

***FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR
LANCASHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SERVICE***

***- Commissioning Effective Youth
Work and Targeted Youth
Support***

2012-2014

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Executive Summary

This document outlines the commissioning framework for Lancashire County Council Young People's Service (YPS) over the next two years. It provides a summary of the overarching priorities and strategies which will be supported through the commissioning of youth work and targeted youth support for young people through the third sector. It sets out how the commissioning process will work and outlines the anticipated outcomes and monitoring arrangements.

In deciding how to use the resources available for young people our key aim is to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way. We want young people to have access to the widest range of provision in their locality which reflects their needs and interests, alongside specialist services which effectively target and support those young people identified as most at risk. By bringing services working with young people together in a locality there will be a 'local youth support network' which maximises shared resources and delivery, reduces overlap and is responsive to young people's needs. It is intended that there will be clear alignment of the Young People's Service direct delivery and young people's commissioned activity. Commissioned services will not duplicate YPS activity, but will enhance and extend this provision, and will have essentially the same focus and purpose.

All commissioned programmes will be expected to work in cooperation to form part of an area based youth offer. These partners together will support young people to develop and progress, fulfilling their potential and making a positive contribution to their communities. This funding framework builds on the existing Young People's Service Commissioned Outcomes Funding framework and the recently piloted Targeted Youth Support commission. It attempts to build on best practice from both funding programmes and take into account feedback from across the Young People's Service, delivery partners, VCFS providers and others.

Third sector organisations delivering Youth Work and Targeted Youth Support are invited to assess if they are best placed to deliver projects relating to these funding streams in relation to their own service development, priorities, values and capacity. In addition to this information further details of the funding will be provided through specifications placed on the county councils e-procurement system.

The available funding will be divided across the 5 YPS localities which are:

Lancaster/Wyre

Preston/Fylde

South Ribble/Chorley/West Lancashire

Hyndburn/Ribble Valley/Rossendale

Burnley/Pendle.

A decision making panel will assess these applications and will include young people's views.

Lancashire Priorities

Overarching Strategies for Young People in Lancashire

It is essential that our expenditure is linked to long-term service planning to meet our priorities and the areas of greatest need. The YPS aims and priorities are developed from and support a number of the priorities within the following documents:

- Lancashire County Council Corporate Strategy
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web>
- Lancashire Children and Young People's plan
<http://www.lancashirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cypplan/>
- Young People's vision (within the Children and Young People's Plan)
- Lancashire Youth Strategy
<http://www.yps.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-youth-strategy>
- Early Support Strategy
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web>

Corporate Strategy

The Young people's service has specific responsibility for 2 areas of the Lancashire County Council Corporate Strategy:

Growing up prepared for the future

- Enable young people to develop and contribute positively to their community through increasing access to and take up of positive activities, including sports, cultural and leisure opportunities.
- Increase the numbers of young people in further and higher education, employment or training, especially in priority groups and targeted areas.

Lancashire Young People's Service Business Plan

The purpose of the Young People's Service is to improve outcomes for young people in their personal, social and educational development and support them to have voice, influence and a place in society in a period of their transition from childhood dependence to adult independence.

The Young People's Service aims to achieve these outcomes using two 'delivery strands'

- Open Access Provision, especially in areas of greatest need – youth clubs and mobile, detached projects as well as holiday activities.
- Targeted provision for vulnerable young people.

The Service is for young people aged 13 – 19 years (up to 25 for young people with LLDD) in Lancashire County. We target our efforts toward those young people facing key transitions in their lives, which are disadvantaged, have additional needs, are vulnerable or at risk of social exclusion.

Lancashire's Children and Young People's Plan 11-14

YPS resources are directed towards supporting the following priorities from the Children and Young People's Plan:

- Priority 2

Children and young people's health and wellbeing is improved through healthy lifestyle choices.

- Priority 5

Children and young people access and make effective use of a range of positive activities in their spare time.

- Priority 6

All of Lancashire's children and young people make a positive contribution, regardless of their background or circumstances.

- Priority 7

The impact of family poverty is minimised for children and young people aspire to contribute to the future economic well being of Lancashire.

- Priority 8

Children, young people and their families are enabled to achieve their potential and prosper, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Young People's Vision:*

When we asked young people about what they would like to see in the future they said:

'Lancashire Youth Council wants Lancashire to be a place where services and facilities are enjoyable, more accessible and affordable for all children and young people.'

We think there should be:

- More activities for children and young people - that we want and need; are fun; that take place in the evenings and during the holidays.
- Better opportunities for young people, including support to encourage us to stay in school.
- Respect for children and young people.
- Someone to talk to.
- Cheaper transport.
- More services available to us.
- We need education about sex and relationships and drugs and alcohol.

(*Lancashire Youth Council – Children and Young People's Plan 11-14)

Lancashire Youth Strategy

A Lancashire Youth Partnership has been established to support the development and delivery of a 'Lancashire Youth Strategy' which will provide a co-ordinated Youth Offer in Lancashire.

Vision

The Lancashire Youth Partnership wants young people in Lancashire to realise their potential and value through access to:

- Places to go and things to do that are fun, challenging and safe
- Information, advice and guidance on choices about healthy life style, education, volunteering, enterprise and employment opportunities
- People who believe in them, can earn their trust and respect and can support and inspire them.

Who we will commission

The Young People's Service has a long history of working in partnership with the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Lancashire. Much of the funding available for commissions/grants has traditionally been directed towards the VCFS in order to support their capacity to work with more young people than they might otherwise have been able to and to develop the range of recognised outcomes that young people achieve as a result of their involvement. There have been a wide ranging number of VCFS organisations receiving funding in the past who have all made a unique contribution to the local youth offer. It is intended that we continue with this tradition of building local social capital and investing in organisations which make a real difference to young people and the communities they live in. In line with developments within the sector we would not want to exclude the range and diversity of organisations which now make up the 'third sector' and therefore define the types of organisations we seek to include using the following criteria:

Voluntary, community or faith-led and run groups working to benefit their communities, either locally or nationally. These would be not-for-profit organisations that respond to and provide ways of meeting identified community needs. They would have clear and transparent charitable and social objectives. They must operate with young people at the centre, with clear strategies and policies for involving them in all aspects of the organisation and its work. This could include Community Interest Companies whose constitution is clearly based on operating profits or accumulated assets being used or distributed for the benefit of young people and communities. (CIC's must make available full details of their constitution before funding can be agreed and excludes any organisation that is based on a share capital model (including a cic limited by shares) which involves distribution by any degree of surpluses to private shareholders*)

* CIC definition based on Greater Together: Membership prospectus 10 Sept

Funded organisations will be directed to register with the Young People's Service. This registration process ensures we can communicate effectively with delivery organisations and support them to deliver the essential aspects structured youth work or targeted youth support in partnership with YPS. This includes such things as promoting the activities available, ensuring young people are kept safe and involving young people in developing provision.

What we will commission

Two Delivery 'Strands'

In order to support the vision and priorities highlighted above YPS will commission provision within a locality through two distinct strands or specifications;

- 'Targeted Youth Support'
- 'Youth Work'

Working Together

In order to ensure that delivery can be effectively co-ordinated in a locality it is anticipated that commissioned projects will work closely in partnership with YPS, (including co-delivery at YPS Key Centres where appropriate), Youth Strategy Groups, local Early Intervention officers and Children and Young People's Trusts. It is for this reason that emphasis will be placed on finding local delivery partners or consortia arrangements which have a strong locality presence.

Third Sector providers will be commissioned on the basis of their ability to deliver quality provision which leads to improved outcomes for young people. They must also be able to evidence the impact of their work through a structured monitoring process designed to capture both individual progress for young people and broader outcomes contributing to the priorities highlighted below. Each area of Lancashire has its own characteristics and specific areas of need. As well as the priorities outlined, the assessment panels will take account of any evidenced local gaps in services.

Targeted Youth Support

This strand is aimed at improving outcomes for vulnerable young people by providing specialist and intensive support. Providers will be expected to assess young people's needs, incorporating the use of the common assessment framework and other tools and through a series of interventions will work alongside young people to address barriers which may be preventing progression. The diagrams below summaries the main priorities we are seeking to address through the Targeted Youth Support strand:

CYPP

Priority 2

Children and young people's health and wellbeing is improved through healthy lifestyle choices.

Youth Council

We need education about sex and relationships and drugs and alcohol.

Youth Strategy

Information, advice and guidance on choices about healthy life style,

Children and Young People Plan outcomes

Fewer young people engage in risk taking behaviours.

More young people are able to make healthy, informed choices about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and their sexual health.

CYPP

Priority 8

Children, young people and their families are enabled to achieve their potential and prosper, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Youth Council

Better opportunities for young people, including support to encourage us to stay in school.

Youth Strategy

Information, advice and guidance on choices about education, volunteering, enterprise and employment opportunities

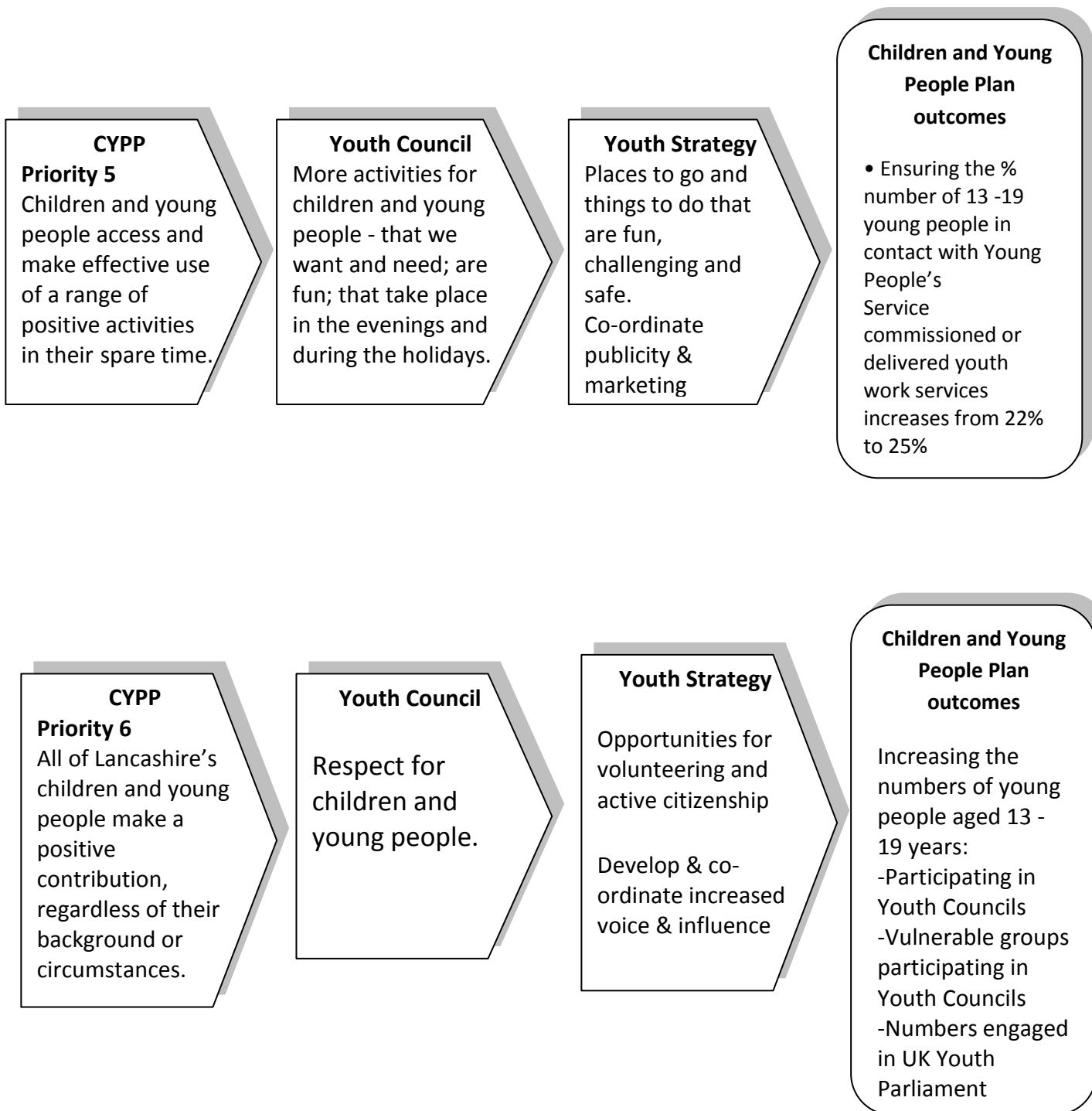
Children and Young People Plan outcomes

Reducing the numbers of NEET for young people from the following groups:

those with SEN and/or learning disabilities; looked after children; young offenders; travellers; young carers; teenage mothers

Youth Work

This strand is aimed at supporting the Lancashire Youth Strategy and the development of the Lancashire Youth Offer. Youth work providers will involve and engage young people with informal learning opportunities and programmes, incorporating ways of recognising the learning through accreditation. They will also offer planned opportunities for young people to volunteer and will ensure young people are involved in decision making and influencing the services, organisation and communities they live in. The diagrams below summarise the priorities Youth Work will focus on:



How we will commission

Commissioning Process

Following feedback and experience from previous commissioning exercises it is proposed that organisations will be funded for a two year period, with possible extension into year 3 should further funding be identified.

Tender specifications for the two areas of work, including outcome expectations and monitoring requirements will be published via the Lancashire County Council's 'e-procurement system'.

Funding will be allocated across Lancashire following the YPS delivery model of 5 locality areas, with expected funding levels established for the 12 districts within Lancashire. Providers will be expected to direct their applications to the locality where they will be delivering activity and will need to demonstrate within their applications how they are best suited to deliver in that locality, including their knowledge and experience of working in that area. Applications covering the whole county cannot be considered, however organisations may apply separately for more than one geographical locality if they are able to demonstrate how their delivery meets the needs of each area.

Applications for funding will be assessed by a panel made up of the Cabinet Member for Young People, YPS VCFS lead officers, YPS Operations Managers/Team Leaders, local Early Intervention Officers and a representative from the North West Regional Youth Work Unit (or similar). Young People will also be involved in assessing the applications and making recommendations for funding. Contracts for service delivery will be drawn up with successful providers with expectation that delivery will commence in April 2012.

Funds available

In year one (2012-13) there will be a total of £945,000 available for commissioning provision. This will reduce to £741,000 in year 2 (2013-14). (Funding levels for the period 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 will be subject to Lancashire County Council Budget review and satisfactory project performance)

Funding is likely to be divided as follows, subject to final budget ratification:

Locality Area	Delivery Year	Targeted Youth Support	Youth Work
Lancaster/Wyre	Year 1	£89,507	£64,785
	Year 2	£70,417	£50,799
Preston/Fylde	Year 1	£82,812	£63,898
	Year 2	£65,150	£50,104
South Ribble/Chorley/West Lancashire	Year 1	£117,782	£88,695
	Year 2	£92,661	£69,548
Hyndburn/Ribble Valley/Rosendale	Year 1	£129,574	£87,037
	Year 2	£101,939	£68,248
Burnley/Pendle	Year 1	£107,319	£73,580
	Year 2	£84,430	£57,696

Funding Decisions

YPS reserves the right to approve projects in principle, but negotiate reduce funding and beneficiaries/outcomes on a pro rata basis to maximise the scale and diversity of outcomes delivered within a locality.

An amount of funding may be withheld for re-tender following assessment of applications, should the need arise, in order to allow for an equitable spread of funding across localities/priorities.

Application Timetable

LCC YPS Funding Framework for Youth Work and Targeted Youth Support available	W/C 19 Dec 2011	Framework distributed to VCF Sector, available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/yps
Delivery Specifications available on LCC e-procurement system	W/C 2 Jan 2012	Lancashire e procurement
Funding Workshops across the county.	10 Jan 2012. 6.30-8.30 Plungington Youth Centre, Preston. 11 Jan 2012. 6.30-8.30 Milton Youth Centre Fleetwood 12 Jan 2012. 6.30-8.30 Brierfield Youth Centre Colne	Open briefing events for third sector organisations interested in applying for funding in 2012-14 Please email padmini.patel@lancashire.gov.uk if you are planning to attend as places may be limited
E –Procurement briefing	13 Jan 2012 County Hall, Cabinet Room A Preston – 2pm	Opportunity to try out the e-procurement system and ask questions.
Deadline for applications	8 Feb 2012	Closing date for applications 8/2/2012
Assessment by young people.	W/C 13 Feb 2012	Youth Council will look at applications and make recommendations.
Decision making panel assess applications	W/C 20 Feb 2012	The panel will assess all applications and will take account of young people's recommendations.
Decisions communicated	W/C 19 March 2012	Funding decisions communicated and contracts negotiated.

The commissioning principles

All successful providers will demonstrate the following:

- I. Ensure the environment provided is safe in relation to both Health and Safety legislation and Child Protection/Safeguarding procedures.
- II. Ensure all staff working with young people are CRB cleared, suitably supported, trained and qualified.
- III. Data protection and data sharing protocols in place, alongside consent policies, information sharing and agreed standard referral forms.
- IV. Ensure that delivery utilises a quality assurance framework, including planning, monitoring and reviewing.
- V. Value for money, enhancing existing provision in an area and avoiding duplication.
- VI. Capacity to deliver within the specified timescale and demonstrate outcomes.
- VII. Commitment to marketing and promoting opportunities to ensure the coordination of youth provision across an area.
- VIII. Organisational vision supports the engagement of young people in participative processes, including consultation and involvement of young people within the organisation and delivery activities,

All providers of Youth Work should also demonstrate priorities highlighted in the Lancashire Youth Strategy and:

- Track record of good practice in delivering provision which utilises planned programmes based on the needs of young people within a given area.
- Willingness to engage with monitoring and outcome measures, including demonstrating where young people's development has been recognised and accredited.
- Ability to work across the spectrum of young people's needs and issues, including co-ordinated work with Targeted Youth Support Services.
- Previous engagement in partnership working, links with the local community, engaged with local providers and local youth strategy groups.

All providers of Targeted Youth Support should also demonstrate:

- Track record of good practice in providing support programmes to vulnerable young people designed to meet their specific needs and deliver positive outcomes.
- Willingness to engage with monitoring and outcome measures, including demonstrating progression into positive destinations
- Ability to work with vulnerable young people in partnership with others to achieve measurable outcomes, including co-ordinated work with Youth Work Services.
- Previous engagement in partnership working, effective referral and communication systems, engagement with Early Support strategy

Commissioning Consortia

YPS recognises the value of supporting organisations to work together locally in order to deliver services more effectively, allowing young people to access the support most relevant to them and increasing the capacity of smaller organisations to contribute to delivering the youth agenda locally. Should groups wish to collaborate YPS would encourage them to come together within locality or district boundaries and submit combined applications for the relevant geographical panel to consider. Applications covering the whole county cannot be considered, however it is possible to apply for more than one geographical locality if the organisations are able to demonstrate how their delivery meets the needs of that area. In order to assess the relevance of the application to the area specific consortia application forms will be provided in order to allow consortia members to evidence how their delivery will meet the needs of the area and outline the provision they each intend to deliver.

All successful **consortia** providers will demonstrate;

1. A lead organisation able to act as co-ordinator for monitoring returns and distributing funds locally. The lead can be a delivery or non-delivery partner.
2. The lead is responsible for ensuring each delivery partner has appropriate policies and any other insurances/qualifications and systems in place as detailed in the eligibility section of the application form.
3. The lead organisation and its delivery partners must meet the organisational criteria as outlined on page 7 in relation to their constitution and purpose.
4. A summary of which organisations make up the consortium and what each delivery partner provides.
5. A clear rationale for organisations coming together, evidencing what they bring to the consortia, outlining their expertise/links to the geographical area and evidencing the need for this provision locally
6. An 'in principle' outline of what funding will be allocated to each delivery partner and an indication of expected delivery level for each partner
7. All delivery partners meet the expected standards outlined above
8. Agreed management fee structure across the consortia, management fees across lead and delivery partners cannot exceed 10%

Outcomes and Monitoring

All funded projects will be expected to adhere to the relevant level of project monitoring, finance and evaluation currently adopted by the Young People's Service. It is essential we are able to demonstrate the impact of funded projects to ensure the quality of what is delivered, track young people's progress, develop an understanding of what works in terms of supporting young people's development and to influence future planning.

A requirement of receiving funding is that organisations are committed and prepared to collect, collate and provide information on a regular basis regarding the progress made by young people through a range of methods. For example this may include:

- Project progress reports
- Individual Case Studies
- Data returns relating to young people's situation
- Individual self assessments by young people of their progress
- Recorded Outcomes and Accredited Outcomes recognising young people's learning
- Other impact measures to demonstrate how young people have benefited from the interaction with the commissioned service.

Further details of the expected monitoring requirements are outlined in the service specifications and copies of the monitoring documentation are available on request from YPS should you wish to view them prior to making an application.