

London Borough of Bromley

Report No.
LDS05164

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Agenda
Item No.

5

Title: **APPLICATION FOR FUNDING - VICTIM SUPPORT YOUTH INTERVENTION PROGRAMME**

Decision Maker: **Children And Young People Portfolio Holder** Decision Date: **11 Oct 2005**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Budget/Policy Framework: Within policy and budget

Chief Officer: Timothy Leader, Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Contact Officer: Colin Newman, Head of Community Safety
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Ward: Cross Borough

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 At his meeting on Wednesday 21 September, the Community Safety Portfolio Holder considered the attached report outlining a bid from Victim Support in order to access funding to run a comprehensive youth intervention programme. The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Leisure agreed funding for the project of £11,286 towards the cost of the project. The Portfolio Holder also agreed to recommend the proposed project to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, asking him to provide the remaining 50% of the funding to make this project viable.
- 1.2 It has been identified that this proposed package of work has relevance not only to the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Leisure but also the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People. As such, this it is proposed that a cross-Portfolio approach is adopted for this new initiative.
- 1.3 The proposed programme is being developed as a 12 month pilot initiative and has been costed at £38, 572. As the Portfolio Holders are unable to commit funding past the current financial year, the current proposal focuses on the funding of the initial seven months of this project, amounting to a total bid for £22,572 for the financial year 2005/2006.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to confirm approval for the aims of the proposed Victim Support Youth Intervention Programme and agree funding of £11,286, amounting to 50% match funding for the allocation made by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Leisure.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The details of the proposed project are set out in the attached report to the Community Safety and Leisure Portfolio Holder. Essentially, Victim Support in Bromley has put together a package of interventions designed to improve services for the young victims of crime in Bromley, including cases where offences are not reported to the Police.
- 3.2 The London Youth Crime Annual Report (produced by the Government Office for London) shows that between the year ending December 2004 and the previous year Bromley had experienced a 7% increase in the number of young victims of crime. The MORI Youth Survey suggests an even higher rate of youth victimisation, showing that in 2004 48% of young people in mainstream education had been the victim of crime. This represents a 3% increase on the previous year. These young people stated that they had been bullied, had property stolen, had property damaged or had been the victim of violence or aggression. The recently undertaken Communities that Care survey indicates that only 54% of respondents stated that they had never been bullied. Additionally, the Schools Health Education Unit survey indicated that 23% of respondents stated that they were sometimes afraid to go to school because of bullying.
- 3.3 A recent report by the Safer Bromley Partnership Senior Crime Analyst indicated that youth victimisation is poorly understood. The report notes that a contributory factor is that many young people do not report crime to the Police, or because they are fearful of reporting. It is acknowledged that greater understanding is necessary in order to permit further understanding. The proposed project would assist in the provision of this greater insight into the issues related to youth victimisation.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In light of the information available in relation to the young victims of crime, it is identified that this proposal is most relevant to the areas of young people moving safely into adulthood and the protection of vulnerable young people. It is evident that those who are victims of crime and bullying are vulnerable as a result. The proposals to increase the numbers of young people who access the services of Victim Support will include work with those victims of crime who have not reported the crimes to the Police. In addition, the programmes of education, awareness and the development of a “listener” programme will compliment priorities in pursuit of addressing the damaging consequences of bullying and promotion of citizenship. The package of recruitment of young people as volunteers will also address elements of the citizenship and the activities planned to provide additional opportunities for taking responsibility and making decisions.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of this 12 month project has been estimated at £38,695 for delivery over a 12 month period. As the Portfolio Holder is unable to commit funds beyond this financial year, a seven month application has been submitted, amounting to £22,572. The Children and Young People Portfolio Holder is asked to approve funding of £11,281.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications, Legal Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Appendix 1 – Youth Intervention Programme Project Plan and Budget Statement.