



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE and BANSTEAD)**

### **LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK**

**5 DECEMBER 2011**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

This report is asking the Local Committee to approve Surrey County Council (SCC) officers' recommendations to provide local preventative services to young people in Reigate and Banstead. 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 Reigate and Banstead.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:**

- (i) Award a contract for a twelve month period, subject to Cabinet approval of the Local Prevention Framework on 20 December 2011 to the following provider:

Surrey Youth Consortium for 100% of the contract value of £171,000

## 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 £171k to the SCC Local Committee in Reigate and Banstead 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).
- 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 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.
- 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-qualification 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
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 A needs assessment workshop was held on 1 September 2011 with representation including young people, County and Borough Members, schools, voluntary organisations, housing associations, police, health, officers from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, and SCC officers from the Youth Development Service and Youth Justice Service. 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.

- 2.4 The task group concluded that the commission should take a borough wide approach focused on the outcome of improved participation by young people in education, training and employment with a focus on Redhill as the priority area and noting Horley, Merstham, Preston and South Reigate (Woodhatch) as other areas of need. Consideration should also be given to early intervention and key transition times in the life of a young person.
- 2.5 The Local Committee agreed the recommendation on needs and priorities at its meeting held on the 19 September 2011 as follows:
- i. That the local prevention framework priority for Reigate and Banstead is to prevent NEET across the borough but with a particular focus on Redhill and noting Horley, Merstham, Preston and South Reigate (Woodhatch) as other areas of need.
  - ii. That there should be an emphasis placed on work with the family and at key transition stages.
- 2.6 Following the September Local Committee, invitations were sent out to the approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Three bids were short listed for presentation to the Youth Issues Task Group on 14 November: two bids of 50% of contract value each from one provider and one bid of 100% contract value from a second provider.
- 2.7 Following the presentations by the short listed bidders the Task Group considered that the following bids best met the needs of young people in Reigate and Banstead and these are put forward for approval by the Local Committee
- 2.7.1 **Surrey Youth Consortium.** Two bids were submitted which together provide a cohesive and varied offer across the borough. These bids provide a suite of activities and services in Reigate and Banstead to support young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, entering the criminal justice system and their families. The bids are designed to bring well tried and tested projects to Reigate and Banstead and capacity build some existing projects in other parts of the borough. This contract will develop protective factors as well as focusing on key areas in Reigate and Banstead.
- 2.7.2 **Bid 1.** The particular strengths of this bid were that it met a number of the priorities identified by the task group namely, work in Redhill and the priority areas and work on the transition periods for young people. Other strengths were that it built on very good local knowledge and sought to build capacity and sustainability through the training and supporting of volunteers. Young people would be engaged in four projects:
- (i) "Escape" diversionary activity during the Easter and summer holidays providing music, arts, sports and excursions focused on older young people.
  - (ii) "Stay in Touch" a mentoring programme for young people at risk of NEET.

(iii) “Smart” a creative project where young people build websites and edit a magazine to improve their self esteem and explore their potential for developing skills in this area.

(iv) Peer education, young people who have been NEET or offended are trained as mentors for young people at risk.

2.7.3 **Bid 2** The particular strengths of this bid are it that sought to meet priorities identified by the task group, namely work with families, work on key transition periods for young people and work in harder to reach areas. Other strengths include building on good local knowledge, the use of trained professionals for specific projects and a focus on reducing the risk factors that lead to young people becoming NEET or becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Young people would be engaged in three projects:

(i) “Heads Together Mobile Counselling” - a mixture of qualified volunteers and professionally trained staff delivering a counselling service in community venues within priority areas.

(ii) “Strengthening Families” - a preventative programme using a solution focused methodology targeted on families of young people aged 14-16 at risk of NEET or offending offering a mix of group work, home visits and one-to-one work.

(iii) “Move 627” - an early intervention programme supporting pupils in years 6 and 7 (primary to secondary) with a mix of after school clubs, training for peer support and more intensive work for some individuals.

### 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 (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to approve an award of contract for a twelve month period to the following providers:

Surrey Youth Consortium for 100% of the contract value of £171,000

## 8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations will support the County 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 Subject to approval of the overall framework by Surrey County Council's Cabinet (on 20 December 2011), officers will issue a purchase order to the successful organisations with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 April 2012.
- 9.2 The performance of the contract will be monitored by the Commissioning and Development Team within the County Council's Services for Young People
- 9.3 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1 April 2012.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

