

## Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Grant Funding Agreement

To: Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: 16 October 2025

From: Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2025/044

Executive Summary: To approve the receipt of a grant from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the delivery of services provided as part of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer.

Recommendation: The committee is recommended to:

- a) Approve the receipt of a £841,695 Youth Guarantee Trailblazer grant from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority; and
- b) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee, to sign the Grant Funding Agreement under seal.

Officer contact:  
Name: Tom Molloy  
Post: Head of Cambridgeshire Skills  
Email: [tom.molloy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.molloy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# 1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 The £841,695 of funding received from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) will deliver support and programmes that help secure employment and / or education / apprenticeship opportunities, which will reduce the number of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET).
- 1.2 This will contribute to the following ambitions from the Council's Strategic Framework:
  - Ambition 5 - People are helped out of poverty and income inequality
  - Ambition 7 - Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The government has provided funding for 8 Youth Guarantee Trailblazers that will focus on youth programmes and supporting NEET young people aged 18 to 21 across England. One of these areas is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) receiving £5m in funding for the year running from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- 2.2 The objective of the trailblazer funding is to reduce the number of young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough aged 18 to 21 who are NEET by providing comprehensive support and opportunities.
- 2.3 The role of the trailblazer programme is to test a new localised approach to the Youth Guarantee, before a national rollout of the programme, gathering evidence to inform the policy's national development.
- 2.4 The Committee is asked to approve this grant, rather than the Children and Young People Committee, as the Youth Guarantee is being coordinated by Cambridgeshire Skills due to its existing relationships with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority that has issued the funding. The Youth Impact Programme that is being funded by the Youth Guarantee is also being delivered by the Council's Communities Service.

## 3. Main Issues

- 3.1 As part of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer, the Council has been awarded £841,695 by the CPCA. This funding is to deliver two projects.
- 3.2 Firstly, to extend the statutory tracking that the Council already undertakes for young people aged 16 to 18 (year 12 and 13) to cover those aged 19 to 21. This will provide the data and insight into the issues and barriers faced by young people to ensure that the right provision and opportunities are in place to reduce NEET.
- 3.3 Secondly, the funding will maintain an existing programme of work that has included delivery of the National Citizens Service and which has provided targeted support to

vulnerable groups at a time of transition. These programmes focussed on improving mental health and well-being, building life skills and independence, and helping young people find purpose. The programmes have enhanced young people's social mobility and provided pathways to further education, training, and employment and will be extended to the 18 to 21 age group.

## 4. Alternative Options Considered

Do nothing – this is not an option as failure to accept the funding from the CPCA would result in there being no service offer from the Council as part of the national programme.

## 5. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The grant provides the Council with funding to play a significant role in shaping the Youth Guarantee before its national rollout in 2027. The funding can help many young people achieve their employment and skills goals, while also contributing to the ambitions in the Council's Strategic Framework.

## 6. Significant Implications

### 6.1 Finance Implications

This grant brings in significant external funding to support the delivery of critical services to support young people into employment and / or education / training.

### 6.2 Legal Implications

Not applicable.

### 6.3 Risk Implications

Staff working on the delivery of the continuation of the National Citizens Service (NCS) were put at risk of redundancy when the government withdrew NCS funding. Funds have been put aside to fully cover these costs if the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer funding does not continue.

### 6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

This grant will fund learning that will help to achieve Ambition 5 of the Strategic Framework (People are helped out of poverty and income inequality).

### 6.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications (Key decisions only)

Not applicable.

## 7. Source Documents

7.1 None.