



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL

Youth Provision Update

5th March 2012

KEY ISSUE

This report updates the Local Committee on the award of the Local Prevention Framework contract, re-provision of the Linton's Lane youth centre, and advises on agreements reached in respect of youth centre steering groups.

SUMMARY

1. In December 2011 the County Council Cabinet agreed that the award of Local Prevention Framework contracts be delegated to Surrey County Council (SCC) Local Committees.
2. In the case of Epsom and Ewell, the Borough Council was one of the bidders for the local contract. This has raised a potential conflict of interest, as all County Councillors in Epsom and Ewell are also Borough Councillors. As the Local Committee is unable to make a decision in these circumstances the authority to award the contract is exercised by the relevant County Council portfolio holder, Mrs Hammond, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety.
3. The decision by Mrs Hammond, on officer recommendation, was to award the full value of the 12-month contract to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.
4. The award of contract is the culmination of several months' work by the youth issues task group that will result in services being commissioned as a response to local need. The focus of the work will be to reduce the risk factors that are predictors of young people becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) or becoming involved in the criminal justice system in Epsom and Ewell.

5. This report also deals with the process developed to oversee the re-provision of the Linton's Lane Youth Centre and the agreement reached in respect for the youth task group to evolve to take on the role of youth work steering group for the borough.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Epsom and Ewell) is asked to:

- i. Note the decision to award a 12-month contract for local prevention services to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Prevention.
- ii. Agree the recommendation to have one youth work steering group for the borough.
- iii. Note arrangements in place to oversee the re-provision of the Linton's Lane Youth Centre.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

6. The Local Prevention Framework (LPF) is an allocation of £84k to the SCC local committee in Epsom and Ewell to commission outcomes to prevent young people becoming NEET 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.
7. As part of the changes to the County Council's Services for Young People youth work in youth centres will be overseen by a steering group. Discussion has been ongoing between County Council officers and local Members, particularly Chairs of Local Committees, with regard to the number and composition of these steering groups within each borough. The conclusion which the Epsom and Ewell youth issues task group reached is the one that has been adopted for the county. This will see the youth issues task group evolve, following a review of its membership, to take on the role of youth work steering group for the whole borough. Each youth centre within the borough will have its own centre user group, comprised largely of young people, with which the borough steering group will consult.

ANALYSIS

Local Prevention Framework Contract Award

8. 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
9. Following the November Local Committee, invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Two bids were received and both were short-listed for presentation to the task group on 19 January 2012.

10. The successful bidder was Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's (EEBC). The approach that will be adopted will be to work with the Beat project to engage marginalised young people through creative activities (e.g. music and arts) designed to maintain access to employment, education and training, to tackle health and well-being and behavioural issues, to address first time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system and to encourage active involvement in the wider community.
11. Young people will be involved for the duration of the project, including its set-up, marketing, administration, management and on-going development. Participants will construct a website to showcase the project and to provide further educational links and information. This will include a Youth Forum. The courses and projects will progress from a 2-hour taster through to a standard 10-week accredited course and on-going engagement through focus groups and mentoring. The project will work on a borough-wide basis but will ensure appropriate focus on the concentrations of at risk young people in the Town, Court and Ruxley wards.
12. EEBC is in a position to deliver, without delay, a range of high quality, locally sensitive services through the Beat project. This will draw on the existing knowledge and delivery of youth and leisure services by EEBC and will be done in partnership with County Council, and other public, private and voluntary sector providers.
13. 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, the Local Committee and County Council Lead Member (via Head of Service). The contract is for one year with the expectation that, if performance is as specified in the contract, extensions will be granted by the Cabinet Member of a further year, up to a maximum of three years in total.

Linton's Lane Re-Provision

14. In December 2011 the County Council Cabinet agreed to the disposal of the site of the Linton's Lane Youth Centre. The earliest point at which the site will be handed over to developers is December 2012. In agreeing the sale of the site the County Council committed to ensuring that all existing youth provision at the centre would be re-provided in one or more new settings within the borough. This commitment has since been repeated by the Cabinet Lead Member, Mrs Hammond.
15. In order to oversee the re-provision of the activities / facilities at the Linton's Lane Centre a task group has been established, chaired by the County Council's Assistant Chief Executive. County Council and Borough Council Members will be represented on the task group, as will users of the youth centre, along with key officers from both the County and Borough. The task group will meet for the first time on 5th March.

Youth Work Steering Group

16. The new arrangements for delivering local youth work commissioned by the County Council require a steering group to be established in each district and borough. It is recommended that the youth issues task group, which has overseen the implementation of the local prevention framework, evolves to take on the role of overseeing centre-based youth work delivered in Epsom and

Ewell. This was the preferred approach of the Epsom and Ewell youth issues group and is the model that will now be used across the county. The work of the borough-wide steering group will be informed by young people's user groups attached to each youth centre.

17. The youth issues task group will need to review its membership in view of the proposed new responsibilities and will have to re-visit its terms of reference as it becomes a Youth Steering Group for the borough. In Epsom and Ewell it has always been envisaged that the youth issues task group would have an ongoing role, beyond local prevention framework implementation, to promote and sustain youth activities within the borough. The additional specific responsibilities for oversight of the youth work commissioned by the County Council's Services for Young People should therefore sit comfortably with the direction already established for the youth issues task group in the borough.

CONSULTATIONS

18. 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.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

19. 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.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

20. The devolved prevention budget is targeted on groups who are vulnerable or at risk.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

21. Reduction in youth crime and anti-social behaviour is a key outcome for the prevention services commissioned within this contract.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The County Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety has approved the award of a contract for a twelve-month period to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, for 100% of the contract value of £84,000, to prevent young people from becoming NEET or first time entrants into the criminal justice system in Epsom and Ewell. The Local Committee will receive an update on the implementation and initial results of the prevention service after six-months and six-monthly basis thereafter.
23. The Local Committee is asked to approve the recommendation that the youth issues task group incorporates oversight of centre-based youth work into its terms of reference and becomes the borough's Youth Steering Group. The membership of the youth task group will be reviewed at the next meeting on 29th March to ensure the group is appropriately composed in order to undertake the additional responsibilities.

24. The Local Committee will receive progress reports from the Lintons Lane re-provision task group over the course of 2012.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

25. County Council officers will issue a purchase order to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 April 2012.
26. The Commissioning and Development Team within the County Council's Services for Young People will monitor the performance of the contract.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Services for Young People, Fit for the Future – 21 Dec 2011