



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

19th March 2012

KEY ISSUE

This report requests that the Local Committee approve SCC Officers' recommendations to provide local preventative services to young people in Spelthorne. Following a competitive tendering process a provider has been identified to undertake work at 50% of the total available contract value. The recommended bidders and their proposals are put forward in this report for approval of award of contract by the local committee. The committee is asked to delegate decision-making authority with regard to the outstanding 50% of contract value to the Committee Chairman, the Chairman of the Youth Task Group and the County Council's Assistant Director for Young People.

SUMMARY

The recommendation of award of contract is the culmination of several months' work by the youth issues task group that 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 Spelthorne.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to:

- 1.1 Approve SCC Officers' recommendations to award a contract for a twelve month period to the following provider:

(1) Surrey Youth Consortium for 50% of the contract value (£64,000) to prevent young people from becoming NEET for first time entrants into the criminal justice system in Spelthorne

and

(2) 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 Spelthorne with a view to having resources in place from 1st April 2012.

- 1.2 A report will be brought to the next Local Committee meeting detailing the services commissioned with the outstanding £64,000 following the outcome of the delegated decision-making.

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 £128k to the SCC local committee in Spelthorne 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 young people, County Members, Borough Members, and support from County and Borough 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 that has a clear focus on young people who are currently NEET or who are currently in the youth justice system.

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 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 21st September 2011 with representation including young people, elected members, voluntary organisations, housing associations, health, police, borough and county officers. 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:

In view of their significance as both risk factors for offending and becoming NEET, priority should be given to the following needs:

- educational attendance and attainment, support for learners with specific 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' young people at risk of being NEET within the borough. This group consists of young people who are currently homeless or 'sofa surfing' and who are distanced from potential support.

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.

3.5 The recommendations of the Task Group were:

The type of activity that should be considered should include 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 or those who have moved out of the family home, and in enabling at risk young people to maintain education and training places.

3.6 The Local Committee agreed the recommendation on needs and priorities as set out above at its meeting held on 10th October 2011.

3.7 Following the October committee invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Two bids were received and one provider was short-listed for presentation to the task group on 17th January 2012.

3.8 The shortlisted bidder was Surrey Youth Consortium (SYC) which is an umbrella organisation of a number of local voluntary and not for profit organisations. SYC put forward two bids one for 100% of contract value and one for 50%.

3.9 Following the presentation by SYC the Task Group recommended that:

An amended version of the original 50% bid be put forward for award of contract (as outlined in the table below).

3.10 Contract activity will focus upon the young people identified to the providers as being at highest risk of being NEET. The delivery organisations are Peer Productions and Lifetrain Trust. Lifetrain Trust is also the organisation that will manage youth work from SCC youth centres in the borough. The activities that have been agreed as part of the recommended contract are as outlined below.

Activity	Notes
Peer Productions Film Project	Short-term film projects, issue based, with the group choosing their own theme and storyline. These projects are designed as positive, diversionary activities for young people, which enable them to learn transferrable skills whilst being led by our young assistants who act as positive role models.

Reaching Out	Two teams of two Youth Workers will spend three nights per week visiting locations where young people gather, e.g. skate parks and supermarket car parks. They will build relationships to assess their needs and where appropriate signpost service providers, e.g. the Drop-In Surgery (specialist workers from local services). Based at Youth Centres they will liaise with Youth Support Service workers to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET and other target groups.
Peer Mentoring	Lifetrain will train young people who have experienced and overcome difficulties, to support young people at risk. Issues such as youth justice, homelessness, alcohol and substance misuse, risk of school exclusion and family upheaval all of which can lead to young people becoming NEET will be addressed. On completion of the course a BTEC Level2 qualification will be awarded.

3.11 The task group considered that there were aspects of the service specification that were not adequately met in the SYC 100% bid. Specifically these were: the requirement to support vulnerable learners, particularly those with problems at home which affect their ability to participate in education; and the need for mobile provision to respond to groups of young people who are not sufficiently engaged in positive participation. Discussions are currently taking place between borough council officers, county council officers and local police to identify the type of provision that would be most appropriate and how this can be provided from the remaining contract value.

3.12 The recommendation in respect of the outstanding £64,000 is that a full proposal is brought to the delegated authorities in March. This will first be scrutinised by the members of the youth issues task group. Discussion thus far suggests that this will be a proposal to commission services from county and borough councils to deliver responsive services that will be available from April onwards. The next Local Committee meeting will be updated as to the detail of these services.

4 CONSULTATIONS

4.1 The local prevention framework is one of several delivery models that 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 provider:

Surrey Youth Consortium for £64,000

- 8.2 Instruct officers to consider further options for the prevention of NEET and offending in Spelthorne.
- 8.3 Delegate authority to the Committee Chairman, the Chairman of the Youth Task Group and the County Council's Assistant Director for Young People to commission services, as outlined in the original service specification with a view to having resources in place from 1 April 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 organisations with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 April 2012.
- 10.2 Officers will issue SCC terms and conditions to the successful organisations.
- 10.3 The performance of the contract will be monitored by the Commissioning and Development Team within the County Council's Services for Young People.
- 10.4 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1 April 2012.

LEAD OFFICER: Garath Symonds, Assistant Director for Young People
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 0208 541 9023
E-MAIL: Garath.Symonds@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Anthony Durno, SW Area Manager, Youth Support Service
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01372 371619
E-MAIL: Transformation.team@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Version No. 1 Date: 26/1/12 Time: 1915 Initials: AD No of
annexes: 0

