



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

13 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 Guildford. 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 proposals are put forward in this report for approval of award of contract by the Local Committee.

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 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or becoming involved in the criminal justice system in Guildford.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:

- 1.1 Award a contract for a twelve month period to the provider recommended by the Youth Task Group following the mini presentation on 9th February 2012. (This information will be tabled at the Committee meeting).

2 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The local prevention framework (LPF) is an allocation of £151k to the SCC Local Committee in Guildford 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).
- 2.3 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 issues task group to act in an advisory capacity through the procurement process with representation from County Members, Borough Members, Officers and local young people.
- 2.4 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.

3 ANALYSIS

- 3.1 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 2-5 providers from the mini competition stage
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 A needs assessment workshop was held on 1st November 2011 with representation including young people, members, schools, voluntary organisations, housing associations, police, County Officers from youth development service and youth justice. 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.
- 3.4 The conclusions of the task group were to target the prevention of young people becoming NEET in view of the strong overlap with the predictive risk factors associated with offending. The task group considered the data that pointed to over 80% of those at risk of becoming NEET living in either Ash or in neighbourhoods around Guildford (predominately in Westborough and Stoke wards.) The task group has concluded that the resource should be focused on Ash, Stoke and Westborough but that potential provider organisations will also be required to offer support for young people at risk in other parts of the borough.
- 3.5 The Local Committee agreed the recommendation on needs and priorities at its meeting held on the 7 December 2011 as follows:
- 3.5.1 *That the local prevention framework priority for Guildford is to prevent NEET across the borough of Guildford but with a particular focus on areas of need identified as Ash, Stoke and Westborough and that the commissioning budget is deployed to commission outcomes in accordance with this prioritisation*
- 3.6 Following the December committee invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Only two bids were received (by a single provider) and both bids were short listed for presentation to the task group on 9 February 2012.
- 3.7 The shortlisted bidder(s) were as follows:
Bid A 50%
Bid B 50%
- 3.8 Following the presentations the Task Group were satisfied that the bids would address the needs and priorities identified and these are put forward for approval by the Local Committee
- 3.8.1 BID SUMMARY [*to be provided at the meeting following the mini presentation event 9th February 2012*]

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 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.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The devolved commissioning budget is likely to be targeted on groups who are vulnerable or at risk.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Local Committee is asked to approve an award of contract for a twelve month period to the following providers:

[To be provided at the meeting following the mini presentation event 9th February 2012]

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 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

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Officers will issue a purchase order to the successful organisation with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 April 2012.
- 10.2 The performance of the contract will be monitored by the Commissioning and Development Team within the County Council's Services for Young People
- 10.3 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1st April 2012.

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**BACKGROUND
PAPERS:**

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