



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

### LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

06 DECEMBER 2011

#### KEY ISSUE

This report is asking the Local Committee to approve SCC Officers' recommendations to provide local preventative services to young people in Mole Valley. SCC Officers are recommending provider solutions that have been evaluated via a competitive process overseen by the youth issues task group. The recommended bidders 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 issues 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 Mole Valley.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Local Committee (Mole valley) is asked to:**

- 1.1 Approve an award of contract for a twelve month period to the following providers:

Leatherhead Youth Project for £49,000 to provide NEET prevention services to young people in North Leatherhead, Bookham and Fetcham.

Surrey Youth Consortium for £49,000 to provide NEET prevention services focusing on, but not exclusively, Goodwyns and Westcott.

## 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 £98k to the SCC local committee in Mole Valley 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, District Members, the Local Strategic Partnership, local young people and support from County and District Officers.
- 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 district
  - (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-qualification 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 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011 with representation including young people, County and District 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 task group concluded that the commission should take a district wide approach focused on the outcome of improved participation by young people in education, training and employment but noting the particular needs of Goodwyns, Leatherhead North, Westcott, Bookham North and Fetcham East.
- 3.5 The Local Committee agreed the recommendation on needs and priorities at its meeting held on the 14 September 2011 as follows:
- 3.5.1 That the local prevention framework priority for Mole Valley is to reduce NEET across Mole Valley, but with a particular focus on areas of need identified as ‘Links’ (Goodwyns, Holmwood and Chartdown), Leatherhead North, Westcott, Bookham North, Fetcham East and that the commissioning budget is deployed to commission outcomes in accordance with this prioritisation.
- 3.6 Following the September committee invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Three bids were short listed for presentation to the task group on 16 November 2011.
- 3.7 The shortlisted bidder(s) were as follows:  
Leatherhead Youth Project (one bid submitted for 50% of contract value)  
Surrey Youth Consortium (two bids submitted for 50% of contract value each)
- 3.8 Following the presentations by the short listed bidders the Task Group considered that the following bids best met the needs of young people in Mole Valley and these are put forward for approval by the Local Committee
- 3.8.1 **Leatherhead Youth Project** A bid building on their current success in North Leatherhead through the recruitment of an additional Youth Worker to focus on identifying, supporting and engaging with young people at risk of being NEET in North Leatherhead, Bookham and Fetcham. This bid was for 50% of the available funding and was well linked to existing services and provision. A partnership approach and joint working with SCC were significant strengths.
- 3.8.2 **Surrey Youth Consortium** This bid was to provide a suite of activities and services in Mole Valley to support young people who are at risk of NEET and their families. This bid was designed to bring well tried and tested projects to Mole Valley and capacity build some existing projects in other parts of Mole Valley. This contract will provide some focus on Links and Westcott but also extend the offer to the whole of the district.

## 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:

Surrey Youth Consortium contract value £49,000

Leatherhead Youth Project contract value £49,000

## 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 Subject to approval of the overall framework by SCC Cabinet (on 20<sup>th</sup> December), officers will issue a purchase order to the successful organisations 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**