## **Battersea Youth Voice – a BLSW11 Strategic Priority**

We are at the stage of being ready to progress one of the main elements of our 3 year strategy – Battersea Youth Voice.

Our ‘Three Year Plan and Budget’ (paragraph 6.2) says:

*“Taking Wellbeing, Mental Health[[1]](#footnote-1) (in particular Anxiety & Depression) and Isolation as strategic priorities and Youth engagement as a priority ‘means’ of addressing them. It requires us to identify the ‘functions’ needed to mobilise support and focus attention through projects and programmes that could be delivered by some of our local community organisations.”*

*Youth Voice – engaging young people in the issues (mental health, gangs etc) to encourage their views and participation in community/social issues. We aim, through the Alliance, to establish a new youth forum for BLSW11 and a development worker is needed for this!”*

**About Battersea Youth Voice (BYV)** – it is a youth-driven education, training, mentoring and personal development programme with some of the most disadvantaged young people in Battersea, with the core group coming from the Big Local SW11 area.

Our ambition is for young people, who may otherwise feel disconnected from their community and society, to engage with and find solutions to issues (particularly those identified by Big Local SW11’s research and a focus in their strategy of isolation, loneliness, mental health like depression and anxiety).

BYV will engage young people in discussion about their ideas that might involve, for example, bullying on social media and the negative impact on their mental health; to then developing projects that address these as well as connect with the wider community, whilst developing skills useful for future employment and life.

The Youth development worker will be based at Caius House and managed on a day to day basis there.

By investing in BYV and other Community Infrastructure, over the long term, we foresee a range of outcomes that in combination will evidence the rebuilding of the social fabric of Battersea.

**Outputs** expected from BYV

* No. of Young People involved in BYV
* Gaining Skills
* Qualifications
* Leading Projects
* Employment
* Mentoring
* Developing Social Enterprises

**Outcomes** of BYV

* Increased Confidence
* Enhanced Social Skills
* Rising Aspirations
* Increased positivity about Battersea/SW11
* Increased participation in the local community

**Funding**

In our Plan we estimated the costs for delivering a BYV Youth Development worker and programme costs at £70,000 per year for 3 years and created a £50k a year Local Investment Fund to be used to secure match funding.

The BLSW11 Alliance has prepared a detailed cost assessment which projects BYV staff costs at £65,000 a year (Salary £33k, On Costs £6k, Management £5k, support costs £21k[[2]](#footnote-2)).

We have now secured a commitment from the Joint Venture (the JV is the Winstanley & York Road Regeneration LLP, a partnership between Wandsworth Council and Taylor Wimpey), to match fund our investment in Battersea Youth Voice.

The Core Group is therefore asked to confirm its commitment to Battersea Youth Voice and ratify the decision of the Plan and Budget to use the Local Investment Fund to contribute £30k a year (50% of £60k) for three years (£90k in total), towards the Youth Development worker role.

The BLSW11 contribution is subject to completion of our investment agreement with the JV. The £5k shortfall will be met by the Alliance.

1. We recognise that mental health takes many forms, but our ‘strategy’ will be governed by a consideration of where a ‘community’ approach can be most effective. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Members of the Alliance will allocate staff time to support the Youth Development Worker and participate in BYV projects and programmes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)