



Section 4

# Equality Analysis Toolkit

**Proposal to cease the Children and Family  
Wellbeing Small Grant Scheme**  
**For Decision Making Items**

**Spring 2018**

## Question 1 - What is the nature of and are the key components of the proposal being presented?

It is proposed to dispense with the Children and Family Wellbeing Young people's small grants scheme.

As part of the revised structural arrangements for the County Council the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFW) has responsibility for the administration of the Young People's Small Grants scheme as a legacy from Lancashire Young People's Service.

The Small Grants scheme supports applications from both Third Sector organisations and individual young people which are reviewed and approved monthly by a young people's panel.

In 2018/19 the annual amount of funding made available for the small grants programme is £111,000.00. The funding is divided across each Lancashire district, with 25% of each of the district allocation ring-fenced for individual young people's applications.

In 2018 the amounts available for awarding are

- Third Sector £83,250.00
- Individual young people £27,750.00

During a period of transition for the CFW service the small grants scheme has been maintained with funding provided by Public Health, with the expectation that the small grants scheme would be reviewed. The review has identified a year on year decline in the number of applications received from both individuals and Third Sector organisations with the budget consistently underspent despite activity to promote the scheme. In 2017/18 only 41% of the available budget was spent.

<b>2017/18 Small Grants awards</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>	<b>Underspend</b>
Awards to VCFS Organisations	£83,250	£32,660	£50,590
Awards to Individual Young People	£27,750	£12,416	£15,334

It is evident that there is further reduction in applications in the current year. As at 31 August 2018 the amount awarded to groups was £7,938 and the amount awarded to individual young people was £90.

The monthly application, assessment and approval cycle is costly to administer. It is also evident that some providers consistently secure funds via this and other routes whilst other VCFS organisations make no applications to the scheme.

The arrangements duplicate other schemes the service provides as detailed below which may account for why, year on year, the number of applications to the young people's small grants scheme is declining.

### **Children & Family Wellbeing Service Lead Professional Budget**

The Children & Family Wellbeing service provides funding in the form of a Lead Professional Budget which enhances the support offered to an individual family.

If the small grant scheme for individual young people was to cease, the Lead Professional budget could be utilised to support targeted vulnerable young people who CFW are working with.

### **Children & Family Wellbeing Service commissioned provision**

The Children & Family Wellbeing service has commissioned VCFS providers to deliver a range of additional services for children and young people including emotional health and wellbeing support and support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The funding provided to the commissioned services for 2018/19 is £1.65m.

The Children & Family Wellbeing service is also currently in a procurement process to invite bids from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector to deliver 12-19 year old group based evening provision across the County, valued at £252k.

## **Question 2 - Scope of the Proposal**

Is the proposal likely to affect people across the county in a similar way or are specific areas likely to be affected – e.g. are a set number of branches/sites to be affected?

The proposal will affect young people and their families in all parts of Lancashire but the extent of impact may depend on their individual circumstances.

## **Question 3 – Protected Characteristics Potentially Affected**

Could the proposal have a particular impact on any group of individuals sharing protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, namely:

- Age
- Disability including Deaf people
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race/ethnicity/nationality
- Religion or belief
- Sex/gender
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage or Civil Partnership Status

And what information is available about these groups in the County's population or as service users/customers?

Yes. The nature of the grants scheme is that it is targeted at vulnerable young people aged 12-19. This means that the age protected characteristic (young people) may be particularly affected. As the grants also provide awards to disabled young people up to the age of 25 the disability protected characteristic group may also be affected more than other people in that age group. Other protected characteristics – e.g. gender and ethnicity – may be affected.

The young people's small grants scheme specifically provides awards to vulnerable young people and therefore supports Transgender young

people, lesbian and gay service users, teenage parents, young parents and young carers.

The Young People's small grant scheme is targeted towards young people aged 12-19 (up to 25 for those with SEND).

Eligibility for a grant is restricted to disadvantaged young people or those living in areas of deprivation. Priority is given to young people from one of more of the priority groups below:

- Young people who are looked after or leaving care
- Homeless young people,
- Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training,
- Young Carers,
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender young people
- Young People with learning difficulties or disabilities
- Young Parents
- Black and Minority Ethnic young people (including Gypsy/Roma/ Travellers)
- Young People known to the Youth Offending Team
- Young people living in rural isolation
- Young people from low income families

During 2017/18 64% of grant awards made were awarded to male young people. This means that the gender protected characteristic may be adversely affected.

## **Question 4 – Engagement/Consultation**

How have people/groups been involved in or engaged with in developing this proposal?

This document relates to the initial proposals outlined above and as such, the service is at the beginning of any engagement process

## **Question 5 – Analysing Impact**

Could this proposal potentially disadvantage particular groups sharing protected characteristics and if so which groups and in what way? This pays particular attention to the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty:

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of protected characteristics;
- To advance equality of opportunity for those who share protected characteristics;
- To encourage people who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life;
- To contribute to fostering good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not/community cohesion;

It is not anticipated that the cessation of the individual young people's element of the small grants scheme will result in any unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation of groups with protected characteristics. There will remain accessibility to grant funding to vulnerable young people via the CFW service Lead Professional budget which provides awards to young people with needs identified in a child and family assessment.

Applications to the Lead Professional budget are prioritised with a greater level of support being available to prioritised groups including those with disabilities or SEN, those affected by domestic abuse, groups such as Travellers and asylum seekers, etc.

The cessation of grants to the Third Sector may result in projects that target support to young people with protected characteristics ceasing to operate due to a lack of funding.

The cessation of the Young People's Small Grants scheme may result in a reduced opportunity for young people to participate in public life and gain additional life skills as young people are currently involved in the decision making process for awarding the small grants through a process of review within local Youth Councils

### **Question 6 –Combined/Cumulative Effect**

Could the effects of this proposal combine with other factors or decisions taken at local or national level to exacerbate the impact on any groups?

The Children & Family Wellbeing service is currently in a procurement process to invite bids from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector to deliver 12-19 year old group based evening provision across the County, valued at £252k. This may reduce the cumulative effects of this proposal.

There is potential for a wider cumulative impact subject to other budget options which may impact the Children and Family Wellbeing Service offer or Public Health Services.

Other budget proposals both nationally – in relation to funding available to Third Sector organisations – and locally may also increase the impact of service changes.

### **Question 7 – Identifying Initial Results of Your Analysis**

As a result of the analysis has the original proposal been changed/amended, if so please describe.

It is proposed to continue with the original process on the basis that funds are available from other funding streams to help support Lancashire's vulnerable 12-19 year olds.

## **Question 8 - Mitigation**

Will any steps be taken to mitigate/reduce any potential adverse effects of the proposal?

Mitigating actions have been considered;

The CFW service provides grant funding for individual children, young people and families in need in the form of a Lead Professional Budget which can be used by multi agency Lead Professionals to fund goods and services up to £2000.

In 2018/19 the funding available in the Lead Professional budget was increased to £150,000 which supports individuals where this meets a need identified by a CAF assessment and actioned in the Team around the Family Action Plan.

The Lead Professional grants are approved by officers who act as Lead Professionals to address needs identified in the Team around the Family action plan. This budget is consistently underspent and, therefore, can be used to fund those applications that would have been funded by the young people's small grants scheme.

The Children & Family Wellbeing service supports VCFS organisations through the commissioning arrangements in place for VCFS providers to deliver a range of additional services for children and young people including emotional health and wellbeing support and support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The funding provided to the commissioned services for 2018/19 is £1.45m.

The Children & Family Wellbeing service is also currently in a procurement process to invite bids from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector to deliver 12-19 year old group based evening provision across the County, valued at £252k.

## **Question 9 – Balancing the Proposal/Countervailing Factors**

This weighs up the reasons for the proposal – e.g. need for budget savings; damaging effects of not taking forward the proposal at this time – against the findings of the analysis.



This proposal has emerged following the need for the County Council to make unprecedented budget savings.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy reported in the September 2018 forecast that the Council will have a financial shortfall of £135.300m in 2022/23.

This is a combination of reducing resources as a result of the government's extended programme of austerity at the same time as the Council is facing significant increases in both the cost and demand for its services.

The Young People's Small Grants Scheme has no identified budget for 2018/19 the £111,000 funding commitment has been met by non-recurrent Public Health reserve.

Maintaining the current arrangements post 2018/19 has not been budgeted for and would therefore cause an additional financial pressure.

We acknowledge there could be an adverse impact from this proposal on young people and their families but there are arrangements to mitigate any impact including:

- Maintaining a Lead Professional budget that will provide ongoing accessibility to grants for vulnerable children, young people and families
- Promoting alternative sources of commissioned funding available to support young people's projects to Third Sector organisations
- Supporting VCFS organisations through the commissioning arrangements in place for VCFS providers to deliver a range of additional services for children and young people including emotional health and wellbeing support and support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The funding provided to the commissioned services for 2018/19 is £1.45m.
- Procurement of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector to deliver 12-19 year old group based evening provision across the County, valued at £252k.

## **Question 10 – Final Proposal**

In summary, what is the final proposal and which groups may be affected and how?

As we are at the beginning of this process there have been no changes to the initial proposals

## **Question 11 – Review and Monitoring Arrangements**

What arrangements will be put in place to review and monitor the effects of this proposal?

The service will seek to identify the full effects of the proposals through direct contact with the young people and Third Sector organisations that have received small grant funding. The feedback received will be recorded and the equality analysis will be updated with the appropriate evidence.

Equality Analysis Prepared By

Position/Role

Equality Analysis Endorsed by Line Manager and/or Service Head

Decision Signed Off By

Cabinet Member or Director

For further information please contact

Jeanette Binns – Equality & Cohesion Manager

[Jeanette.binns@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Jeanette.binns@lancashire.gov.uk)