



Budget Amendment Form

Amendment Name:	Youth Services and Commissioned Youth Service Contracts	Amendment Number:	3
Directorate:	Children, Young People and Education		
Proposer:	Mr Richard Streatfeild, MBE	Seconder:	Mr Antony Hook
Proposed Purpose:			
<p>This amendment seeks to protect KCC's provided or commissioned Youth Services. At present, KCC has 12 in-house youth hubs while other contracted providers run services including music, sports, youth clubs, arts, and drama clubs, as well as street-based activities such as skateboarding.</p> <p>Investment in youth is critical for the future of Kent, and thousands of young people have benefitted from these services. With crime and anti-social behaviour ever increasing, it is vital that young people are given alternatives that make positive impacts on our communities.</p> <p>The decision taken in November 2023 to cease commissioned youth contracts has been heavily criticised by residents across Kent, including parents, young people and professionals working with young people. In response to KCC's own public consultation, parents of children attending Ashford Youth Hub, said "there are a lot of people here that will suffer if you stop these activities youths will end up bored and getting into trouble instead". Another parent added: "it's one thing my vulnerable autistic child has been able to do with no financial burden on us and she's made welcome, taught new skills and socialising with a mix of ages. The volunteers and staff are so great and supportive of us and her".</p> <p>Whilst Kent has a thriving voluntary youth sector, many of these organisations such as the Scouts and Guides, are consistently over-subscribed. KCC providing youth services reduces pressure on the voluntary sector and provides a breath of opportunities for young people.</p> <p>The proposed budget change would reduce the required saving from the review of Youth Services, with the preserved funding to be used for provision of additional Youth Services to offset the reduction arising from the previous decision, either through further investment in KCC Open Access operations or through new commissioned contracts with external providers.</p>			

Proposed Amount	Proposed Funding Source:
£401.3k to be added to Youth Services budget (reducing the Commissioned Youth Services saving from £913k to £511.7k)	Cease contribution to Civil Society Strategy (£401.3k)