



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LOCAL PREVENTION COMMISSIONING 2013-15

6 MARCH 2013

KEY ISSUE

This is a report from the Youth Task Group for Woking. Services for Young People is presently in the process of supporting the Youth Task Group to re-commission the Local Prevention Framework and its associated elements for the period 1st September 2013 – 31st August 2015.

The Local Committee is asked to agree the local specification for Woking.

SUMMARY

The Local Prevention Framework has some proposed improvements following the first year of the commission countywide. These changes are outlined in this report.

1. The Youth Task Group was set up by the Local Committee for the purpose of advising the Local Committee in relation to youth issues, with particular reference to prioritising needs in respect of SCC Services for Young People resources devolved to the Local Committee. The Task Group has identified key priorities for Woking to prevent young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This report brings forward recommendations from the Task Group on how the local commissioning resource should be targeted.

2. The recommendations focus on key geographical neighbourhoods and community priorities. However the Task Group agreed that there should be borough-wide access to any commissioned services. Following a workshop the Task Group

discussed and agreed key risk factors for Woking and these were used to produce a local specification for the Local Prevention Framework for 2013-15. See Annex A

3. Following agreement of the Local Committee, proposals for work to address the identified priority areas and risk factors will be sought from local providers. The Commissioning and Development team will create a short-list of bids for consideration of the Task Group. The Task Group will then consider the shortlist before final proposals for award of grant(s) are brought to the Local Committee. The commissioned services would then commence on 1 September 2013.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to:

- a) Approve the allocation of £10,000 to Personalised Prevention (see 1.3a for details).
- b) Approve the local needs specification (Annex A) to be considered by providers focusing on the identified needs of Woking and the geographical neighbourhoods prioritised by the Youth Task Group.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Local Prevention Framework is a commission aimed 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). The Local Prevention Framework is intended to commission opportunities for young people in school years 8-11. Delivered outside of core school hours and external to SCC youth centres, all year round.

- 1.1 The Local Prevention Framework has been in place across Woking since 1st April 2012. This service is currently delivered by The Youth Consortium.
- 1.2 Following the first year of the Local Prevention Framework, the Commissioning and Development team conducted a review of the procurement and commissioning process involved in the Local Prevention Framework. The results of this were reported to the Education Select Committee on 29 November 2012.
- 1.3 Several improvements to the Local Prevention Framework were proposed. These include:

- a) The inclusion of a Personal Prevention section which will be administered through Individual Prevention Grants. This fund is to provide funding through the Youth Support Service to young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET to support them to participate in Education, Employment or Training. This is through the local purchase of items or services to support the individual. No funds will be provided directly to the young person, but spent by the Youth Support Service Team Manager on the individual's behalf.
This will be allocated by the Local Committee from the Local Prevention Framework funding to the Youth Support Service.
- b) The inclusion of a Universal Prevention section which will incorporate Small Grants. This is to more closely align Small Grants within Services for Young People's preventative strategy whilst recognising the more general nature of the Small Grants.
- c) To allow groups of young people (two or more) to apply through a recognised voluntary sector organisation for funding through the Universal Prevention – Small Grants process to support projects or activities, in addition to small voluntary, community and faith sector organisations who can apply.
- d) The retention of the Risk of NEET Indicators (RONI), but to move away from a specified list produced annually. This is to allow providers and all services engaged with Services for Young People and beyond to identify young people who exhibit these risk factors locally, rather than centrally. It is hoped that this will enable a more localised service and remove any perceived restrictions a central list could create. RONI lists will still be generated for the purposes of the year 11-12 transition programme.

RONI risk factors are (not exhaustive list):

- a. School attendance less than 60%
 - b. Excluded from school
 - c. Statement of Special Educational Needs, school action or school action plus
 - d. Living in an area with increased crime or anti-social behaviour
 - e. Engaged in anti-social behaviour
 - f. Poverty in the neighbourhood or household affected by multiple-deprivation
 - g. Family disruption, ineffective parenting
 - h. Young Carer
 - i. Young parent
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- e) The purpose of Neighbourhood Prevention is to solely focus on those at risk of becoming NEET young people from 1 September 2013 in school years 8 to 11.
 - f) That the Local Prevention Framework should be awarded in the form of a Procurement Grant, rather than a contract as at present. This provides more freedom to local potential providers through less bureaucracy.

- g) Change the name of the Local Prevention Framework award to Neighbourhood Prevention Grants.
 - h) The Neighbourhood Prevention Grant be awarded for two years from 1 September 2013. This is to allow providers more time to develop relations with local networks and young people locally.
 - i) Previously, interested providers were required to bid for 100%, 50% or 33% of the available funds. From 1 September 2013 providers will be free to bid for any amount above 25% of the total fund available (under £5,000 to be met from Universal Prevention Grants (Youth Small Grants). This should allow smaller organisations to bid for work from the Local Committee.
- 1.4 The amount allocated to each of the eleven Borough and Districts is reviewed each commissioning cycle and is based on the needs of each area based on current NEET and RONI cohorts. There is an adjustment for the number of youth centres to compensate boroughs or districts with fewer youth centres. For 2013-15 Woking has been allocated £151,000.
- 1.5 The borough's allocation for Universal Prevention Grants remains the same at £25,000.

2.0 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Services for Young People's strategic objective is 100 % participation in Employment, Training and Education. The Local Prevention Framework contributes to this by reducing risk factors that may lead to a young person becoming NEET.
- 2.2 Maybury and Sheerwater stands out as an area of high need, whether looking at young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. It also contains the area in Surrey with the highest deprivation. A section of Goldsworth East is the 3rd most deprived in Surrey, whilst, in Woking, the second highest number of young people who are NEET live in Knaphill ward.
- 2.3 A higher than average proportion of the NEET cohort in Woking have been highlighted as young people who offend, whilst in contrast there are lower than average proportion of NEET young people with learning difficulties or disabilities.
- 2.4 78% of young people who have been identified as at risk of becoming NEET in Woking have some form of learning difficulty or disability.
- 2.5 For 29% of the young people in the RONI cohort in Woking, English is not their first language. This is more than double the Surrey average.

- 2.6 Woking's 10-19 year old population is: 10,898 (8.1% of Surrey's 10-19 year old population).

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Local Committee Youth Task Group met on the 30th January 2013 to consider the needs of the borough and to set the needs assessment and specification for Woking.
- 3.2 Local Committee Chairmen were consulted on the 22 January 2013. Consultation will be ongoing throughout the procurement process.
- 3.3 The proposed improvements to the Local Prevention Framework were considered and supported by the Education Select Committee on the 29 November 2012 following consultation with Local Committee Chairmen on the 20 November 2012.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is anticipated local commissioning will offer better value for money in that the outcomes commissioned and work delivered will be more closely aligned to local need.
- 4.2 The Local Prevention budget for 2013/14 has already been partially allocated by the Local Committee to extend the present providers contract to 31 August 2013. £47,917 has been allocated to The Youth Consortium as agreed by the Local Committee on the 10 September 2012.
- 4.3 The remainder £67,083 will be allocated for the period 1 September 2013 – 31 March 2014, a further £115,000 for the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 and a final £47,917 for the period 1 April 2015 – 31 August 2015. Subject to Cabinet and Full Council budget decisions in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. Any reductions in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 will be passed on to the providers. This will be made clear to all providers at the bidding stage and award stage.

5.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The devolved commissioning budget is likely to be targeted to groups who are vulnerable or at risk.

6.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The purpose of Local Prevention is to prevent young people from becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET), evidence shows that young people who are fully participating are less likely to commit crime.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 In response to feedback and the Education Select Committee report, officers recommend amendments to the Local Prevention Framework. The aim of the 3 strands of the Local Prevention Framework (Universal Prevention Grants, Neighbourhood Prevention Grants, and Personal Prevention Budgets) is to promote 100% participation.

The local specification has been developed in consultation with the Youth Task Group to ensure that bids are tailored to meet local needs.

The Local Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the allocation of £10,000 to Personalised Prevention Budgets.
- b) Approve the local Woking needs specification (Annex A) to be considered by providers focusing on the identified needs of Woking and the geographical neighbourhoods prioritised by the Youth Task Group.

8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 These recommendations will:

- a) Support the council's priority to achieve 100 % participation for young people aged 16 to 19 to be in education, training or employment.
- b) Increase the delivery of youth work locally.
- c) Increase the access of the Local Prevention Framework to small voluntary organisations.
- d) Speed up the process for awarding Universal Prevention Grants (Small Grants).
- e) Increase the access of the Local Prevention Framework through the use of a grants based commissioning process.

9.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The next step will be for officers to develop a prospectus which will provide those organisations who wish to bid the necessary local information.
- 9.2 Officers will invite organisations to bid and those bids will be short-listed by the Commissioning and Development Team.

- 9.3 A mini competition will take place where the short-listed providers will present their proposals to the Youth Task Group.
- 9.4 A recommendation on the awarding of grant(s) will be brought to the next meeting of the Local Committee for approval.
- 9.5 It is anticipated that the new provider(s) will be in place for 1 September 2013.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

Version No. 1.0 Date: 12/02/2013 Time: 13:00 Initials: No of annexes: 1

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