



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

10 OCTOBER 2011

KEY ISSUE

This is a progress report from the Youth Task Group. Priorities for the use of the commissioning budget under the devolved Local Prevention Framework have been identified and are submitted in this report for approval by the Local Committee.

SUMMARY

1. The Youth Task Group set up by the Local Committee has identified key priorities in Spelthorne to prevent young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and to prevent young people from becoming involved in youth crime. This report brings forward recommendations from the task group on how the local commissioning resource should be allocated.
2. The recommendations propose a borough-wide approach, but with emphasis on particular communities as outlined in the report. Following a needs analysis and multi-agency workshop, risk factors have been identified and specific risk factors are proposed as priorities as outlined in the report.
3. Following agreement of the Local Committee, proposals for work to address the agreed priorities will be sought from a long list of pre-approved providers. A shortlist will then be considered by the Task Group and final proposals for award of contracts will be brought to the Local Committee. The commissioned services would then commence on 1st April 2012.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to:

Approve the recommendations in Section 7 for future commissioning of preventative services for young people through the Local Prevention Framework.

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 more responsive to local need through local commissioning.
- 1.2 The Local Prevention Framework (LPF) is an allocation of £128k to the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne to commission services designed to prevent young people becoming NEET or entering the youth justice system. Additionally, £17k is available for the Local Committee to allocate as grants. The allocation to the Local Committee of these central funds is based on the number of young people who are NEET and the number who are first time entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system within each of Surrey's districts and boroughs.
- 1.3 The purpose of the LPF 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.
- 1.4 A needs assessment workshop was held for the borough on 21st September 2011, with a range of representation including young people, Members (Borough and County Council), borough officers, voluntary and faith organisations, youth development service, youth justice, and education officers. The workshop considered the data on NEET and youth offending (including the predictive factors), as well as the perspectives and experience of the workshop participants.
- 1.5 Also under consideration by the Youth Task Group is the deployment of up to twenty sessions of outreach programme delivered by the Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development service. Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) provides a range of outdoor learning opportunities for schools, youth groups and youth organisations from its

three centres at High Ashurst (Boxhill), Henly Fort and Thames Young Mariners. Additionally, SOLD has developed an outreach programme that can be delivered to young people in their local community and will focus on young people learning skills that increase protection from risk (especially soft skills around team working, trusting others and leadership). Spelthorne will have 20, three-hour sessions available with a capacity of up to 20 young people per session. These sessions can be delivered locally to any part of the borough.

- 1.6 There are five County Council youth centres in Spelthorne (Ashford, Leacroft, Shepperton, Stanwell and Sunbury). The new operating model for Services for Young People will see the youth work delivered from each of these centres managed by a new organisation commissioned through the programme for Centre Based Youth Work. A Youth Club Advisory Group will be established for each centre chaired by a County Councillor (or his/her nominee) and with membership drawn from local young people, a Borough Councillor and community representatives. Nominations for a chairman will be put forward at a later meeting of the Local Committee after the Terms of Reference for this group has been finalised.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Levels of participation in education, training and employment are high in Surrey and levels of youth crime are low, however, Spelthorne has more NEET young people than any other Surrey district or borough and has some of the highest rates of youth offending in the county. Data presented at the Needs Assessment workshop on 22/9/11 is shown in the table. The proportion of NEET in Spelthorne is 15.9% (of the Surrey total), and FTE is 9.15%, whereas the proportion of the Surrey population is only 7.71%.

Levels of NEET and FTE	Surrey	Spelthorne	Spelthorne proportion as percentage of Surrey.
Total population 10-19	133,600	10,300	7.71%
NEET 16 – 18 year olds (July 2011)	698	111	15.9%
FTE (April 2010-March 2011)	568	52	9.15%

- 2.2 Research indicates that the following risk factors are most significant in increasing the likelihood of a young person becoming NEET or offending –

- School attendance less than 60%
- Excluded from school

- Statement of Special Education Need or school action or action plus
- Engaged in anti social behaviour
- Living in an area with high levels of crime / anti-social behaviour
- Poverty and neighbourhood affected by multiple-deprivation
- Family disruption, ineffective parenting

These can be described as the primary risk factors in relation to NEET and offending.

2.3 At the needs assessment workshop, additional and related risk factors were identified as listed below -

- **Family and Personal Circumstances**
 - *Lack of self confidence*
 - *Family members being NEET or offending*
 - *Family Crisis*
- **Parenting**
 - *Poor parenting skills*
 - *Parents with own problems*
 - *Families with low aspirations for change*
- **Teenage Pregnancy**
 - *Becoming a young parent*
- **Geographical location**
 - *Neighbourhood*
 - *Perception of area/reputation*
- **Susceptible to influence**
 - *Peer Pressure*
 - *Negative peer associations*
- **Non engagement with education**
 - *Absence from school, particularly unauthorised*
 - *Being excluded from school*
 - *Feeling or being made to feel a failure at school*
 - *Bullying in school*
 - *High costs of travel*
 - *SEN Needs – support in school and beyond Year 11*
 - *School Transition Year 11*
- **Learning difficulties**
 - *Disability – lack of support*
- **Lack of access to employment opportunities**
 - *Reduced employment opportunities for young people*
- **Substance Misuse**
 - *Taking and having access to drugs and alcohol*
- **Boredom**
 - *Not having enough to do*
 - *Lack of stimulating activity*

2.4 Following discussions within the workshop it was felt that a number of risk factors can be addressed by services outside of the Local Prevention Framework. Examples are better use of parks and facilities

currently available (the small grants allocation of the Local Committee could support this); improving partnerships and relationships with schools; provision of advice and support in respect of teenage pregnancy; and identification of the 'hidden' NEETs (or those at risk of being NEET as a result of homelessness) through the Youth Support Service. Work will be undertaken with Spelthorne's head teachers to identify existing services which can support the priorities most closely associated with schools and to identify the gaps which could appropriately be addressed through the LPF commission.

- 2.4 The following geographical areas were identified at the workshop, through hotspot analysis and local intelligence, as being the areas of greatest need: Sunbury, Stanwell North, Stanwell South, Ashford and Staines Central. In addition the following were identified as being areas of emerging need where preventative work was needed to prevent problems for young people escalating: Shepperton Green, Staines South and Ashford Common.
- 2.5 Further considerations are the locations of existing youth centres providing SCC centre based youth work in Ashford, Leacroft, Shepperton, Stanwell and Sunbury – provision will continue at these centres, which will be run by managing agents commissioned by SCC from 1/4/12. These centres will be focusing on providing a local preventative service that is both targeted to specific groups and accessible to all, engaging young people at risk of becoming NEET or FTE. The contractual commitment of the new managing agents is to double the amount of youth work currently being undertaken from these centres. The work at these centres is in addition to and separate from the work commissioned through the local prevention framework.
- 2.8 It was agreed at the Youth Task Group that for future assessment of need, further data on the trend of NEET young people and FTEs should be considered and this should be mapped against the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- 2.9 Following discussion at the Youth Task Group, drawing together the needs analysis and the local knowledge, the following proposals were agreed for recommendation to the Local Committee:

Particular focus on specific predictors or risk factors

- 2.10 In view of their significance as both risk factors for offending and becoming NEET the Youth Task Group proposes priority be given to the following needs:
- educational attendance and attainment, support for learners with specific disabilities and difficulties, and earlier identification and support in school for young people who are most at risk of going on to be NEET;

- support to address issues within the family environment such as domestic abuse and issues that lead to young people becoming estranged from their parents;
- identifying and addressing 'hidden' NEET young people within the borough. This group consists of young people who are currently homeless or 'sofa surfing' and who have effectively become lost in NEET figures and distanced from potential support.

Particular focus on specific geographical areas

2.12 The Youth Task Group drew on the needs analysis data and workshop discussions to develop an approach that could combine a borough-wide resource with a more targeted approach for the areas identified as higher need: Sunbury, Stanwell North, Stanwell South, Ashford and Staines Central and areas of emerging concern: Shepperton Green, Staines South and Ashford Common.

Methods for addressing identified need:

2.13 While it will be for potential providers of services to identify how they will achieve the outcomes identified, the task group was keen to offer direction in respect of the type of preventative approaches it would favour. These included planned and responsive outreach youth work in the places in the borough where young people gather; skate parks being an obvious example. It was also this relational approach recommended in supporting young people in difficult family situations, the 'hidden' NEETs who are living away from the family home, and in enabling at risk young people to maintain education and training places.

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. Additionally, local engagement has taken place through the Local Committee Youth Task Group and the Workshop held on 21/9/11.

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

Following the needs analysis, workshop and Youth Task Group meeting on 6th September 2011, the following recommendations are proposed.

- 7.1 The primary risk factors identified at paras 2.2 are considered by providers, and providers will be asked to focus particularly on:
- a) planned and responsive outreach capacity to areas where young people congregate and areas of emerging need
 - b) support within the family environment for those experiencing particular difficulties (as at 2.3) and for those living away from home
 - c) support for those at risk of losing their school place or training provision.
- 7.2
- a) All areas of Spelthorne are supported with preventative provision, with capacity to respond to those areas identified as being of increasing concern (currently Shepperton Green, Staines South and Ashford Common).
 - b) Particular emphasis is to be placed on the following areas which are currently identified as being of highest need: Sunbury, Stanwell North, Stanwell South, Ashford and Staines Central.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations will:
- a) 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.
 - b) support the council's priority that more young people are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour
 - c) increase delivery of youth work locally

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The next steps will be for officers to draft a commissioning specification to invite proposals from the framework suppliers.
- 9.2 A mini competition will take place where short listed suppliers will present their proposals to the task group. A recommendation on award of contract will be brought to the next meeting of the Local Committee

for approval.

9.3 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1st April 2012.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Services for young people in Spelthorne – briefing for elected members (issued May 2011)