

YOUTH INVESTMENT FUND

Community Connections



SUMMARY

Plymouth City Council has been awarded £2,319,463 to deliver improvements across our Youth estate. We will provide upgrades and improvements across three buildings to support increased engagement across the estate and to drive positive outcomes for young people.

This was a partnership bid between Community Connections and the Children Young People and Family Service (CYPFS).

It will see improvements being made to:

- Fredrick Street Centre, Stonehouse
- Efford Youth & Community Centre
- Honicknowle Youth & Community Centre

DETAIL

Youth Investment Fund is part of the government's £560 million investment in young people, including the new National Youth Guarantee: that by 2025, every young person in England will have access to regular out of school activities, adventures away from home and opportunities to volunteer

In February 2021, the DCMS launched a Youth Review seeking views from young people and the sector on out of school support for young people. *The DCMS engaged with over 6000 young people across the country and over 170 youth sector organisations and 32 academics/researchers.* ([Youth Review: Summary Findings and Government Response](#)).

The National Youth Guarantee responds directly to what around 6,000 young people stated to prioritise during the DCMS Youth Review. The £368 million Youth Investment Fund (YIF) is a key part of that investment, targeted at improving youth services in parts of the country most in need. The money will be made available across the next three financial years - 22/23 to 24/25 - for facilities from which open access services for young people can be delivered.

OBJECTIVES

The YIF's objective is to create, expand and improve local youth facilities and their services, in order to drive positive outcomes for young people and their communities:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of young people
- Equip young people with skills for work and life
- Empower young people to be active members of their communities and society
- Level up provision in 'left behind' areas

Based on a set of objective criteria the DCMS has identified Plymouth local authority area as one that qualifies for YIF. The methodology used to create the list can be found at the [GOV.UK webpage](#)

GRANT AWARD

Plymouth City Council, has been awarded a grant of up to the maximum sum of £2,319,463.00.

The Social Investment Business (SIB) Foundation will provide the Grant subject to the terms and conditions contained within this Award Letter, the attached Grant Agreement and schedules.

The purpose of the Grant is to advance the objectives of YIF Phase 2, as set out in the YIF

Grant Agreement.

The grant comprises a maximum of £1,856,888.00 capital funding and £462,575.00 revenue funding.

Revenue funding will be used to support both the delivery of the capital improvements but also to drive increased engagement with Young People across all sites. It covers both staffing and equipment costs.

DELIVERY IN PLYMOUTH

This was an important bid for Plymouth as this work is key to keeping Young People safe is to provide places where they can come together, engage with each other safely and engage with services that can support them. Improved spaces will also support the Council with one of its key objectives around early intervention and prevention.

Plymouth is made up of 161 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) and is the home to some 59,200 young people aged between 0-19. Located in close proximity to the city centre is Stonehouse, which is the most deprived area of the city and nationally is within the top 1% of the most deprived areas.

As a result of the current housing crisis in the city, the cities composition and geographical boundaries, land is of a premium, which significantly reduces viable sites for development. These factors have therefore influenced the overall strategy for this application, ensuring monies are utilised in a fashion that reaches the most young people as possible.

Our ambition is to renew / reimagine key sites used by children's and youth services combined with our VCSE colleagues in the city. This was a collaborative application with the pro-active involvement of young people, who will be involved in the shaping of the bid and throughout the delivery.

In developing the application, we are linking Frederick Street with the two other sites contained within Plymouth – Efford and Honicknowle. These locations have been selected through consultation, reviews of relevant data sets displaying need, and local intelligence.

SITE SUMMARIES

Frederick Street Centre, Stonehouse

Expansion of Current Activities

- Direct Work - 1:1 work with young people through; Youth Justice, and targeted support. The building is also used to facilitate Family Group Conferences which young people attend, the OUT youth group and contact and family time for children who are not in the care of their parents.

Creation of New Activities

- Care Leaver Base - A designated base for care experienced young people to access between 10:00 and 20:00 weekdays to access a range of support, resources, IT facilities, life skills, fitness equipment. They will be able to use the centre's facilities/activities including use of the training kitchen to improve life skills, group work programmes to support emotional well-being and the drop in Café and skills sessions.
- Community Café - A drop in café that would be managed by care leavers open from 12:00pm – 8:00pm weekdays open whilst other activities young people access are taking place. We hope to

support some of our care experienced young people to work in the Café – this will support with building confidence for them to apply for work when ready

- Drop in Sessions - The centre to be open 08:00am - 8:00pm so young people can have consistent access to support. Specific drop in sessions will be available in collaboration with organisations such as; DWP, sexual health, mental health and careers.
- Group Work - The use of appropriate facilities to deliver a number of groups for young people and families to access. This will include multiagency delivery of group work and will include emotional well-being groups as well as educational / awareness groups around subjects like exploitation, knife crime, sexual health and managing difficult feelings.
- Education Suite - A designated suite to deliver a number of training opportunities to young people to aid skill development and be a safe space for the virtual school to access. This will include working in partnership with the Skills Launchpad to improve accessibility for our young people. The education suite can be used by young people still in education as well as those older young people who need support to gain the skills they need to improve life chances.
- Well Being Space - A space for young people in crisis to access 08:00am to 8:00pm and be supported by workers

Efford Youth & Community Centre

Expansion of Current Activities

- Open Access/Universal Youth Project - Open access youth work voluntary participation, with young people (11-19) being free to come and go as they please. Offering a regular, safe, warm space to socialise with friends and a space where young people can and do build positive relationship with youth workers and others relevant agencies and practitioners.
- 4 Me & My Friends (SEND) - targeted Universal youth group primarily working with young people on the Autistic spectrum, aged 10-25yrs with Global delay syndrome, Sensory processing disorder, Asperger's, ADHD, OCD, Generalised anxiety disorder, Attachment disorder and Swan (syndrome without a name). The project offers young people the opportunity to have fun, a voice, learn new skills and make new friends.
- No Limits (SEND) - is a youth club that is open for young people aged 11-24, who identify as having an additional need. The project offers the opportunity to experience youth work provision and to socialise with their peers in a safe and welcoming environment. Aiming to provide a safe, welcoming space offering fun interactive activities, group work, informal education and personal development.
- Multi Sports (Boxing, Basketball) - Sports focused open access sessions run in partnership with youth sports providers delivering fun, engaging physical activities to increase confidence, self-esteem, pro-social behaviour and physical and mental health wellbeing
- Digital Engagement - A targeted open access project which aims to promote positive engagement and create a fun informal learning environment for young people. The project will focus on relevant themes such as online safety to increase feelings of safety in both their online and offline lives. It will also create opportunities to develop their digital skills and explore employment and learning opportunities.

Creation of New Activities

- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) - Increase provision in sport facilities and partnership work within on site MUGA will increase supervised sporting activities on site. enhance benefits of physical activity and aligned holistic wellbeing, offering active positive diversionary activities and offer facilities for greater partnership work / engagement with relevant physical activity providers

Honicknowle Youth & Community Centre

Expansion of Current Activities

- Open Access/Universal Youth Project - Open access youth work voluntary participation, with young people (11-19) being free to come and go as they please. Offering a regular, safe, warm space to socialise with friends and a space where young people can and do build positive relationship with youth workers and others relevant agencies and practitioners.
- Young Carers (inc. SEND) - Targeted Universal city wide youth project for all young carers up to 19 years. The project gives young carers a safe space and opportunities to participate and engage in positive, fun and creative activities. One to one support is provided for young carers who are having difficulties coping or are at crisis point. Youth Workers also support transition work to young adult caring services
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CONCLUSION

Improvements across all sites will aim to:

- Increase the number of young people using the site
- Increase the range of activities
- Improve opportunities for Young People
- Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Young People