



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

24 FEBRUARY 2012

KEY ISSUE

This report seeks approval from the Local Committee to approve officers' recommendations to provide local preventative services to young people in Waverley. Officers are recommending provider solutions that have been evaluated via a competitive process overseen by the youth task group. The recommended bidder and their proposals are put forward in this report for approval of award of contract.

SUMMARY

The award of contract is the culmination of several months' work by the Youth 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 (not in education, employment or training) or becoming involved in the criminal justice system in Waverley.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to: approve County Council officers' recommendation to award a contract for a twelve-month period to the following provider:

Catch 22

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 £116,000 to the Local Committee in Waverley 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 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 at 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 for the Borough of Waverley on 21 September 2011 with invitations sent to Members (Borough and County Council), Waverley Youth Council, school confederations, voluntary organisations, housing associations, police, youth development service and youth justice. 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 The workshop identified four broad areas of concern: (1) the cost and availability of transport which is an issue for post 16s in traveling to college courses and for young teenagers in travelling to leisure/sporting activities; (2) the apparent pressure on work experience placements (in years 10 and 11) and the shortage of apprenticeships for those seeking to combine college and work based learning; (3) concern for young people who live in more rural and isolated locations in Waverley and who do not have ready access to transport and/or family support; (4) financial literacy (money management) especially since the withdrawal of the Education Maintenance Allowance.

- 2.4 The task group found that there were two significant clusters of young people at risk of becoming NEET living around either Farnham or Godalming Of the 294 young people identified as being at risk of NEET, 70% live in wards around Farnham (39%) and Godalming (31%). After some debate, the local committee agreed on 16 December 2011 that the LPF resource should be focused on Farnham and Godalming, but that a small measure of this resource should be made available additionally to all other areas of the borough.
- 2.5 Following the December committee meeting invitations were sent out to approved framework providers requesting bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. Four bids were received and three were short listed to present their bids to the task group on 10 February 2012.
- 2.6 Following the presentation by the three short listed bidders the Task Group considered the bid presented by Catch-22 best met the needs of young people in Waverley and unanimously recommended that these be put forward for approval by the Local Committee.
- 2.7 The successful provider **Catch-22** is a national charity with 25 years' experience of working in Surrey. Catch 22 have proposed an approach that will involve:

Work experience and access to apprenticeships via a local employer engagement strategy capitalising on links developed with national companies in relevant industries.

Financial literacy – skilling up young people to prepare them for managing money and budgeting as they move into adult life.

Transport – working with young people to overcome some of the challenges of transport to local activities (including accessing school and college)

Family support – working with parents and young people together.

- 2.8 Catch 22 aim to have engaged with 90% of the 294 young people identified as being at risk of NEET in Waverley.

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 is asked to approve officers' recommendation to award the contract for a twelve month period to the following provider:

Catch 22 (£116,000 100% of the total contract value).

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 issue a purchase order to the successful organisations with a view to their commencing delivery from 1 April 2012.
- 9.2 Officers will issue County Councils terms and conditions to the successful organisation.
- 9.3 The performance of the contract will be monitored by the Commissioning and Development Team within the County Council's Services for Young People
- 9.4 It is anticipated that the new provider will be in place for 1st April 2012.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None