



GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

DATE: 25th March 2015

LEAD OFFICER: GARATH SYMONDS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SUBJECT: LOCAL PREVENTION TASK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The Local Committee is responsible for commissioning Local Prevention services to prevent young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) within their local area. The Local Committee Youth Task Group has recently met and received presentations from a range of potential providers. This papers sets out their recommendation for awarding Local Prevention.

The recommendation for the of award of funding is the culmination of several months of work by the Youth Task Group that will result in services being commissioned by the Local Committee in response to local need. The work will be delivered by two commissions:

The Local Prevention One-to-One Early Help contract which will build the resilience of young people and remove identified barriers to their future employability, as part of Surrey's early help arrangements.

The Local Prevention in Neighbourhoods grant which will build the resilience of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET in local communities.

As a result of 2015-16 budget setting process Services for Young People (SYP) is facing an overall budget reduction of £2.6 million, subject to final decision by County Council. It should be noted that funding amounts for Local Prevention in Neighbourhoods included in this paper reflect the current 100% allocation and may be subject to a reduction to 80% in response to final budget decisions by the County Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:

- 1) Approve the Guildford Local Committee's Youth Task Group recommendation

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to award a contract for a 36 month period for One-to-One Early Help from 01 September 2015 to Step by Step for the value of £55,000 per annum (subject to future changes in SYP budgets). Within the contract there is the opportunity to extend the service for further two years, subject to budget changes, provider performance and any changes in the needs of young people.

2) Approve the Youth Task Group recommendation to award a grant for a 36 month period for neighbourhood work from 01 September 2015 to Lifetrain for the value of £68,000 per annum (subject to future changes in SYP budgets). Within this grant agreement there is the opportunity to extend the service for further two years, subject to budget changes, provider performance and any changes in the needs of young people.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations will support the council's priority to ensure that all young people in Surrey are employable.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Services for Young People Local Prevention has been operating in Guildford since 1 April 2012. The current grant comes to an end on 31 August 2015. It is necessary, therefore to re-commission for delivery to begin on 1 September 2015.
- 1.2 The Local Prevention allocation to the SCC Local Committee in Guildford is £123,000 per annum. This is the current budget allocation for the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016, however it should be noted that this likely to decrease as a result of a 20% reduction to funding for Neighbourhood prevention, subject to final budget decisions by County Council. It should also be noted that funding amounts beyond 2015-16 will be subject to future budget changes. The allocation is based on the number of young people who are NEET, at risk of NEET, involved in offending, and open-referrals to Children's Services in the borough, with an adjustment for the number of youth centres.
- 1.3 Local Prevention from 2015-2020 will be in two parts: Neighbourhood Prevention and One to One Early Help Prevention.
- 1.4 Local Prevention in Neighbourhoods is an outcome based grant to fund delivery of preventative services that build resilience of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, through addressing locally identified needs and priorities. The Grant is for £68,000 per annum (pa) for Neighbourhood Prevention (please note there is likely to be a 20% funding reduction to this grant). Awarding this funding through a grant affords bidders greater flexibility to respond to local needs and enables negotiation with bidders during the process to ensure the offer best meets local need.
- 1.5 Local Prevention One to One Early Help will offer one-to-one support to young people, building relationships to remove barriers and achieve positive behaviour change, preventing the need for specialist services in the future. Young people will be referred to the provider through the Youth Support Service. The contract value is £55,000 pa (subject to future budget changes). Awarding the funding through a contract means the service requirements are more rigidly defined, which fits with the clear one to one offer required through this commission.
- 1.6 Local Prevention delivers against the county council's expectation that where possible local youth services will be commissioned locally. 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 young people, County Members, Borough Members, community stakeholders and support from County and Borough Officers, as set out in the Council's constitution.
- 1.7 The purpose of local prevention is to prepare young people for participation and prevent them becoming NEET. It works with young people of secondary school age, who are most at risk of becoming NEET and complements the functions of

the Youth Support Service that has a clear focus on young people who are currently NEET or who are currently in the youth justice system.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 The provider solutions were sought in a competitive process involving four stages:

- Local Specifications seeking initial proposals from potential providers
- Mini competition for short-listed bidders to present their proposals to the Local Committee Youth Task Group
- Local Committee receiving recommendations from the Youth Task Group

Award of Grant and Contract

2.2 The Youth Task Group met on 22 July 2014 to develop a needs assessment for Guildford. There were representations from young people, elected members (County Council and Borough Council), County Council and Borough Council officers, and other local stakeholders. The workshop was able to consider the data on NEET young people, young people at risk of NEET and youth offending, information from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the perspective and experience of the workshop participants.

The Local Committee approved the Local Prevention Specifications for Guildford on 24 September 2014 this included the following key priorities:

- Young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) –a need to anticipate their needs as they prepare for participation in education, training and employment post -16.
- Teenage pregnancy – a need to prevent teenage pregnancy but also support those who do become young parents to remain in education, alongside Supported Families.
- Drugs and Alcohol – support for young people where substance misuse is impacting on their future employability and resilience to remain in mainstream education. Legal highs are a particular concern.
- Mentors and role models – some young people need highly developed role models and mentoring opportunities to support them to make a successful transition post 16.
- Mental health –some young people have mental health needs, including social skills and low self esteem, as well as low aspirations and motivation.
- Transport- some young people are unable to access provision due to a lack of transport, particularly in rural areas.
- Travellers – Some Traveller young people in the borough may require additional support to move towards PETE
- Employability – Some young people need to develop employability skills and have experiences that prepare them for future work or education

2.3 The following key identified neighbourhoods were highlighted by the Task Group:

- Stoke
- Stoughton
- Westborough
- Worplesdon
- Ash
- Ash South
- Tongham
- Bushy Hill

2.4 In addition the Task Group identified a need for projects that fulfil the following key criteria:

- Any projects on drug or alcohol use should be about education rather than enforcement
- Any projects should take into account organisations already in the area and should complement rather than duplicate provision
- Young people's views should be sought in deciding how to best meet their needs

2.5 The funding opportunity was published and widely publicised, reaching at least 100 voluntary organisations across the County, inviting as many bidders as possible to submit bids in response to the needs and priorities identified. A provider event was held on 16th October 2014 and was well attended.

2.6 Five bids were received for One to One work and all five were short-listed; four bids were received for Neighbourhood Prevention and three were short-listed. Those organisations who were short-listed presented their proposals to the Youth Task Group on 25th and 16th February 2015.

2.7 The Task Group consisted of both County and Borough/District elected members. In addition officers from Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council were present. The Task Group received presentations from each provider, followed by questions to those providers on their bid. Following all the provider presentations a discussion was held to form the recommendation to the Local Committee for both Neighbourhood Prevention and One to One Early Help Prevention.

2.8 The shortlisted bidders were as follows:

Neighbourhood Provision:
YMCA Downslink
Lifetrain
Matrix

One to One Provision:
Learning Space
Matrix
Surrey Care Trust
Step by Step
YMCA Downslink

2.9 Following the presentations the Youth Task Group recommended that:

Lifetrain should receive 100% (£68,000pa) of the funding available for Neighbourhood Provision

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(NB – there is likely to be a 20% reduction in funding for Local Prevention in Neighbourhoods, subject to final County Council budget decisions)

and

Step by Step should receive 100% (£55,000pa) of the funding available for One to One Provision

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 The committee is asked to:

- Approve the awards as above to the providers.

The Committee is asked to approve the award of funding to the provider as recommended by the Youth Task Group. This will ensure young people receive a service from 1 September 2015.

Should the Committee opt not to approve the providers bid, SCC will work to develop a further solution in conjunction with the Youth Task Group, which may mean a delay in the start of the commission of 1 September 2015.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 There has been wide ranging consultation with young people, staff, and partner agencies. A Services for Young People Project Board (including Elected Members, Surrey County Council officers and young people) has been established to oversee re-commissioning for 2015-20. Members have been consulted through the Local Committee Youth Task 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.

5.2 Funding is subject to the annual budget setting process for the County Council and is subject to change.

6. LOCALISM:

6.1 The Local Prevention Commissions are at the heart of Surrey County Council's commitment to localism. Local Prevention involves local young people, elected members and wider stakeholders in decision making.

7. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The devolved commissioning budget is likely to be targeted on groups who are vulnerable or at risk. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this re-commissioning cycle to assess the impact of this commission on young people with protected characteristics.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

- a. It is anticipated that this commission is likely to target young people in this priority group.

8.2 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

- b. It is anticipated that this commission is likely to target young people in this priority group.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The Local Committee is asked to approve the recommendation of the Youth Task Group for the award of a Neighbourhood Prevention grant and a One to One contract for a 36 month period from 01 September 2015 (subject to future budget changes) to the following providers:

- Neighbourhood Grants:

Lifetrain for £68,000pa (100% of available funding)

(NB – there is likely to be a 20% reduction in funding following final County Council budget decisions)

- One to One Early Help Contract:

Step by Step for £55,000pa (100% of available funding)

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Following the anticipated approval by the committee there will be a five day 'stand-still' period, after which the grants and the contract for Guildford will be awarded to Step by Step and Step by Step. This commission will start on 1 September 2015, ensuring a swift start to delivery of services to young people. The Youth Task Group will have the option of meeting twice per year, where updates will be provided on the performance of the provider.

Contact Officer:

Leigh Middleton, Lead Youth Officer – 0785 4870393.

Consulted:

Services for Young People Project Board
Service users have been consulted as part of the Local Prevention re-commissioning process

County Council Cabinet Member

Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
Clare Curran, Cabinet Associate for Children, Schools and Families

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Annexes:

No annexes

Sources/background papers:

Services for Young People report to Guildford Local Committee – 24 September 2014

Creating Opportunities for Young People: Re-Commissioning for 2015-2020 (Cabinet Paper)
– 23 September 2014