



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (Elmbridge)**

### **YOUTH TRANSFORMATION AND LOCAL PREVENTATIVE FRAMEWORK**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

This report is asking the Local Committee to approve SCC Officers' recommendations to provide local preventative services to young people in Elmbridge. SCC Officers are recommending provider solutions that have been evaluated via a competitive process overseen by the Youth Task Group. The recommended bidder and their proposal are put forward in this report for approval of award of contract.

#### **SUMMARY**

The award of contract is the culmination of several months' work by the Youth Task Group which will result in services being commissioned by the Local Committee in response to local need. The focus of the work will be to reduce the risk factors that are predictors of young people becoming NEET or becoming involved in the criminal justice system in Elmbridge.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:**

- (i) Approve SCC Officers' recommendations to award a contract for a twelve month period to the following provider:

Surrey Youth Consortium for 100% of the contract value of £117,000 to prevent young people from becoming NEET or first time entrants into the criminal justice system in Elmbridge.

## 1.0 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 £117k to the SCC Local Committee in Elmbridge to commission outcomes to prevent young people becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) or entering the youth justice system. The allocation is based on the number of young people who are NEET and the number of young people who entered the youth justice system (first time entrants) in 2010-11.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that the LPF will deliver against the County Council's expectation that where possible local youth services will be commissioned locally, in line with the government's localism agenda. In furtherance of this agenda the Local Committee convened a Youth Task Group to act in an advisory capacity through the procurement process with representation from County Members, Borough Members, Officers and local young people.
- 1.4 The purpose of the local prevention framework 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.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The provider solutions were sought in a competitive process involving four stages:
  - (i) Approved providers selected using pre-qualifying questionnaires
  - (ii) Local needs assessment workshop assessing the needs of the borough
  - (iii) Submission of bids from providers on the approved list
  - (iv) Presentations by the top providers from the mini competition stage
- 2.2 In June 2011 pre-qualifying questionnaires (PQQs) were issued to potential providers who had registered an interest in providing services under the local prevention framework. These PQQs were evaluated to ensure that they had sufficient legal, financial and technical capacity (including health and safety, safeguarding, and equal opportunity policies) to undertake a contract for the Council.
- 2.3 A needs assessment workshop was held on 31st October 2011 with representation including young people, county and borough members, schools, voluntary organisations, housing associations, police, health, officers from Elmbridge, County Officers from youth development service and youth justice.

- 2.4 The workshop was able to consider the data on NEET and youth offending (including the predictive factors), information from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the perspective and experience of the workshop participants.
- 2.5 The task group concluded that:
- 2.5.1 Priority should be given to addressing risk factors that are most closely linked to successful entry to employment. 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.
- 2.6 The recommendations of the Task Group were:
- 2.6.1 The needs analysis data and workshop discussions supported developing an approach that would combine a 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.
- 2.6.2 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.
- 2.6.3 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.
- 2.6.4 The task group concluded that: the commission should focus on 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.
- 2.7 Following the November committee invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Two bids were received and one bidder was short listed for presentation to the task group on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Provider's Bid**

- 2.8 The successful provider **Surrey Youth Consortium** is an umbrella organisation representing 11 Surrey-based voluntary and not for profit organisations, which work with young people.
- 2.9 Surrey Youth Consortium is in a position to deliver, without delay, a range of high quality, locally sensitive services through provider organisations that will share expertise, draw on members' activities and deliver at a local level.

2.10 Surrey County Council's contract would be with Surrey Youth Consortium. The Consortium's proposed local providers for Elmbridge are Eikon, Lifetrain Trust, Surrey Care Trust, GASP Motor Project and Peer Productions. Services will complement the work that Consortium members currently undertake in the local community, such as Eikon's work in local secondary schools and their management of youth centres.

Activity	Notes/contributions to OVIs
'Connect' Family Project	Co-produced 7 week programme designed for higher risk families by Eikon.
'Take Control'	A 6-week personal development programme targeting young people at risk.
Peer Mentoring	Training young people who have experienced and overcome difficulties, to support young people at risk.
Business Links	Working with employers, schools and families to increase employment opportunities for young people at risk of becoming NEET including workplace visits and work placements.
Business Mentoring	Complementing other provision, young people at risk will be offered support from a trained adult volunteer, recruited mainly from local companies.
GASP Motor Project	A mobile version of the established programme delivering a customised motor mechanics courses in local youth centres in school holidays.
Peer Productions Film Project	Short-term film projects, issue based, with the group choosing their own theme and storyline.

2.11 Following the presentation by the short-listed bidder the Task Group considered that the bid met the needs of young people in Elmbridge and is therefore put forward for approval by the Local Committee.

2.12 The performance of the provider will be closely monitored by the Services for Young People Commissioning and Development Team and reports will be provided to the youth task group and the Local Committee. The contract is for one year with the expectation that if performance meets expectations extensions will be granted by the Local Committee of a further year, up to a maximum of three years in total.

### 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.

#### **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 is likely to be targeted on groups who are vulnerable or at risk.

#### **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**

- 7.1 The Local Committee is asked to approve officers recommendations to award the contract for a twelve month period to the following provider:
- a) Surrey Youth Consortium for 100% of the contract value of £117,000

#### **8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The recommendations will 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

#### **9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 9.1 Officers will issue a purchase order to the successful organisations with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 April 2012.
- 9.2 Officers will issue SCC terms and conditions to the successful organisations
- 9.3 The performance of the contract will be monitored by the Commissioning and Development Team within the County Council's Services for Young People
- 9.4 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

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