



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2014
LEAD OFFICER(S): SUE BARHAM (WOKING BC)/ JEREMY CROUCH (SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL)
SUBJECT: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – EARLY HELP
AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Surrey County Council's Services for Young People is re-commissioning services for 2015-2020, the model will be presented to Cabinet on 23 September 2014. The current Local Prevention commission ends on 31 August 2015 and new funding agreements will be awarded for provision to start on 1 September 2015, subject to Surrey County Council Cabinet approval of the new service model.

The Youth Task Group (YTG) has developed a set of priorities for Local Prevention in Woking which is based on local needs. Providers who bid for Local Prevention will be asked to respond to the local needs and priorities identified.

The Joint Committee is asked to approve the Woking local priorities so that the procurement exercise can start in October.

Whilst the re-commissioning of services forms the substantive part, there are three further aspects contained within this report:

- In support of the direction of travel for the Woking Joint Committee, an update is provided regarding Surrey County Council's Local Prevention commission and youth centres commissioned by Woking Borough Council (WBC) and Surrey County Council (SCC) between 1 April and 31 July 2014. This is included in Annex 2.
- An update on the SCC Youth Centre estate in Woking
- An update on the Integrated Youth Strategy and the close collaboration of Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council. For clarity, sections relating to the Integrated Youth Strategy are in bold.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked:

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- (i) To approve the local priorities (Annex 1), to be considered by providers, focusing on the identified needs of Woking and the geographical neighbourhoods prioritised by the Youth Task Group.

(Note that approval is subject to approval of the Services for Young People model by Cabinet on 23 September 2014)
- (ii) To note the update regarding commissioned youth services in Woking.
- (iii) To note the update regarding the Integrated Youth Strategy.
- (iv) To note the changes to the council scheme of delegation which provides increased decision making to local commissioning in relation to youth work and Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD).
- (v) To note the update regarding SCC's Youth Centre estate.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Local Prevention has been in place across Woking since 1 April 2012. It has contributed significantly to the reduction in young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). It is therefore recommended that this early help commission is re-commissioned for 2015-20.

These recommendations will:

- a) Support Surrey County Council's policy of Creating Opportunities for Young People.
- b) Support Surrey County Council's priority to provide early help for children, young people and their families.

To assure the Woking Joint Committee of the continued improvement and integration of youth provision.

To ensure that the SCC youth centres in Woking are fit for purpose and in a good state of repair.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

Local Prevention is a SCC commission which aims to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for young people who are identified as being most at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Local Prevention commissions preventative opportunities for young people in school years 8 to 11. The commission is delivered outside of core school hours all year round.

- 1.1 The first Local Prevention was awarded to The Youth Consortium and ran until 31 August 2013.
- 1.2 Re-commissioning took place in 2013 and a funding agreement was awarded to Eikon to deliver the provision.

- 1.3 Current provision is delivered outside youth centres but the new provision will be linked more closely to youth work delivery to provide a seamless service for young people at risk of becoming NEET.
- 1.4 In the last bidding round providers could bid for any amount above 25% of the funding available. Providers will now be able to bid for any amount above 10% of the funding available to encourage smaller providers of specialist niche services to bid.
- 1.5 The amount allocated to each of the eleven Boroughs and Districts is reviewed each commissioning cycle and is based on the needs of each area based on the NEET and Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) cohorts.
- 1.6 Local Prevention targets priority neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of young people at risk of becoming NEET, who are NEET or who have offended. Providers must operate in these neighbourhoods.
- 1.7 The new provision will place a stronger emphasis on Early Help referrals and will build the role of the Lead Professional into the commission.
- 1.8 Services for Young People previously came to the Joint Committee in summer of 2014 to seek views on increased delegation in relation to Centre Based Youth Work (CBYW) and SOLD. The Joint Committee welcomed this change which is now being formally put to Cabinet for approval on 23 September 2014. Changes will be made to council delegation. Please see Annexe 1A.
- 1.9 The timeline for re-commissioning will enable local prevention to take into account the integrated youth strategy.**
- 1.10 The new services will be commissioned in a way that ensures it sits within and contributes to the integrated youth strategy.**

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 SCC Services for Young People's strategic objective is for all young people to be employable. Local Prevention contributes to this by reducing risk factors that may lead to a young person becoming NEET.
- 2.2 This provision increases the delivery of youth work and wrap around services locally.
- 2.3 It supports localism by providing highly targeted services in the Borough of Woking.
- 2.4 The drop in minimum bids from 25% to 10% of funding available will open up the market for smaller organisations.
- 2.5 The Woking Youth Task Group has identified local priorities for commissioning which are included in Annex 1.
- 2.6 The local priorities are based on an assessment of the local needs which are summarised below:
 - An emerging area of need is Byfleet which, at 23, had highest number of young people who were NEET during 2013/14. Both Maybury & Sheerwater and Kingfield & Westfield had 18 young people who were NEET. Maybury and Sheerwater also

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had the highest number of young people who were identified as at risk of becoming NEET in Surrey at 180, followed by Goldsworth East (68).

- At 29, Maybury and Sheerwater had the highest number of young people who received substantive outcomes or Youth Restorative Interventions (YRIs) as a result of offending behaviour, followed by Knaphill (17).
- Maybury and Sheerwater includes 3 of the 4 most deprived areas in the borough (Super output areas 004F, 004D and 004A). Woking 004F ranks 1st in Surrey.
- A higher proportion of young people who were previously on school action plans (low-level SEND) were NEET in Woking than the Surrey average.
- Looking at the RONI cohort, nearly 6 in 10 young people have English as an Additional Language and nearly 7 in 10 had lower Key Stage 4 attainment in English and maths.
- Woking's 10-19 year old population is estimated at 10,600 in 2014 (8.0% of Surrey's 10-19 population). This is forecast to grow by the most of any part of Surrey (6.6%) in the next five years.*

*ONS 2012-based Subnational Population Projections

- 2.7 This report recognises both Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council's commitment to delivering quality provision that is relevant and accessible to young people. Annex 2 shows a large increase in both hours of provision and young people's attendance compared to the same period in 2013/14.
- 2.8 **Following the Woking Joint Committee on 25 June 2014, Woking Borough Council commissioned The National Youth Agency to support officers from WBC and SCC in developing an integrated youth strategy for Woking, as set out in the report to the Woking Joint Committee on the 25 June 2014 entitled "Youth Provision in Woking". A draft of the strategy is currently in process and wide engagement will be sought in the autumn.**
- 2.9 The Youth Centre estate update (Annex 3) sets out a range of building related issues for each of the SCC owned youth centres and the actions taken or planned to resolve the issues.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The Woking local priorities have been developed by the Youth Task Group and identify the key priorities for Woking to prevent young people from becoming NEET.
- 3.2 The recommendations focus on key geographical neighbourhoods and community priorities. The Youth Task Group agreed that there should be borough-wide access to any commissioned services particularly for Early Help referrals.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The proposals for re-commissioning Services for Young People including Local Prevention were published on the 1 July 2014 for response by 31 July 2014 in the

www.woking.gov.uk
www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking

document Creating Opportunities for Young People, Re-commissioning for 2015 to 2020, Engagement Paper.

- 4.2 During July 2014 engagement events were run to obtain feedback from all Services for Young People staff (full and part time), partners, providers, elected members and young people in target groups.
- 4.3 A survey was carried out on the Surrey Says website.
- 4.4 A Provider Conference was held for existing and potential new providers to give feedback on the Engagement paper.
- 4.5 170 people attended the events listed above.
- 4.6 The Engagement Paper feedback was presented to the Creating Opportunities for Young People Project Board and as a result of this the decision to closely align Local Prevention to Youth Work provision was made.
- 4.7 The Woking local priorities in Annex 1 have been developed in consultation with Elected Members, Borough and County Council officers, Surrey Police and young people.
- 4.8 On the 23 September 2014 the Services for Young People model will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The re-commissioning of services addresses planned savings included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2014-2019. The model also includes flexibility in the eventuality of future savings being required either for 2015-16 or in subsequent years. All contracts include standard break clauses and the ability to revise the level of funding if budget changes occur.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 Commissioning locally, according to local priorities ensures that services will be more effective and efficient at meeting the needs of young people and will provide greater value for money.
- 6.2 **Developing and implementing an integrated youth strategy will reduce the likelihood of duplication and allow organisations to co-ordinate delivery to best meet the needs of young people across Woking.**

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 This report is intended to provide the Joint Committee with the information it needs to commission effective local prevention and to provide local scrutiny of the commissions and services outlined and as such will increase localism.

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- 7.2 The following areas have been identified by the Youth Task Group as communities which would benefit from Local Prevention delivery: Maybury, Sheerwater, Lake View, Old Woking, Barnsbury, Byfleet.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Woking's devolved commissioning budget is targeted to groups who are vulnerable or at risk of becoming NEET.
- 8.2 Young people are expected to benefit from a holistic service model which has been developed informed by experience, good practice and feedback from a range of stakeholders.
- 8.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared for the new Commissioning model and this will accompany the report to be presented to Cabinet for approval on 23 September 2014.
- 8.4 The EIA has highlighted that localised decision-making might disadvantage those who have protected characteristics because of the small number of young people in each borough / district resulting in their needs being missed. It is proposed, therefore, that priority is given to young people with protected characteristics, where this impacts negatively on their employability when allocating individual grants and youth small grants. This would enable specialist organisations to secure funding to provide services for these young people.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.
Public Health	Set out below.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

- 9.1 Crime and Disorder implications
Evidence shows that young people who are participating in education, training, employment, and to a lesser extent, positive activities are less likely to commit crime.
- 9.2 Sustainability implications
Commissioning and delivering services for young people locally reduces reliance on transport and minimises carbon emissions as a result.

9.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

Young people who are looked after are a key target group for both WBC and SCC Services for Young People.

9.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

Both WBC provision and SCC Services for Young People play a key role in safeguarding vulnerable children and young people in Surrey.

9.5 Public Health implications

SCC Services for Young People and WBC deliver a number of services that improve the health of young people in Woking and Surrey generally, in particular providing them with information so that they make informed choices about healthy lifestyles, including sexual health.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 10.1 The local priorities have been developed in consultation with the Youth Task Group to ensure that bids are tailored to meet local needs.

The Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve the Woking local priorities (Annex 1) to be considered by providers focusing on the identified needs of Woking and the geographical neighbourhoods prioritised by the Youth Task Group.
- (ii) Note that approval is subject to approval of the Services for Young People model by Cabinet on 23 September 2014.
- (iii) Note the update regarding commissioned youth services in Woking. (Annex 2)
- (iv) Note the update regarding the Integrated Youth Strategy.
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- (vi) Note the update regarding SCC's Youth Centre estate. (Annex 3)

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

Re-commissioning of local prevention:

- 11.1 The Services for Young People model will be presented to Cabinet on 23 September for approval.
- 11.2 Subject to approval by Cabinet, officers will develop a prospectus to provide those organisations who wish to bid with the necessary local information.
- 11.3 Officers will invite organisations to submit bids which will be short-listed by the Commissioning and Development Team.

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- 11.4 Bidder presentations will take place where the short-listed providers will present their proposals to the Youth Task Group.
- 11.5 A recommendation to award Woking Local Prevention funding agreements will be brought to the first meeting of the Local Committee in 2015 for approval.
- 11.6 It is anticipated that the new provider(s) will be in place for 1 September 2015.

Integrated Youth Strategy:

- 11.7 Once a draft has been developed it will be published widely for engagement and feedback. The strategy will be approved by the Woking Joint Committee.**

Contact Officer(s):

SCC: Jeremy Crouch, Lead Youth Officer East Surrey - 07968832437

WBC: Sue Barham, Strategic Director email: sue.barham@woking.gov.uk tel: 01483 743810

Consulted:

SCC Service users were consulted in 2013 as part of an internal evaluation of commissions. The findings have been used to inform performance improvement activity and re-commissioning for 2015.

Borough Portfolio Holder

Cllr Graham Cundy

County Council Cabinet Member

Linda Kemeny

Clare Curran – Associate Cabinet Member

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Woking Local Priorities

Annex 1a - Proposed amendments of Constitution Part 3. Executive Functions of Local Committees

Annex 2 – Woking performance update

Annex 3 – Woking Youth Centre Estate update

Sources/background papers:

- Woking Joint Committee Report 25 June 2014