully delivered elsewhere in Surrey which previously have not been delivered in Runnymede	£6,000	A project is currently being worked on with Eikon, Jubilee School and Chertsey High School, creating a piece of artwork on the underpass at Addlestone Moor roundabout.

Youth Development Grant Scheme	Provision of access to funding for voluntary and community sector organisations delivering youth activities and services in the borough. Intended focus is to promote capacity building and creation of new projects and initiatives to benefit Children and Young People in Runnymede	£40,000	Eight applications were received to this fund and four were successful with one outstanding. A total amount of £17,598 was granted to a variety of youth projects delivered across the borough, with 5k outstanding
Sport and Physical Activity Capacity Building	Working with local organisations to increase engagement and participation in sport and physical activity. Delivered in response to data relating to childhood obesity and physical inactivity amongst children and young people in Runnymede and more recently, low engagement levels from young people with Surrey Youth Games training	£30,000	Funding for the new Egham Boxing Club and the free 39-week community programme for young people from low-income families and girls only sessions, £8704. Runnymede Raptors 24-month community girls basketball programme, £8,050. Core Judo community use matting £8,000. Junior Rugby Club Hub in partnership with Chobham Rugby Club, £5000
Replacement Play Areas	Contribution to forthcoming programme of play area replacement across the Borough, following undertaking of all site survey and identification of health and safety related works required	£60,000	This money was spent on King George V playground
Contingency Budget		£20,000	
	Total:	£215,000	

2.2 The Council's Community Development team, with input from the Corporate Head of service, have identified several project ideas for 2024/25 that include:

- Delivery of new projects/functions, led by the Council, working in partnership where appropriate.

- Providing support to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working with young people in the borough across a range of areas and providing numerous different opportunities
- Opportunities to provide family focused recreational activities that would be free to users at the point of access and promote residents engaging with the Council's parks and open spaces.

2.3 The table below provides a summary of the proposed projects, which Members are asked to consider against the recommendation contained within this report. This table outlines the indicative budget required and the partners who the Council intend to work with.

Project	Summary	Budget £	Partners identified
Xplorer	Subscription fee for a free orienteering activity for children/families within Council parks and open spaces + three x token sets	455	British Orienteering
Subsidising Youth Activity	Working with partners to provide subsidised spaces or increased capacity within school holiday activity sessions to encourage participation by children and young people.	5,000	Active Surrey, Big Hat Bushcamp, Addlestone Canoe Club, Core Judo
Self Defence Sessions	For delivery sessions in schools (£200 each) + personal attack alarms	3,000	Warrior Combat Arts
ACE project	Delivery of youth activity in x three areas (Addlestone, Chertsey and Egham).	9,000	KickX, Achieve Lifestyle, Sport4Kids
Sportability Extension	To deliver an extended Sportability offer in the borough	6,000	Working with Royal Holloway University
Family Support activities	Provide support for children, young people and families engaged in the Family Support Programme to access leisure and recreation activity to strengthen family relationships, support families in financial hardship etc.	2,000	
Junior Citizen	Development of revised Junior Citizen programme in Runnymede, following intended withdrawal of funding by SCC. 5k already committed over 3 years, increase for 2 x playworkers for 10 days and sport equipment	6,850	Thorpe Park, St John Ambulance, Network Rail, RNLI, Eikon
Sport and Physical Activity Capacity Building	Working with local organisations to increase engagement and participation in sport and physical activity. Delivered in response to	20,000	Sports Clubs and physical activity

	data relating to childhood obesity and physical inactivity amongst children and young people in Runnymede and more recently, low engagement levels from young people with Surrey Youth Games training		providers in Runnymede.
Arts projects	Engagement of young people in arts projects or art themed projects for young people to access	6,000	Arts Partnership Surrey
Runnymede Sport Festival	Community engagement event for Runnymede sports clubs, physical activity, and health & wellbeing providers to showcase their sessions to young people. Positive initial discussions with a range of clubs, the next Sport and Physical Activity Forum in March will help to draft a plan for a summer event linked to the Olympics. Funding will go towards promotional materials, equipment hires, staffing and prizes.	10,000	
Girl's Football	Following a positive meeting with six football clubs in the borough, funding to go towards club development, free community programmes and a celebration event to increase girls' participation	14,000	Abbeyrangers, Manorcroft United, VW football club, Egham Town FC, KickX, Achieve Lifestyle
Nature Makers Classes	To provide family activities during the time when the various playgrounds in Runnymede are closed for renovation	1,500	Nature Makers
Youth Development Fund	Provision of access to funding for voluntary and community sector organisations delivering youth activities and services in the borough. Intended focus is to promote capacity building and creation of new projects and initiatives to benefit Children and Young People in Runnymede	35,000	
Mental Health Support	To work with appropriate providers to organise projects and/or activities that support the mental health of younger residents. This includes a focus on LGBTQ+ residents.	12,000	Local clubs and MH organisations, Surrey Pride, Stonewall, Eikon, Twister
Climate Change Awareness in schools	Using Lego to explore environmental topics, delivering 18 workshops in four schools; The	3,000	Climate Change dept,

	Grange Community School, St Anns Heath, Pycroft Grange, and Sayes Court, totalling 500 pupils.		Brickies (Lego)
Contingency and other projects	e.g. add to playground provision, Nature Rangers in partnership with National Trust, extension to ACE, Club4, with 20k contingency	34,195	
Total		168,000	

- 2.4 Consideration has been given to capacity to deliver the projects outlines in the report, against existing resources within respective teams, and against the other objectives included within the Community Services Business Area Plan.
- 2.5 As a result, the table details a blend of projects, with some led by the Council and others intended to be delivered through partnerships locally or via activity providers and/or facilitators.
- 2.6 It is intended that a report is submitted to the meeting of Community Services Committee in March 2025, outlining the achievements and developments against each of the projects identified.
- 2.7 An application to the COMF (The Contain Outbreak Management Fund) was received from Egham Cricket Club in 2023. It was determined that the application was more suited to the Youth Development Fund and an application was received, summarised below.

Organisation name	Summary	Amount requested
Egham Cricket Club	Prepare the existing site by clearing away unused scrubland & lay a suitable foundation, lay the appropriate matting, erect the framework for the enclosure	£5,000

- 2.8 It is recommended that this money be ring-fenced and awarded based on the receipt of satisfactory answers to the questions raised by Officers and Councillors in relation to the application.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 The projects outlined support the Council Corporate Business Plan and align with associated strategies, notably priority 2 of the Council's Health Wellbeing Strategy.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 The proposed projects are to be delivered within the allocated budget for Youth Development, totalling £168,000. This budget falls under the budget management responsibility of Community Services.
- 4.2 A contingency budget has been included to reduce the risk of any budget overspend relating to the proposed projects. Officers are required to meet regularly with the service area accountant to ensure prudent financial management of budgets.
- 4.3 Following further engagement with potential partners and providers, should any

of the listed projects be unviable within this financial year, it is proposed that the allocated sum be reallocated to the replacement play area budget, given its requirements and the likely short timescales to consider and deliver other project opportunities.

- 4.4 Members are asked to note that if these proposals prove successful, there will be pressure to continue the schemes in future years. If this is the case, ongoing budgets will need to be identified.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications relating directly to this report.
- 5.2 Legal implications will be taken into account for each of the projects suggested and, where required, the Council's procurement rules will be considered and followed.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment was conducted when the Youth Development Fund was reported to this Committee in November 2023. As funding is targeted at young people with particular projects for both genders this will have a positive impact on the protected characteristics of age and sex.
- 6.2 Equalities Assessments and Screenings will be conducted for specific projects, where required.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 All projects will be required to consider environmental implications as part of their planning.

8. Risk Implications

- 8.1 Risk assessments will be used for each activity and Public Liability Insurance requested from delivery partners, in addition to the Council's own Public Liability Insurance.

9. Timetable for Implementation

- 9.1 Projects will commence in the new financial year or when scheduled due to availability of the venues, providers or time of year.

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 The Youth Development Budget is an annual budget available to Community Services, and as a result several initiatives, that are delivered elsewhere in Surrey now have the potential to be realised within Runnymede.
- 10.2 The opportunity to engage children and young people in their community, to work with voluntary sector partners to build capacity in the delivery of services for children and young people and the opportunity to extend some of the current work strands within the Community Services Business Unit, specifically within Community Development, are welcomed. Members are invited to support the proposed direction for 2024/25.

11. Background papers
None.

12. Appendices
None.