

Report No.  
ES13093

## London Borough of Bromley

### PART ONE - PUBLIC

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**Decision Maker:** PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PDS COMMITTEE

**Date:** 10th September 2013

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

**Title:** DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS - UPDATE

**Contact Officer:** Paul King, Head of Youth Support Services  
Tel: 020 8461 7572    E-mail: paul.king@bromley.gov.uk

**Chief Officer:** Terry Parkin, Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services

**Ward:** Boroughwide

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1. Reason for report

To update members on the performance of the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme in Bromley.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

**Members of the Public Protection and Safety Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.**

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
  2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost £95,078 for the staffing establishment identified below.
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Education, Care and Health Services/Bromley Youth Support Programme
  4. Total current budget for this head: £2,084,140
  5. Source of funding: ECS Approved Budget for 2013/14 with income derived from enrolment and expedition training charges as described in section 4 of the report
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 2.1 FTE and 12 volunteer staff
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
- 

### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### **3. COMMENTARY**

- 3.1 Introduced in 1956, the aim of the Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award is to provide an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of activities for young people, which gives young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for work and life, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future.
- 3.2 Irrespective of interest and ability, background or gender, the Award offers the opportunity to gain nationally recognised certificates of achievement at three levels:
- Bronze Award for those aged 14 and over.
  - Silver Award for those aged 15 and over.
  - Gold Award for those aged 16 and over.
- 3.3 To undertake the award young people are required to embark on activity in four different sections which include:
- Volunteering (helping other people in the local community);
  - Expeditions (training for, planning and completing a journey on foot, or horseback, by boat or cycle);
  - Skills (covering almost any hobby, skill or interest);
  - Physical recreation (sport, dance and fitness);
  - Residential project - Gold Award only (a purposeful enterprise with people not previously known to the participant).
- 3.4 The Award connects young people with their communities, enabling them to belong and contribute to society, through volunteering and supporting them to have a voice in decisions which affect their lives.
- 3.5 The Award offers young people opportunities in safe environments to take part in a wide range of sports, arts, music and other activities, through which they can develop a strong sense of belonging, socialise safely with their peers, enjoy social mixing, experience spending time with older people, and develop relationships with adults they trust.
- 3.6 The Award supports the personal and social development of young people through which they build the capabilities they need for learning, work, and the transition to adulthood, improving young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being.
- 3.7 The Award helps those young people at risk of dropping out of learning or not achieving their full potential to engage and attain in education or training; and raises young people's aspirations, builds their resilience, informs their decisions – and thereby reduces teenage pregnancy, risky behaviours such as substance misuse, and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.8 Bromley Youth Support Programme (BYSP) is responsible for managing the DoE Award Licence held by the Local Authority (LA) which enables young people in the Borough to take part in the Award. As Licence holders, the LA is responsible for maintaining the quality and standards of the award and the health and safety of young people who undertake the Award in the Borough, through direct delivery from the Bromley Youth Support Programme DoE Award Team, or via a group within a school setting. The Bromley Youth Support Programme's DoE Award Team comprises staff (paid and voluntary) who are responsible for developing, offering

and supporting the Award to young people who live, work or are educated in Bromley. The operation and development of the Award in Bromley is supported by a DoE Support Committee.

- 3.9 The demand for DofE is growing and this demand coincides unsurprisingly with the current climate of austerity measures. Young people are very aware of the current levels of unemployment and the rising cost and competition for university places. Young people are also aware that formal paper qualifications by themselves are often not enough. As a result, many young people want to seize every opportunity that adds value to their personal portfolio and record of achievement. Young people wish to present themselves in the most positive way when pursuing those prized apprenticeships, college and university places and/or employment opportunities
- 3.10 Bromley has a long history and a close association with the Award. The Award is currently delivered via 23 schools and groups within the Borough (Appendix 1). Historically, in a few schools within the borough the DoE Award has always performed well particularly at the Bronze level. Participation from other schools has been variable. Negotiations are ongoing with 3 further School and College groups who intend to begin delivery in September 2013.
- 3.11 For several years, in its role as Operating Authority, the Council has worked to increase the take up and involvement of more schools with the Award and encouraged groups to value the quality of the Award product they deliver. This has resulted in increased opportunity for young people in the Borough and a 40% increase in the number of Awards achieved in 2013, with 357 young people receiving awards, our highest figure ever.
- 3.12 Our Duke of Edinburgh Award staff team is a group of staff who are both paid and voluntary employees that are responsible for developing, offering and supporting Duke of Edinburgh Award training to young people who live, work or are educated in Bromley. This team is also responsible for delivery of the Open Award Centre, from which we deliver all our direct provision. Of the 929 new enrolments in 2012/13, 14% came from the Open Award Centre, which provides access to the Award for young people who are unable to access it via their school or other group. Development priorities within The Duke of Edinburgh Award In 2012/13 year were:
- to undertake full conversion to the “edofe” online Award recording process.
  - to increase involvement of young people at the Silver Level of the Award.
- 3.13 To support a greater number of young people to achieve the Award who are disadvantaged, are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET, are looked after or are receiving support from the Targeted Youth Support Service.
- 3.14 To continue to increase the numbers of individual participants and groups undertaking the Award in Bromley.

**Silver Level increases:**

- 3.15 The number of young people undertaking the Silver level Award in Bromley has increased by 37% during the 2012/2013 period.
- 3.16 This increase has been achieved via increasing the direct entrants to the Open Award Centre at Silver Level and also by staff providing direct support to Schools to facilitate and support their development of a Silver Level offer to pupils and students.
- 3.17 Supporting Schools and groups to consider the Quality of their delivery has enabled some groups to increase their offer and encompass the Silver level of the Award.

### **Increasing involvement by young people who are disadvantaged and socially excluded:**

- 3.18 The Award is a framework for young people to undertake positive activities and give back by volunteering in their communities and so the more we can develop opportunities for young people who may be socially excluded or disadvantaged the better. We have sought to bring the Award to new groups of young people.
- 3.19 Young people within the Targeted Youth Support Programme are being supported by the Open Award Centre this year, primarily with a brief of identifying how and what the best methods are to support the additional needs of this group. This group has also included looked after children, youth councillors and young people on the fringe of criminal behaviour.

### **Increase the numbers of individual participants and groups undertaking the Award in Bromley:**

- 3.20 We have visited and worked with key Schools with a view to encourage and support them to offer the Award. Over the last 2 years we have seen 5 new Schools and groups become involved, and much work is currently going on to encourage effective development with those Schools that deliver to very few young people each year, those Schools that have a very poor completion record and to support schools to step up and include Silver/Gold delivery within their offer.

### **Summary of performance:**

- 3.21 In the last year the team have facilitated the achievement of:
- A 4% increase in the numbers of young people signing up for the Award. (Representing 891 new starters in 2011/2012, compared with 931 new starters in 2012/2013.)
  - A 100% increase in the numbers of young people achieving an Award at Gold level. (Representing 8 young people in 2011/2012, compared with 16 in 2012/2013.)
  - An 13% increase in the numbers of young people completing the Award. (Representing 311 completions in 2011/2012, compared with 354 completions in 2012/2013.)
  - Bromley now has 4.4% (1,628 people) of our 14-24 year olds undertaking the Award, compared with the London average of 3% (32,095 people). A summary of the new enrolments in schools delivering the Award is in Appendix 2.
  - During the 2012/13 year, 13% of young people undertaking the Award were regarded as at risk of social exclusion.
  - In order to achieve the 354 D of E Awards in the 2012/13 year, young people have collectively achieved a staggering minimum 6,300 hours of volunteering for local communities. This is equivalent to the workload of three full time employees.

### **Pricing**

- 3.22 This year we are reviewing the pricing structure for the Award Scheme.
- 3.23 Currently we impose an administrative charge of £6 per enrolment of young person to the Award, to supplement income to cover the considerable amount of administrative work required. Given that the majority of Schools now have Academy status, we are also considering the introduction of a charge of between £450/£800 per annum dependent on the number of participants each group enrolls each year. This charge could generate an income in the region

of £15,000 per annum. Additional supplementary fees at each level of registration are also common practice within London local authorities, and we are considering this approach.

3.24 The Duke of Edinburgh Award is supported by a support committee group, which supports the development of the Award in the borough. They hold a fund of money which is available for young people to apply to should the cost of undertaking the Award prove restrictive to young people. This year the Bromley Youth Support Programme also provided a cycling sponsorship event which acted as an opportunity for young people to gain sponsorship to support the costs of involvement with the Award.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The budget allocation for delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards in 2013/14 is £95,078 and this funds the employment of a 2.1 FTE staff team. A programme manager is responsible for the line management of the team.

4.2 Revenue is currently collected to cover administration charges for enrolment. Charging is also operated for access to the Open Award Centre expedition training courses. For each level of award the charges are ; bronze £100; silver £300; gold £750.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Policy, Legal and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

**Appendix 1:****List of Schools and Groups currently delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Bromley:**

School/Group	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Babington House	X		
Beaverwood School for Girls	X	X	
Bishop Justus School	X	X	
Bishop Challinor School	X		
Bromley College	X		
Bromley High School	X	X	
Bromley Youth Support Programme Open Award Centre	X	X	X
Bullers Wood School	X	X	
Charles Darwin School	X		
Coopers Technology College	X		
Darrick Wood School	X	X	X
Farringtons School	X	X	X
Glebe School	X		
Hayes School	X		
Kemnal Technology College	X		
Kingswood Centre	X		
Langley Park School for Boys	X		
Langley Park School for Girls	X	X	
Marjorie McClure School	X		
Newstead Wood School for Girls	X	X	X
The Priory	X		X
The Ravensbourne School	X		
Ravenswood School	X	X	X

## Appendix 2:

### Number of Duke of Edinburgh Award enrolments per School and Group for the 2012/13 year:

School/Group	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Babington House	10		
Beaverwood School for Girls	35	4	
Bishop Justus School	54		
Bishop Challoner School	No new enrolments this period		
Bromley High School	91	31	
Bromley Youth Support Programme Open Award Centre	61	49	16
Bullers Wood School		28	
Charles Darwin School	28		
Coopers Technology College	3		
Darrick Wood School	173	3	11
Farringtons School	28	11	21
Glebe School	No new enrolments this period		
Hayes School	No new enrolments this period		
Kemnal Technology College	26		
Kingswood Centre	5		
Langley Park School for Boys	57	23	
Langley Park School for Girls	31	7	
Marjorie McClure School	2		
Newstead Wood School for Girls	50	25	12
Priory School			6
Ravenswood School	28		
The Ravensbourne School	No new enrolments this period		
<b>Total enrolments</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>66</b>