

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD219

### Title: Peer Outreach Team programme

#### Executive Summary:

This ADD seeks approval of Peer Outreach activity for 2014/15 to support the GLA's youth led engagement work aimed at increasing the participation of young Londoners in positive activities and employment and enterprise opportunities. Liaising with key organisations and young people directly to develop/react to our own and other policy initiatives.

The Peer Outreach Team is developing its sustainability strategy and has started to put in place a process by which it charges organisations for Peer Outreach Worker's time.

#### Decision:

That the Executive Director of Communities & Intelligence approves expenditure of up to £44,000 for the Peer Outreach activity for 2014/15 to support the GLA's youth engagement work consisting of £40,000 GLA funds and up to £4,000 income from organisations benefiting from peer outreach activity.

#### AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT:

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

**Name:** Jeff Jacobs

**Position:** Executive Director of Communities & Intelligence

**Signature:**

**Date:** 13 August 2014

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The GLA's Peer Outreach Team (young people aged 15 to 24 years) and the Lynk up Crew (Mayoral young advisors aged 7- 14 years) deliver a range of projects and activities in partnership with GLA policy teams and functional bodies (including health, culture, LFEPA, and the MPS). The aim is to ensure policy and programme activity is better aligned with the concerns and perspectives of children and young people whilst providing personal skills development opportunities for the young people involved.
- 1.2 The Peer Outreach Team and the Lynk Up Crew were set up in 2006. They work on ten to fifteen projects at a time engaging approximately 3,000 young people each year.
- 1.3 2013/14 costs were met through the central programme budget and approved in MD 1221.
- 1.4 The Peer Outreach Team is developing its sustainability strategy and has started to put in place a process by which it charges organisations for Peer Outreach Worker's time. This form includes a request for approving up to £4,000 of income generated through this approach.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1 The Peer Outreach Team programme provides two fold benefits. One is to offer young people who aren't in education, employment or training valuable work experience and training here at City Hall, especially for those who are not ready for a full apprenticeship. The other is to deliver a range of youth led projects and provide models of good practice in delivery and outcomes.
- 2.2 Following a period of induction and voluntary activity, the young people involved are paid an hourly rate on a sessional basis for their work. The work has won a number of awards and received very positive feedback over the years.

##### *Peer Outreach Team and Lynk Up Crew membership*

- 2.2.1 An average of thirty young people participate in the Peer Outreach Team (POT) at any one time, with a further 20 young people being part of the Lynk Up Crew (LUC). Table 1 provides details of the profiled numbers of young people participating in the POT and LUC.
- 2.2.2 The Peer Outreach Team operates on a roll on/roll off basis with approximately 12 young people moving on from the team each year and being replaced by new members. The majority of POT leavers move into education or employment.
- 2.2.3 Around ten young people leave the Lynk Up Crew each July, with a new intake of ten more young people in September.
- 2.2.4 We report on the number of young people who sustain their education or employment for six months after leaving the Peer Outreach Team or participate in the Lynk Up Crew for more than six months within the GLA's key performance indicators.

Table 1: Numbers participating in the Peer Outreach Team and Lynk Up Crew

		<b>Peer Outreach Team</b>	<b>Lynk Up Crew</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2014/15</b>	No. of young people participating	42	30	72

### *Peer Outreach Team Projects*

2.2.5 The Peer Outreach Team works on a range of projects and activities in partnership with GLA policy teams and functional bodies and other organisations. The 2014/15 programme of activity includes:

- Organising quarterly **network** meetings of the Young Londoners Participation Network, hosted at City Hall and attended by an average of forty participants who work with children and young people. 2014/15 network themes are: how best to support isolated young people, working with young women and girls, young people's mentoring, and how to build young people's resilience.
- Managing the **Lynk Up Crew** and facilitating its monthly meetings. Please see examples of planned Lynk Up Crew activities:
  - In partnership with the GLA's environment team, the National Trust is seeking the Lynk Up Crew's view on its Open Space policies, in particular their means of promoting this to children and young people. T
  - The National Children's Bureau and London Fire Brigade will trial their school fire awareness training with the Lynk Up Crew with the aim of improving the way that they present to children.
  - MOPAC are working with the Lynk Up Crew to develop more effective approaches to young people in schools with respect to preventing gang members and addressing youth violence.
  - The Lynk Up Crew are working with the Healthy Schools team to identify what children of their age regard as a healthy school.

### **Safety**

- Reviewing MOPAC's gang strategy, approach to violence against women and girls, and Project Oracle outcomes framework.
- Supporting the Metropolitan Police to devise a pan London survey on young people's experience of police and crime.
- Undertaking youth consultation for the Haringey Youth Offenders Team to obtain feedback from Young Offenders on the service, and identifying social action projects for young offenders to engage with.

### **Health**

- Organising feedback sessions for the London Health Commission on young people's access to health services and the big health issues where they live.

### **Culture**

- Following contract from the GLA's culture team and the London Legacy Development Corporation, managing the Great British Youth Carnival Youth Board and leading on the Carnival Xtra's social media programme.

### **Supporting vulnerable groups**

- Mentoring young people on Redbridge College Pupil Referral Unit's media course.
- Advising Croydon Pupil Referral Unit's on their approach to conflict management.
- Supporting the National Children's Bureau, and Police and Fire Cadet's Anti-Bullying Inquiry, in particular hosting Cyber Bullying Event at City Hall.
- Organising a series of events during the October leaving care week with Queen Mary's College.
- Supporting the development of a Royal London Society for the Blind Youth Board and hosting the launch of their training pack for employers working with sight impaired young people at the London Living Room.

## Careers

- Supporting the Rock Star Group to deliver their Incubator Sessions by promoting the opportunity to young participants, and facilitating group mentoring sessions with young entrepreneurs and business people.
- Working with Parliamentary Participation Officers to shape Parliament Week and leading an interactive event at this that will promote opportunities to work in the public sector and also how to access voluntary opportunities.
- Facilitating the GLA's Annual Education Conference.

## 3. Equality comments

- 3.1 The make-up of the Lynk Up Crew and the Peer Outreach Team reflects London's diverse population. It includes young people with differing characteristics and backgrounds, including care leavers, teenage parents and young people living in temporary accommodation.
- 3.2 Opportunities to join the Lynk Up Crew and the Peer Outreach Team are advertised through [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk) and via intermediaries who work with young people, such as members of the Young Londoners Participation Network.
- 3.3 We monitor the characteristics and background of Team members and check that there is also an equality of outcomes.
- 3.4 Peer Outreach Workers work on a wide range of targeted projects, many focused on supporting vulnerable groups. The work that they are doing with the Royal London Society for the Blind, for example, is giving the Peer Outreach Workers invaluable experience of how best to support visually impaired young people.

## 4. Other considerations

### a) Key risks and issues

The table below outlines the main risks associated with the Peer Outreach activity and youth engagement.

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
<b>Peer Outreach workers do not attend/ complete work to an adequate standard</b>	4	2	Organisation of the Peer Outreach workers into teams lead by their peers has been seen to increase attendance and improve the quality of their work. All projects are overseen by the GLA project officer. Monthly reviews of progress at Peer Outreach Team meetings.
<b>Lynk Up Crew do not attend</b>	3	3	Provide interesting and fun activities, and ensuring that attendees can influence the content of sessions and the way the Lynk Up Crew is run.
<b>Insufficient demand for Peer Outreach support</b>	4	2	Promotion of the team's work across the GLA and through the Young Londoners Participation network, proactively responding to Write-On enquiries from organisations that would benefit from peer outreach support.
<b>Less income is generated than forecast</b>	2	3	Monthly budget updates with accurate income forecasting, and ensuring that planned POW sessional hours do not exceed available funding. Especially if the extra 4k of funds are not

			available.
--	--	--	------------

**b) Links to strategies and Mayoral and corporate priorities**

The Education and Youth Team published their updated Delivery Plan in April 2014, showing progress against the outcomes of the Mayor of London's Response to the Education Inquiry Panel's Final Report. The work of the Peer Outreach Team is included within the priority to 'Foster engagement and build resilience among London's young people'.

The Team's work also directly supports specific Mayoral and corporate priorities such as that for healthy schools, supporting care leavers, and to reduce youth crime.

The Mayor's renewed agenda for children and young people ('Young Londoners – Successful Futures', 2010) set out the mayor's wider strategy in this area. This states that 'the key aspects of the GLA's children and young people's work for the Mayor are to give all young Londoners a voice; gain a better understanding of what it is like growing up in London; and know the priority issues for children and young people themselves'. The work of the Peer Outreach Team and the Lynk Up Crew is provided as an example of a means of achieving this.

**c) Impact assessments and consultations**

The POT was evaluated in 2009 (<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/peer-outreach-workers-report.pdf>) and the team are undertaking a peer led evaluation that is due to report this Autumn. The evaluation includes interviews with Peer Outreach Workers and organisations that have benefited from Peer Outreach projects. It will also include Peer Outreach Worker destination data.

Feedback is actively sought from programme participants. Redbridge College was recently rated outstanding by Ofsted, with the PRU project that is supported by the Peer Outreach Team being identified as good practice. It was noted that over the last three years all young people who attend their programme graduated onto FE college, training and or work. MOPAC have identified the Peer Outreach Team as their 'go to' youth group in relation to key issues.

**5. Financial comments**

- 5.1 This expenditure can be contained within existing budgets, although expenditure of the full amount of £44,000 is dependent upon receipt of £4,000 of income.

**6. Planned delivery approach and next steps**

Activity	Timeline
Peer Outreach Team programme delivery	April – March 2015
New members of Lynk Up Crew start	September 2014
Interim evaluation published	October 2014

**Appendices and supporting papers:** None

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

**Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

**Part 1 Deferral:****Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO**

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

**Is there a part 2 form – NO**

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

Drafting officer  
to confirm the  
following (✓)

**Drafting officer:**

Sarah Wilkins has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

**HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE:**

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

**Signature:**

**Date:**