**KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

Due to the lead in time required for re-commissioning Local Prevention Contracts, a decision is required in September whether to extend or re-commission for April 2013. The local needs assessment for at risk young people has not changed and there are no significant performance concerns with the current provider operating in Epsom & Ewell. Feedback from Members indicates that it is too soon to make long term strategic commissioning decisions therefore this paper outlines the case for extending the contracts by 5 months to 31 August 2013. Epsom & Ewell Local Committee have declared conflicts of interests therefore it is requested that the Cabinet Member for Community Safety makes the decision instead.

**DETAILS:**

Business Case

1.1 In April 2012 Officers outlined 11 Local Prevention commissioning timetables to take account of Local Committee dates. A generic version of the 11 local timetables has been attached at ANNEX B.

1.2 The timetables outlined that a recommendation whether to extend or retender Local Prevention contracts would need to be made as early as July 2012.

1.3 Local Prevention contracts have been let for 12 months with options to extend. The Local Prevention procurement process, local political decision making process and notice period to providers takes a minimum of eight months. This is determined by a fixed procurement timeline driven by European rules and regulations and the need to fit in with fixed Local Committee dates driven by Services for Young People’s policy commitment to Localism. This is why recommendations on the future of the contract are made in July 2012.

1.4 Members have provided feedback to Officers that the commissioning timescales for Local Prevention are very tight. In particular that July is too soon to judge performance and make strategic recommendations about retendering contracts.

1.5 In response Officers provided an amended timetable, a localised version is attached at ANNEX A. This timetable includes extending the Local Prevention contract in Epsom & Ewell by five months.
1.6 The local needs assessment has not changed and is due to be refreshed in autumn 2012. The refreshed needs assessment will inform the 2013 re-commissioning cycle. A review of performance has been completed by SYP SMT and no performance concerns significant enough to prevent extension were raised.

Consultation

2.1 The Services for Young People Fit for the Future transformation programme has been subject to wide ranging consultation with groups of young people, staff, and partner agencies. Members have been consulted through the County Council’s Public Value Review (PVR) Member Reference Group.

2.2 Local Committee Chairmen reviewed an earlier draft of this report on 19 July and provided their support in principle to extend Local Prevention contracts by five months.

2.3 The Assistant Director for Services for Young People has consulted the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the Strategic Director for Children Schools and Families who also provided their support in principle.

2.4 Services for Young People are keen to learn from the first commissioning cycle and improve the process for the future. In recognition of this the Cabinet Member for Community Safety has commissioned a review of the Local Prevention Framework and requested a report to be made to Education Select Committee. The review will take place during autumn 2012 and Members will be consulted as part of the review.

Financial and value for money implications

3.1 It is anticipated local commissioning will offer better value for money in that the outcomes commissioned and work delivered will be more closely aligned to local need.

3.2 The Local Prevention budget for 2013/14 is £84,000 and will be split pro rata to cover the 5 month extension period (£35,000) and the subsequent seven months from September 2013 onwards (£49,000). The budget is profiled into the Medium Term Financial Plan and remains unaffected by the decision whether to extend the Local Prevention contract by five months.

Equalities implications

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Transformation Project has been completed. The devolved commissioning budget is targeted to groups who are vulnerable or at risk.

Risk management implications

5.1 A robust performance management framework is operational to mitigate the risk of poor contract performance.
Climate change/carbon emissions implications

6.1 The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.

6.2 Local Prevention contracts have been let to local voluntary organisations helping to minimise traffic and travel time.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

7.1 Contract extension notices will need to be signed and attached to the contract.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

8.1 Local Prevention is targeted at young people at risk of becoming NEET including young people in care.

Section 151 Officer commentary

9.1 The Section 151 Officer confirms that all material financial and business implications have been considered in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In response to Member feedback, officers recommend amendments to the Local Prevention commissioning timetable and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety is asked to extend the Local Prevention contract for five months to 31 August 2013.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The local needs assessment for at risk young people has not changed, there are no significant performance concerns with the current provider and the recommendations in this report address specific Member feedback.

The benefits of the amended timetable include a longer period of time for providers to prove their performance, at least 9 months evidence for Members to evaluate before making longer term strategic commissioning decisions, more time for market development and the alignment of the commissioning cycle with the academic year which will provide greater consistency of service to young people.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

Contract extension notices will be drawn up by officers and agreed with providers at the next round of Quarterly Partnership meetings in October 2012.

Robust performance and quality management of the contracts and their outcomes will continue. Officers will work with providers in the spirit of partnership to support and challenge.
A regular Local Youth Services briefing will be developed for Local Committee Members and the Youth Task Group will receive reports on performance and quality of Local Prevention at Task Group meetings.

Members will be consulted over the autumn as part of the Local Prevention Framework Review and a report with recommendations will be considered by Education Select Committee in November 2012.

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Consulted:
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Local Committee Chairmen
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Officers

Informed:
Epsom & Ewell Youth Task Group

Sources/background papers:
n/a