



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

22nd May 2012

KEY ISSUE

This report requests that the Local Committee approve the task group recommendations asking the Youth Support Service to provide services under the local prevention framework to young people in Spelthorne . These recommendations focus on the £64,000 making up 50% of the contract. The other 50% having already been agreed.

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) Youth Support Service 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

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 includes 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 Level 2 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 have taken 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 could be provided from the remaining contract value.

3.12 The Local Committee invited county officers to develop an in house response to the needs not covered by the Surrey Consortium bid through the Youth Support Service. The following outlines the proposal.

Area	Oversight	Detail
Family work	To target families where there is a risk of disengagement, poor familial relationships, collapse of boundaries leading to increased risk of anti social behaviour and being NEET	To run 8 courses (using the strengthening families model) across the 6 secondary schools with between 6-8 parents in each) looking at re establishing boundaries in families and support in resolving conflict. This will involve one to one work where needed
Supporting young people in areas of high anti social behaviour, particularly the skate parks	This recognises that Spelthorne is creating innovative leisure areas which are proving very popular. However they do attract anti social behaviour and fear of crime.	This will develop regular youth work input to the skateparks, supporting young people to manage their own environments and develop innovative solutions to maximise usage along with other partners such as the borough council and police)
Work around mentoring targeted young people in school	This will look to provide one to one mentor support for 30 young people within 6 Spelthorne schools aimed at improving participation and fulfilling academic potential	The RONI list will be used by schools to identify young people needing support in order to overcome potential failure to reach their potential
Development of teenage parent groups in Spelthorne in order to link them into	This group represents a large group of young people at risk of being NEETs. The focus is on developing 2 groups across the borough which will be linked with	The minimal intention will be to support young people in this group into sure start centres. Teenage parents do not

services in their community	sure start centres.	access this support traditionally
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Family work- The impact of family dysfunction, a lack of clear boundaries and generational failure is being clearly evidenced nationally as major contributors to a young person's anti-social behaviour and potential for becoming NEET. The Youth Support Service has a variety of programmes to challenge this ranging from group courses to one to one support. This commitment also involves training local professionals and members of the community.

Rapid Response to challenge anti social behaviour- Anti social behaviour impacts in Spelthorne, and has increasingly been evidenced in skateparks. It draws responses from a range of services including police, the Borough Council local residents and youth support services. The intention is to develop leadership within the community that uses the skateparks. The outcome will lead to young people having greater responsibility for their environment and a reduction in anti social behaviour. This will be an enhanced offer to the one agreed with Surrey Youth Consortium allowing the latter to focus on other areas of Spelthorne.

Mentoring to improve school achievement – The link between success at school particularly around literacy and numeracy, and future achievements is very clear. This is exacerbated by poor attendance. The Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) in schools clearly identifies those young people at greatest risk of failure to achieve their potential. The need for young people to be supported through difficult transitions requires one to one support. The Youth Support service will provide mentors to undertake this work but will also look to develop sustainability by training community mentors to a high standard to develop support. These will come from the local community and institutions such as Brooklands college and Royal Holloway.

Teenage parent support- Spelthorne has one of the highest incidences of teenage conceptions and pregnancies in Surrey. This group are at high risk of being NEET, homeless and of wider family breakdown. Working with this group to ensure they are knowledgeable of services available and confident of working with these services impacts on improving their options of not being NEET. It will also offer better life chances for the child. The aim for each parent is to enable them to move onto support from the Sure Start centres in Spelthorne.

3.13 Key elements of all engagements

- **Co production of solutions** within the community and other services within the borough.
- **The involvement of the community** in training local volunteers including members of families to support their community around mentoring

- **Partnership** with housing, the borough council, the police, schools and local colleges in developing initiatives
- **Working collaboratively** with Surrey Youth Consortium to maximise outcomes
- **Restorative practice** embedded in all interventions or plans outlined above

3.14 Evaluation

Evaluation will be through the same contract management process as that for the Surrey Youth Consortium overseen by the SCC Commissioning and Development 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 CC Youth Support Service for £64,000

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 Officers will issue a purchase order to the successful organisations with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 July 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 July 2012.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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