

HIGH SHERIFF ANNUAL YOUTH AWARDS

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Annex 1 – Analysis of High Sheriff Youth Awards Annex 2 – Analysis of funding sources for High Sheriff youth Awards

Summary

This report seeks agreement to the Council's response to a request from the Surrey High Sheriff to increase the Council's financial support to the High Sheriff Youth Awards in 2020/21.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Agree a response the High Sheriff's request for an increase in the financial contribution to the High Sheriff's Youth Award in 2020/21.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Whilst the Council continues to support the work of the High Sheriff Youth Award (HSYA) to make Surrey a safer place, the Council's involvement in the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Leisure Development Action Plan is considered to have a more significant impact on reducing youth crime, anti-social behaviour and improving community safety within the borough.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Surrey HSYA is an award scheme operated by the Surrey High Sheriff to provide grants to projects with the aim of helping young people in Surrey stay safer, reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

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- 2.2 In 2019/20 the HSYA supported a wide range of projects across Surrey including a Staying Safe workshop with the North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service serving residents in Epsom and Ewell borough as well as those from Elmbridge and Spelthorne.
- 2.3 Each year HSYA fund county-wide projects delivering safety messages to young people, such as Safe Drive Stay Alive which aims to make young people more aware of their responsibilities on the road.
- 2.4 In addition to county-wide awards the HSYA can award small projects from organisations within districts and boroughs which range from £100 to £2,000 and in exceptional circumstances up to £5,000.
- 2.5 Over the past four years the HSYA has distributed between £37,000 and £51,000 to eligible projects. Further details of the projects supported in 2019/20 are listed on the Surrey High Sheriff's website.

3 Analysis of previous awards

- 3.1 There have been few HSYA awards given to projects specifically within the borough. Analysis of the distribution of HSYA awards including a breakdown across the 11 districts and boroughs is attached in Annex 1.
- 3.2 Over the past four years only one project within Epsom and Ewell received a HSYA award and this was in 2016/17. The award represented only 0.6% of the total awards made that year, with 67.5% awarded for county-wide projects.

4 HSYA Funding

- 4.1 The HSYA are supported by each of the 11 districts and boroughs as well as from Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.2 In August 2020, the Chairman of the HSYA requested an increased contribution of £500 from each of the 11 Districts and Boroughs across Surrey to assist the support of the HSYA.
- 4.3 It is reported that the majority of the 11 districts and boroughs have increased their contributions by £500. Annex 2 illustrates the financial support provided to HSYA in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 5.1 Impact Assessment

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- 5.1.1 The decision to not increase funding to the HSYA is considered to have a low impact on community safety within the borough. Although the borough has benefited from supported projects such as Staying Safe Workshop (involving North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service) and other county-wide initiatives, the HSYA has provided limited funding to projects specifically aimed within the borough.
- 5.1.2 Whilst the contribution made to community safety by HSYA is welcomed, there are many others activities the Council supports which are directly targeted at improving community safety within the borough.
- 5.1.3 The Council has strengthened the approach to effective community safety within the borough including establishing of a new Community Safety and Enforcement Officer role and developing more effective working arrangements with partners such as the police and local housing associations.
- 5.1.4 The Council has also recently established the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership to better reflect and address the local community safety priorities within the borough.
- 5.1.5 In addition the Council supports a wide range of activities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour as well as encourage increased physical activity in the Leisure Development Action Plan. The Council's Health and Wellbeing strategy and Action Plan also seeks better life outcomes for those who are from more deprived communities with the borough, often areas of higher crime reporting, with a particular focus on the health and wellbeing of young people.
- 5.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 5.2.1 The HSYA are intended to make a positive contribution to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.3 Safeguarding
 - 5.3.1 The projects supported by HSYA will provide increased opportunities for greater safeguarding and oversight of young people.
- 5.4 Dependencies
 - 5.4.1 The continuation of the HSYA is dependent on the continued contribution of all current funding organisations.
 - 5.4.2 The continued pandemic is likely to further limit the effectiveness of the projects supported by HSYA in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour as restrictions are placed on gatherings.

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6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There is no identified further budget for additional payments to support the HSYA. The current funding for the HSYA is from the budget provided for Leisure Development.
- 6.2 As there is no identified budget, any further financial contribution would need to be identified.
- 6.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are contained in the body of the report.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Council has recently left the East Surrey Community Safety Partnership and with local partners created the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership to better reflect the local community safety priorities.
- 7.2 There is no existing agreement or legal obligation on the Council to continue to make financial contributions to the HSYA.
- 7.3 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** none for the purposes of this report

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
 - Safe and Well** – a place where people feel safe, secure and lead healthy, fulfilling lives.
 - Green and Vibrant** – A better place to live where people enjoy their surroundings promoting health and wellbeing
- 8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan 2020/21.
- 8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**
 - 8.3.1 None arising directly from this report.
- 8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**
 - 8.4.1 These have been addressed in the report.
- 8.5 **Partnerships:**
 - 8.5.1 These have been addressed in the report.

9 Background papers

- 9.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

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Previous reports:

- Community Safety Partnership Environment and Safer Communities Committee 16th July 2020

Other papers:

- High Sherriff Youth Awards Annual report 2019-2020