

Manchester City Council
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To whom it may concern:

Reference: CS/D/ML/MC
Date: 28th November 2012

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Dear Partners,

Funding for Play and Youth 2013-2015

As we approach the final stages of our current Play and Youth commissions, we are very pleased to be able to announce that, despite the very challenging economic landscape in which we all find ourselves, we shall shortly be launching further opportunities for voluntary, community and faith organisations to put themselves forward as potential deliverers of high quality targeted provision for children and young people in Manchester. A thorough needs analysis has been undertaken showing where the greatest needs are and which individuals and communities are most in need of targeted support.

The funding for both play and youth is to be aligned to ensure that we have an appropriate, sufficient and equitable spread of provision for 5-19 year olds across the city – decisions will be based on evidenced based need and will be set within a context of tight budget constraints. Although the two funding streams will be aligned, they will remain separate entities with specific expectations in each case. Alignment will allow, and encourage, organisations, partnerships and consortia to develop strategic thinking around possible models that could encompass both funding streams, allow genuine economy of scale and lead to truly imaginative approaches that will make a real difference to children and young people in areas of acute need.

Alongside the commissioning of Youth and Play provision, we will be retaining a small grants process to fund Easter and Summer play schemes.

As with previous rounds of the Youth Fund, these latest commissions are being jointly developed by Children's Services and Neighbourhood Services, this means provision is being commissioned with real knowledge of local need and that all leisure activity offered through Active Lifestyles is taken into account as part of the planning.

To allow for the process to be undertaken in a timely and effective manner, the current commissions will be extended until June 30th 2013. The new commissions will run for a period of 21 months from 1 July 2013 until 31 March 2015 – commitment for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 will be subject to confirmation of available funds.

The commissioning process is being led by the Valuing Young People Board (Chaired by Cllr Rosa Battle) with the decision making powers of this group

being supported by locally based partnership panels, the local element will reflect the City Council's five Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) areas.

The purpose of the Youth Fund is to ensure that vulnerable young people aged 13-19 (up to age 24 for specific groups) from the City of Manchester who are furthest away from the labour market have access to positive targeted activities which are appropriate to meet their needs and which will allow them to flourish in a safe environment. Through the delivery of local projects, which will provide a variety of programmes including recreational activities, informal learning and self development, the aim is to support young people in reducing their dependency and so help them move closer to economic independence.

The purpose of the Play Fund is to provide access for children aged 5-14 to positive play activities, targeting areas of highest need where child poverty and deprivation is greatest and engaging with the most vulnerable children who are most at risk of exclusion; to increase the quality of play in Manchester through participation in recognised quality assurance standards and to increase local community involvement in the design and delivery of play provision. Proposals for a range of provision will be invited, including outdoor play, park based activities and weekend and after-school provision. There will also be an opportunity for providers to propose innovative new projects.

We are very keen to ensure that the funding is as effectively used as possible and we are working with the Play Network and Voluntary Youth Manchester to ensure that all potentially interested organisations have the opportunity to access support in bidding into the fund. As well as looking to meet the needs highlighted in the specification, we are also looking to ensure that there is a fair and equitable spread of appropriate provision across the whole city. We will be working very closely with successful applicants to agree contracts that will ensure real and positive outcomes for young people

If you have any questions please feel free to contact any of the following;

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We look forward, as always, to working closely with you during these challenging but exciting times

Yours sincerely



Vicky Rosin
Deputy Chief Executive -
Neighbourhoods



Mike Livingstone
Strategic Director -
Children's Services