



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

YOUTH TRANSFORMATION AND LOCAL PREVENTATIVE FRAMEWORK

28 November 2011

KEY ISSUE

This is a progress report from the Youth Task Group. Priorities for the use of the commissioning budget under the devolved Local Prevention Framework have been identified and are submitted in this report for approval by the Local Committee.

SUMMARY

1. The Youth Task Group set up by the Local Committee has identified key priorities in Elmbridge to prevent young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and to prevent young people from becoming First Time Entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system. This report brings forward recommendations from the task group on how the local commissioning resource should be allocated.
2. The recommendations propose a Borough-wide approach, but with emphasis on particular communities as outlined in the report. Following a needs analysis and multi-agency workshop, risk factors have been identified and specific risk factors are proposed as priorities as outlined in the report.
3. Following agreement of the Local Committee, proposals for work to address the agreed priorities will be sought from a long list of pre-approved providers. A shortlist will then be considered by the Task Group and final proposals for award of contracts will be brought to the Local Committee. The commissioned services would then commence on 1st April 2012.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

Approve the recommendations in Section 7 for future commissioning of preventative services for young people through the Local Prevention Framework.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Services for Young People are undergoing significant reform to enable the County Council to respond to several significant drivers of change. These drivers include reducing costs by 30% over the 2009 baseline; modernising the offer to young people so that it is better integrated, more preventative and targeted; and for services to be delivered more locally.
- 1.2 The Local Prevention Framework (LPF) is an allocation of £117k¹ to the SCC Local Committee in Elmbridge to commission services designed to prevent young people becoming NEET or entering the youth justice system. Additionally, £26k¹ is available for the Local Committee to allocate as grants. The allocations are based on the number of young people who are NEET and the number who are FTE.
- 1.3 The purpose of the LPF is to *prevent* NEET and to *prevent* offending and antisocial behaviour. It complements the functions of the new Youth Support Service, which has a clear focus on young people who are currently NEET or who are currently in the youth justice system. The LPF should engage with young people who are *at risk* of NEET or *at risk* of offending and focus on reducing the risk factors that are correlated with NEET and offending.
- 1.4 The services commissioned through the LPF are in addition to continued central funding for youth work and activities delivered from Elmbridge's two SCC youth centres and that which is supported by SCC in the three non-SCC centres in the borough.
- 1.5 A needs assessment workshop was held for the Borough of Elmbridge on 13th October 2011, with wide representation including young people, Elected Members (Borough and County Council), education, voluntary organisations, housing associations, police, youth development service and youth justice. The workshop considered the data on NEET and youth offending (including the predictive factors), as well as the perspectives and experience of the workshop participants.
- 1.6 Also under consideration by the Youth Task Group is the deployment of up to twenty sessions of outreach programme delivered by the Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development service. Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) provides a range of outdoor learning opportunities for schools, youth groups and youth organisations from its three centres at High Ashurst (Boxhill), Henly Fort and Thames Young Mariners. Additionally, SOLD has developed an outreach programme that can be delivered to young people in their local community and will focus on young people learning skills that increase protection from risk (especially soft skills around team working, trusting others and

¹ Figures have been rounded

leadership). Elmbridge will have 20, three-hour sessions available with a capacity of up to 20 young people per session. These sessions can be delivered locally to any part of the borough. The Task Group will receive a presentation from SOLD at its next meeting to inform the recommendations for the deployment of this resource, which will come to the next Local Committee.

- 1.7 There are two County Council youth centres in Elmbridge (Molesey and Walton). The new service will see the youth work delivered from each of these centres managed by a new organisation commissioned through the programme for Centre Based Youth Work. A Youth Club Advisory Group will be established for each centre chaired by a County Councillor (or his/her nominee) and with membership drawn from local young people, a Borough Councillor and community representatives. Nominations for a chairman will be put forward at a later meeting after the Terms of Reference for this group has been finalised.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Levels of NEET and FTE are generally low in Surrey. Data presented at the Needs Assessment workshop on 13/10/2011 is shown in the table. The proportion of Surrey's NEET young people who live in Elmbridge is 9.8%, and FTE is 8.8%, whereas the proportion of the population is 11.6% of all Surrey young people.

Levels of NEET and FTE	Surrey	Elmbridge	Elmbridge proportion as percentage of Surrey.
Total population 10-19	133,600	15,500	11.6%
NEET (July 2011)	698	69	9.8%
FTE (April 2010-March 2011)	568	50	8.8%

- 2.2 Research has shown that the following are the primary risk factors associated with an increased likelihood of a young person becoming NEET or offending –

- School attendance less than 60%
- Excluded from school
- Engaged in anti social behaviour
- Statement of Special Education Need or school action or action plus
- Living in an area with high levels of crime / anti-social behaviour
- Poverty and neighbourhood affected by multiple-deprivation
- Family disruption, ineffective parenting
- Being in local authority care

- 2.3 At the Youth Task Group workshop, these risk factors were considered along with additional risk factors identified by participants. These included issues in relation to transition from school to work or college, employment and work experience opportunities, support and motivation to encourage young people into participation with education, training and employment.

- 2.4 Participants in the task group and the workshop emphasised the importance and opportunities offered by peer mentoring as a potential way of addressing these priorities.
- 2.5 It was agreed that further local data would be required in the future in order to have a better understanding of priority areas and the problems relating to NEET and FTE and therefore, how best to address them.
- 2.6 It was also decided that there is a need to map the provisions already available to young people within the Borough, both through Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and the range of other organisations engaging with young people, in order to address any existing gaps. This will help to identify any facilities that are currently available but may be in need of improvement or investment to be used to their full potential; these may be recipients of small grants allocations. This mapping exercise will also highlight any issues that may effect the success of current provisions such as transport links not being available. Officers from the County Council and Borough Council are taking this mapping work forward.
- 2.7 Following discussion at the Youth Task Group, drawing together the needs analysis and the local knowledge, the following proposals were agreed for recommendation to the Local Committee.

Particular focus on specific predictors or risk factors

- 2.8 The Youth Task Group proposes that priority should be given to addressing risk factors that are most closely linked to successful entry to employment. It was felt that an approach focused on increasing employment opportunities through work with employers, combined with targeted support for those most at risk of being NEET should be the commissioning priority. This approach would necessarily involve engaging schools and families in order to support, motivate and develop young people's employability skills. It is considered that this preventative activity will reap benefits for both reducing the risk of offending and the risk of young people becoming NEET.

Particular focus on specific geographical areas

- 2.9 The Youth Task Group drew on the needs analysis data and workshop discussions to develop an approach that would combine borough-wide resource with a more targeted approach for particular communities identified within the needs assessment workshop. Heat mapping of young people at risk of becoming NEET and those in respect of offending indicate that there are a number of places in the borough that have greater concentrations of 'at risk' young people. These will be drawn to the attention of potential service providers.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 The local prevention framework is one of several delivery models, which have been developed by the Services for Young People *Fit for the Future* transformation programme. There has been wide ranging consultation with groups of young people, staff, and partner agencies. Members have been consulted through the county council's PVR Member Reference Group. Additionally, local engagement has taken place through the Local Committee Youth Task Group and the Workshop held on 13th October 2011.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

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

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The devolved commissioning budget will be targeted on groups who are vulnerable, at risk, or otherwise disadvantaged.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Local commissioning aims specifically to reduce offending and anti social behaviour and to increase participation.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the needs analysis, workshop and Youth Task Group meeting on 31st October 2011, the following recommendations are proposed.

7.1 Providers should be asked to focus particularly on:

- a) Increasing young people's employability skills, including support to address motivation, confidence, and the range of factors, which are barriers to successful transition to employment, further education or training.
- b) Working to increase opportunities and experience for young people in employment.

7.2 a) All parts of Elmbridge should have access to preventative services but providers will be asked to give particular attention to the areas identified as currently having concentrations of 'at risk' young people.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The recommendations will:

- a) support the council's priority to achieve "zero NEET" that is for 100% of young people aged 16 to 19 to be in education, training or employment.
- b) support the council's priority that more young people are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour
- c) increase delivery of youth work locally

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

9.1 The next steps will be for officers to draft a commissioning specification to invite proposals from the framework suppliers.

9.2 A mini competition will take place where short listed suppliers will present their proposals to the task group. A recommendation on award of contract will be brought to the next meeting of the Local Committee for approval.

9.3 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1st April 2012.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Services for young people in Elmbridge – briefing for elected members (issued May 2011)