



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)**

### **LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK**

**20 FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

This is a progress report from the youth issues task group. The task group has completed a needs assessment workshop, invited bids from pre approved providers from the framework and assessed those bids against the needs and priorities identified by the task group. This report outlines further proposed action by the task group following a mini competition, which did not produce a sufficiently strong winning bid for the task group to endorse.

#### **SUMMARY**

The focus of the work of the task group is to advise on commissioning outcomes for preventing young people in Runnymede becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) or becoming involved in the criminal justice system in Runnymede. At this point in the commissioning process it was anticipated that a clear recommendation for award of contract to an approved provider would be submitted to the local committee for decision. The task group were not satisfied that the solutions proposed by the provider organisations were a sufficiently good fit with the needs and priorities identified in Runnymede.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Runnymede) is asked to:**

- (i) to delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Young People in conjunction with the Committee Chairman and the Chairman of the Youth Task Group to pursue further options for the prevention of NEET and offending in Runnymede with a view to having resources in place for Summer 2012; and
- (ii) to bring an update progress report back to Committee at the next formal meeting on 18 June 2012;

## 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 delivered more locally.
- 1.2 The local prevention framework (LPF) is an allocation of £101,000 to the SCC local committee in Runnymede 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, local young people and support from County and Borough Officers.
- 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-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 up to 5 providers from the mini competition stage
- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 A needs assessment workshop was held on 5 October 2011 with representation including young people, members, schools, voluntary organisations, police, Runnymede borough officers and 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.

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- 2.4 The task group concluded that:

The broad areas of concern identified were poverty, transport, lack of parental support, not enough careers advice and learning disabilities. There was agreement on the geographical areas presenting with the highest levels of need – these areas are Englefield Green, Egham Hythe/Pooley Green, Chertsey and Addlestone.

The recommendations of the Task Group were:

- a) That the local prevention framework priority for Runnymede is to prevent NEET and FTEs across the borough of Runnymede. The Task Group proposes to assign the resource for prevention of young people becoming NEET or first time entrants to the youth justice system, in proportion to the current percentage of young people who are NEET and/or first time entrants to the youth justice system. This is a ratio of 51:38 (numbers) or NEET 57% and youth justice entrants 43% (as a percentage).
  - b) That in terms of geographical reach, the Task Group agreed their preferred option as a whole district approach but drawing the provider's attention to the particular areas of need in Englefield Green, Egham Hythe/Pooley Green, Chertsey and Addlestone.
- 2.5 Following the December committee, invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Two bids were received and short listed for presentation to the task group on 26th January.
- 2.6 Despite the merits of the two bids presented, the task group were of the view that there was not a sufficiently good fit between the solutions proposed and the needs and priorities identified. The task group were

concerned that the bidders generally appeared to lack specific local knowledge about Runnymede.

- 2.7 Consequently the task group concluded that they did not wish to put forward either of the two bids for an award of contract at this stage. The task group requested that officers consider further options for future consideration by the task group, with a view to having resources in place by Summer 2012.

### **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 MemberReferenceGroup.

### **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 (Runnymede) is asked to:
- (i) Instruct officers to support the youth issues task group to consider further options for the prevention of NEET and offending in Runnymede with a view to having resources in place for Summer 2012.

### **8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 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

## 9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

9.1 Officers will work with the youth task group to explore further options for the prevention of NEET and offending in Runnymede, which would then be brought to the next meeting of the Local Committee.

9.2 It is anticipated that resources will be in place for Summer 2012.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**