

1. **Swan Youth Project** (Pages 2 - 5)

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by an officer under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

SWAN YOUTH PROJECT

Delegated Power

Specify the particular delegated power being exercised by reference to the Delegation Scheme or Cabinet minute and date.

Council Constitution. Part 3 Responsibilities for Council Functions. Section 2 Functions Delegated to Cabinet Members and Officers – Scheme of Delegation, Functions:

7.12 – Health improvement and promotion including public health and community care

The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities: day to day management

Decision Taken

Specify precise details of the decision taken

The Swan Youth Project operates in Downham Market. It provides educational, social and emotional support to circa 300 young people each year aged 8-18. Any young person can get involved in positive activities at these sessions and the Swan Project regularly reach their maximum 48 young people attending these sessions.

The Swan Youth Project receives no statutory funding. Money is raised via donations, grant applications and fund raising. The service costs £170k per annum to provide.

The decision taken is to provide a grant of £15,000 from the covid 'Controlled Outbreak Management Fund' (COMF) to provide funds to support the continued work to support young people in Downham Market.

Reasons for the Decision

Specify all reasons for taking the decision

Over the last academic year, the Swan Project has seen a large increase in mental health concerns and family breakdown, directly relating to covid. They are also seeing rises in cases where family relationships have either completely broken down or are causing significant concern. Many blended families have needed support to manage the time spend with each parent due to restrictions during covid, which continues to impact on the way they now function. Mental health in young people is also causing concern with more safeguarding issues being reported over the last year. Self-harm and suicidal thoughts have increased in young people, meaning many have not been able to access appropriate support through Community Mental Health or there is a significant waiting time of up to 2 years. As a result, the Swan Project have commissioned a therapist to provide support the young people. The project has grown over the last 2 years and includes 1:1 provision, Family Support service, Open Access Youth Groups, Young Carers Support, Hygiene Bank and Bike Kitchen.

The Swan Project is also seeing an increase in 'step down' referrals from Children's Services as well as more involvement with cases in their own families and children's services. These are complex, requiring more time, a higher level of reporting. These families can be difficult to engage with and with the financial crisis, it is expected to get worse.

The funding provided is to provide funds to continue to provide the service. The need for support increased following the national lockdowns and the corresponding increased pressure on all services.

Options considered

The Swan Project does not receive Statutory Funding and relies on grants, donations and fundraising. The increase in demand and the complexity of the issues young people are facing, costs have increased. The COMF funding was directly for councils to provide a response to the covid pandemic.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

None

List of Background papers

Authorisation

Post Held Chief Executive

LORRAINE GORE

Signature

Date 9 August 2022

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Signed by Member as consulted:

Mr. S. SANDELL

Date 9 August 2022

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function		Swan Project Downham Market				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		<u>New</u> / Existing (delete as appropriate)				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations		Provide funding to the Swan Project in Downham Market to support the increased demand on their services directly related to the covid-19 pandemic and the effects of multiple lockdowns on the young people of Downham Market.				
Question		Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>			Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
		Age	x			
		Disability			x	
		Gender			x	
		Gender Re-assignment			x	
		Marriage/civil partnership			x	
		Pregnancy & maternity			x	
		Race			x	
		Religion or belief			x	
		Sexual orientation			x	
Other (eg low income)	x					
Question		Answer		Comments		
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?		Yes / <u>No</u>				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?		Yes / <u>No</u>				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?		Yes / <u>No</u>				
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section		Yes / No		Actions:		
				Actions agreed by EWG member: Name...Honor Howell.....		
Assessment completed by: Name		Honor Howell				
Job title Assistant to the Chief Executive		Date 09 August 2022				
Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.						