

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

DATE: 15 MARCH 2013

LEAD OFFICER: GARATH SYMONDS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

SUBJECT: SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LOCAL PREVENTION COMMISSIONING 2013-15

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This is a report from the Youth Task Group for Epsom & Ewell. Services for Young People is currently in the process of working with the Youth Task Group to re-commission the Local Prevention Framework and its associated elements for the period 1 September 2013 – 31 August 2015. In order to commission services that meet the needs of young people in Epsom & Ewell, a local needs specification has been drawn up based on information provided by the Youth Task Group. Due to procurement standing orders, the Epsom & Ewell Local Committee have declared a conflict of interests, are unable to approve the local needs specification and so it is requested that a decision is made by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety instead.

Services for Young People propose some improvements to the Local Prevention Framework following the first year of the commission countywide. These changes are outlined in this report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

1. The allocation of £8,500 to Personalised Prevention is approved
2. The local needs specification as set out in **Annex 1** to be considered by providers focusing on the identified needs of Epsom & Ewell and the geographical neighbourhoods prioritised by the Youth Task Group is approved.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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 Epsom & Ewell 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

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borough-wide access to any commissioned services. Following a workshop the Task Group discussed and agreed key risk factors for Epsom & Ewell and these were used to produce a local specification for the Local Prevention Framework for 2013-15 as set out in **Annex 1**.

3. Following agreement of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, proposals to address the identified priority areas and risk factors will be sought from 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 Cabinet Member for Community Safety. The commissioned services would then commence on 1 September 2013.

<b><u>DETAILS:</u></b>
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### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

4. 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 model 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.
5. The Local Prevention Framework contract has been in place across Epsom & Ewell since 1 April 2012. This service is currently delivered by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.
6. Following the first year of the Local Prevention Framework commissioning, 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.
7. 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 (this is 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
- e) Change the name of the Local Prevention Framework award to Neighbourhood Prevention Grants.
  - f) 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.
  - g) That the Local Prevention Framework commissions should be awarded in the form of a funding agreement grant, rather than a contract as at present. This should encourage more, smaller providers to submit bids due to reduced bureaucracy.
  - 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.
- 8 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 Epsom & Ewell has been allocated £84,000.

- 9 The borough's allocation for Universal Prevention Grants is £15,000.

### **ANALYSIS**

- 10 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.
- 11 Over half of the young people who were NEET in 2011-12 or have been identified as at risk of becoming NEET for 2013 live in Court and Ruxley wards (58 and 99 young people respectively). The three most deprived areas in the borough are also in Court and Ruxley wards.
- 12 Over half of the NEET young people in Epsom and Ewell were NEET for more than 26 weeks and a high proportion (37%) were in year 13.
- 13 86% of young people who have been identified as at risk of becoming NEET in Epsom & Ewell have some form of learning difficulty or disability.
- 14 More than half of this group in Epsom and Ewell live in areas of relative income deprivation, whilst, for a quarter, English is not their first language. This is double the proportion in Surrey as a whole.
- 15 Epsom & Ewell's 10-19 year old population is: 9,421 (7% of Surrey's 10-19 year old population).

### **CONSULTATION:**

- 16 The Local Committee Youth Task Group met on the 4 February 2013 to consider the needs of the borough and to set the needs assessment and specification for Epsom & Ewell.
- 17 Local Committee Chairmen were consulted on the 22 January 2013. Consultation will be ongoing throughout the procurement process.
- 18 The proposed improvements to the Local Prevention Framework model 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.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

- 19 A robust performance management framework will be in place to mitigate against the risk of poor performance.
- 20 Commissioning services based on specific local needs is likely to result in greater outcomes for young people and so it is anticipated that the improvements outlined in this report, including the local needs specification, would mitigate against the likelihood of poor performance and any reputational damage that this may cause.

### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

- 21 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.
- 22 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. £35,000 has been allocated to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council as agreed by the Cabinet Member on the 12 September 2012.
- 23 The remainder £49,000 will be allocated for the period 1 September 2013 – 31 March 2014, a further £84,000 for the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 and a final £35,500 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.

### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

- 24 This report makes proposals for the deployment of the Epsom and Ewell local budget allocation of £84k. This budget has been included in the MTFP. The proposed contract allows for variation in the resources deployed to accommodated budget decisions in future years.

### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

- 25 Funding agreements will be signed by both parties prior to commencement of service delivery.

### **Equalities and Diversity**

- 26 The devolved commissioning budget is targeted to groups who are vulnerable or at risk.
- 27 An Equalities Impact assessment was completed for the Transformation Project and its scope included the Local Prevention Framework.

### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

- 28 Local Prevention is targeted at young people at risk of becoming NEET including young people in care.

### **Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications**

- 29 All providers will comply with Surrey Safeguarding Board standards. Local Prevention is targeted at young people who may be vulnerable and at risk of becoming NEET and so will help towards safeguarding young people.

### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

- 30 Neighbourhood Prevention Grants will encourage local organisations helping to minimise traffic and travel time. (again – you cannot exclude other

organisations from bidding – you can have a local knowledge/expertise/connexions as one of the areas that you would evaluate providers on)

<b>WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:</b>
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- 31 The next step will be for officers to develop a prospectus which will provide those organisations who wish to bid the necessary local information.
  - 32 Officers will invite organisations to bid and those bids will be short-listed by the Commissioning and Development Team.
  - 33 A competitive process will take place where the short-listed providers will present their proposals to the Youth Task Group.
  - 34 A recommendation on the awarding of grant(s) will be brought to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety for approval should the conflict of interest still be relevant.
  - 35 It is anticipated that the new provider(s) will be in place for 1 September 2013.
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**Consulted:**

Local Committee Chairmen  
Epsom & Ewell Local Committee  
Epsom & Ewell Youth Task Group  
Young people in Epsom & Ewell

**Annexes:**

Annex 1 – Local Needs Specification for Epsom & Ewell

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