



## WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2014  
**LEAD OFFICER(S):** SUE BARHAM (WOKING BC)/ JEREMY CROUCH (SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL)

**SUBJECT:** INTEGRATED YOUTH STRATEGY FOR WOKING

**AREA:** WOKING

### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council's Services for Young People have been working on behalf of the Joint Committee to develop an integrated youth strategy. It is anticipated that the strategy will be ready for Joint Committee approval at the first Committee meeting in 2015.

The Joint Committee is asked to approve the specific priorities of the Integrated Youth Strategy (Annex 1). This is to enable Surrey County Council's Local Prevention to be commissioned in line with these priorities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Woking Joint Committee is asked:**

- (i) To approve the priorities of the Integrated Youth Strategy

### **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). The current contract comes to an end on 31 August 2015. To re-commission local prevention within set timescales, it is necessary to hold the bidding process prior to the Joint Committee approval of the full integrated youth strategy.

The priorities for the integrated youth strategy (contained in Annex 1) have been developed, taking into account local data and after consultation with practitioners and young people.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The current provider is Eikon as the lead organisation, in partnership with Reflex and Surrey Care Trust. The funding agreement ends on 31 August 2015.
- 1.3 The Integrated Youth Strategy for Woking will bring together all provision that contributes to the offer for young people. It will enable organisations to align resources, increase collaboration and reduce duplication.
- 1.4 The priorities for the Integrated Youth Strategy have been developed through wide consultation with providers and young people.
- 1.5 The Strategy together with a supporting delivery Action Plan will be brought to the Joint Committee in March 2015 for approval.
- 1.6 The timeline for re-commissioning will enable local prevention to take into account the priorities of the Integrated Youth Strategy.
- 1.7 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 The Joint Committee will agree the award of contract to the successful provider as proposed by the Youth Task group. To arrive at a decision on the preferred provider, bidders will be invited to present their proposals to the Youth Task Group.
- 2.3 To ensure that we comply with procurement timescales, so that the new Local Prevention commission can start on 1 September 2015, it is necessary to bring the decision for award of successful bidder to the Joint Committee in March.
- 2.4 In order to do this, the presentation event for bidders will need to be in January before the final version of the Integrated Youth Strategy has been brought to the Joint Committee for approval.
- 2.5 Incorporating the priorities of the youth strategy into the Local Prevention will ensure that it is consistent with the youth strategy. In order to do this it is necessary to bring the priorities to the Joint Committee for approval.
- 2.6 The priorities for the Integrated Youth Strategy have been developed through a process led by Woking Borough Council and facilitated by the National Youth Agency.

- 2.7 Engagement with local practitioners was undertaken through an event on 7 October 2014 looking at needs of young people in Woking and drawing from knowledge, experience and expertise of those who attended.
- 2.8 A similar event was held with young people, also on 7 October 2014, gathering views on their experiences and what they felt should be the priorities relating to developing the youth offer in Woking.
- 2.9 This information has been put alongside extensive data on the needs of young people in Woking to ensure there is a strong rationale for the integrated youth strategy.
- 2.10 The priorities in Annex 1 were agreed in principle by the Youth Task Group on 11 November 2014. In doing so it was acknowledged that the scope of the Strategy will be extended in a phased approach to secure the participation from a wider range of agencies and organisations that work with young people to deliver elements of the strategy. The ongoing review process will assist in identifying how the Strategy links with new and emerging county wide needs and objectives. The involvement of a wider range of partners will help to extend its scope, enhance the range of activities and increase its impact in supporting young people with complex or multiple needs.
- 2.11 In total, over 70 people have been directly consulted on the priorities for Woking.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 The priorities in the Integrated Youth Strategy identify the key priorities for Woking to enable young people to achieve their full potential. Adopting a set of common priorities will enable all organisations to align their provision and, where possible, resources to ensure a collaborative approach and offer.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 Young people were consulted and engaged on priorities for Woking on 7 October 2014.
- 4.2 Local practitioners were consulted and engaged on priorities for Woking on 7 October 2014.
- 4.3 The priorities were taken to the Youth Task Group on 11 November 2014.
- 4.4 Over 70 people attended the event listed above
- 4.5 The Integrated Youth Strategy will be taken to SCC Services for Young People senior management in December.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The re-commissioning of existing SCC services addresses planned savings included in SCC's Medium-Term Financial Plan 2014-2019. The model also includes flexibility in the eventuality of future savings being required by SCC 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.
- 5.2 Developing an Integrated Youth Strategy allows greater collaboration which will reduce duplication; better co-ordination of services and the youth offer in general;

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[www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking)

and bringing practitioners together will enable more effective targeting of provision. These factors combined will deliver better value for money as well as improved outcomes for young people.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT:**

- 6.1 Commissioning and prioritising locally, ensures that services will be more effective and efficient at meeting the needs of young people.
- 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 Local Prevention will be commissioned locally through the Joint Committee Youth Task Group. Scrutiny of Local Prevention and Community Youth Work will be through the Youth Task Group. The Youth Task Group will advise on the allocation of resources within Woking Borough.

**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 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared for the new Services for Young People Commissioning model, and a separate EIA will be undertaken in respect of the Integrated Youth Strategy..

**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. Health and Wellbeing are priorities in the Integrated Youth Strategy.

## **10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 10.1 The priorities in the Integrated Youth Strategy have been developed in consultation with young people, practitioners and Youth Task Group to ensure that they best meet the needs of young people.

The Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve priorities of the Integrated Youth Strategy (Annex 1).

## **11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

Re-commissioning of local prevention:

- 11.1 Officers will invite organisations to submit bids which will be short-listed by the Commissioning and Development Team.
- 11.2 Bidder presentations will take place where the short-listed providers will present their proposals to the Youth Task Group.
- 11.3 A recommendation to award Woking Local Prevention funding agreements will be brought to the Joint Committee in March 2015 for approval.
- 11.4 It is anticipated that the new provider(s) will be in place for 1 September 2015.

Integrated Youth Strategy:

- 11.5 Further to approval of the priorities in the Integrated Youth Strategy, further engagement will take place with young people and partners to finalise the strategy and develop a delivery Action Plan. The strategy and Action Plan will be submitted for approval to the Woking Joint Committee meeting in March 2015.

## ITEM 13

### **Contact Officer(s):**

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WBC: Sue Barham, Strategic Director email: [sue.barham@woking.gov.uk](mailto:sue.barham@woking.gov.uk) tel: 01483 743810

### **Consulted:**

SCC and WBC Service users were consulted as part of the development of the priorities in the integrated youth strategy.

### **Borough Portfolio Holder**

Cllr David Bittleston

### **County Council Cabinet Member**

Linda Kemeny

Clare Curran – Associate Cabinet Member

### **Annexes:**

Annex 1 – Integrated Youth Strategy Priorities

### **Sources/background papers:**

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