



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)**

### **LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK**

**19<sup>th</sup> October 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 Epsom and Ewell 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 (Epsom and Ewell) 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 commissioned more locally.
- 1.2 The Local Prevention Framework (LPF) is an allocation of £84k to the SCC Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell to commission services designed to prevent young people becoming NEET or entering the youth justice system. Additionally, £14k 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 A needs assessment workshop was held for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011, with wide representation including, Members (Borough and County Council), health service, education, voluntary organisations, housing associations, police, youth development and youth justice services. 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.
- 1.5 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 leadership). Epsom and Ewell 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. Recommendations for the deployment of this resource will come to the next Local Committee at which point award of LPF contracts will also be considered.
- 1.6 There are three County Council youth centres in Epsom and Ewell (Yo-Yo drop in centre\*, Lintons Youth Arts Centre and The Edge). 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.

\* YoYo "Drop-in" Youth Centre South Street: Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has a registered interest in this property following a capital contribution of £100,000 to fund improvements at the facility in 1996. This links to a condition requiring its continued use for services to young people.

- 1.7 The Stephen Woods Centre, Blenheim Road, should also be considered as part of the borough strategy for the youth estate. This facility is situated on land for which the freehold rests with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. This site includes a youth club run by voluntary trustees, the separately-operated Epsom & Ewell Amateur Boxing Club and a workshop/vocational skills centre. It is held on a 35 year lease agreed in 1993 with the National Association of Boys Clubs. Surrey County Council has in the past provided some youth worker support for the club and the Youth Justice Service utilises the workshop facilities. Local Members have also given grants to the Centre in the past for small scale improvements. There is an opportunity to expand the youth-based activities at the Stephen Woods Centre given its close proximity to the Longmead Estate, an area of relative deprivation. It could also be used in the short-term as a "decant" facility during the proposed redevelopment of the Lintons Lane site.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Levels of NEET and FTE are generally low in Surrey. Data presented at the Needs Assessment workshop on 23/9/11 is shown in the table. The proportion of NEET in Epsom and Ewell is 4.99%, and FTE is 5.28%, whereas the proportion of the population is 6.59% of all Surrey young people.

Levels of NEET and FTE	Surrey	Epsom & Ewell	Epsom and Ewell proportion as percentage of Surrey.
Total population 10-19	133,600	8,800	6.59%
NEET (April 2011)	782	39	4.99%
FTE (April 2010-March 2011)	568	30	5.28%

- 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

- Young people in care

2.3 At the Youth Task Group workshop, additional risk factors were identified as listed below –

- Lack of community cohesion
- Young people not coping / succeeding in school
- Family breakdown and young people living away from home
- Experience of domestic abuse
- Financial pressures
- Un-affordable transport and lack of suitable transport
- Health issues including emotional well-being and substance misuse
- Peer pressure and negative peer associations
- Lack of employment opportunity
- Lack of suitable leisure facilities
- Being a young carer or young parent

2.4 The following geographical areas were highlighted as in greater need at the workshop –

Town  
Court  
Ruxley

2.5 It was agreed that responses to some of the headline risks identified would sit outside of the work commissioned through the Local Prevention Framework. Examples of this are appropriate support to looked after children and services to address special educational need. Similarly while transportation is identified as a barrier to participation for some young people, and this should be a consideration for providers, there is a limit to what can be done within the prevention framework to overcome this. Relevant issues will be highlighted to the Local Committee in order to strategically influence the transport agenda.

2.6 It is recognised that a greater range of local data will be required in the future in order to have a better understanding of the problems relating to NEET and FTE in Epsom and Ewell and therefore, how best to address them.

2.6 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**

2.7 The Youth Task Group proposes that priority should be given to addressing risk factors associated with family and parenting difficulties, providing support for young people in school and ensuring their attendance, and addressing neighbourhood and peer group issues. It was felt that approaches which targeted families, schools, and neighbourhood issues would offer the best opportunity to address the variety of risk factors that place young people at greatest risk of involvement in offending or of becoming NEET. The issue of un-affordable transportation was also highlighted and this barrier to participation should be considered within any new provision commissioned.

### **Particular focus on specific geographical areas**

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 The outcome is to recommend to providers a borough-wide preventative approach that recognises the current concentration, particularly in regard to NEET young people in the Town, Court and Ruxley wards.

### **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 23/9/11.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the following recommendations are proposed.

- 7.1 All risk factors identified at paras 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 are considered by providers, with providers asked to focus particularly on:
- a) Whole family solutions
  - b) Support for those failing to succeed in school
  - c) Neighbourhood and peer group issues
- 7.2
- a) All parts of Epsom & Ewell have access to preventative services
  - b) Priority areas needing a more targeted approach – Town, Court, and Ruxley wards.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Services for young people in Epsom and Ewell – briefing for elected members (issued May 2011)