

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)****DATE: 4 JULY 2013****LEAD OFFICER: GARATH SYMONDS****SUBJECT: LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK – TASK GROUP RECOMMENDATION****DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The recommendation for the award of funding is the culmination of several months' work by the Youth Task Group that will result in services being commissioned by the local committee in response to local need. The focus of the work will be to reduce the risk factors that are predictors of young people becoming Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) in Surrey Heath.

The Local Committee is responsible for commissioning services to prevent young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training within their local area. The Youth Task Group has recently met and received presentations from a range of potential suppliers. This paper sets out their recommendation as to whom funding should be awarded to.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to:**

Approve the Youth Task Group recommendation to award a funding agreement for a twenty four month period from 01 September 2013 to the following provider:

- (i) Eikon Charity for 100% of the contract value (£79,000pa) to prevent young people from becoming NEET in Surrey Heath

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The recommendations will support the council's priority to achieve full participation; that is for 100% of young people aged 16 to 19 to be in education, training or employment.

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

- 1.1 The Local Prevention Framework (LPF) is an allocation of £79,000pa to the SCC local committee in Surrey Heath to commission outcomes to work with young people most at risk of becoming NEET, prepare them for participation and prevent them becoming NEET. The allocation is based on the number of young people who are NEET or at risk of NEET in the borough/district with an adjustment for the number of youth centres. LPF provision is for services delivered outside of the school day.
- 1.2 The LPF delivers against the county council's expectation that where possible local youth services will be commissioned locally, in line with the government's localism agenda. 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.
- 1.3 The purpose of the local prevention framework 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:



- 2.2 A needs assessment workshop was held on 11 February 2013 with representation from young people, elected members and county officers.

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.

2.3 The Local Committee approved the LPF Specification for Surrey Heath on 14 March 2013. This included the following key priorities:

- Learning difficulties and disabilities – support for young people attending special educational needs schools
- Travellers
- Teenage pregnancy – preventative work and support for young people who are already teenage parents
- Mental health – young people with mental health needs, including social skills and self-esteem, as well as low motivation and aspirations
- Positive activities for young people - developing teamwork and social skills and offering residential opportunities
- Drugs and alcohol – support for young people with substance misuse problems
- Young people from military families

2.4 The following key neighbourhoods were highlighted by the Task Group:

- James Road Estate
- St Michaels
- Old Dean Estate
- Brookleys Estate, Chobham (including Turf Hill Lane)
- Heatherside
- Lightwater
- Bristow Road Estate
- Frimley
- Mytchett & Deepcut
- Gypsy and Romany Traveller (GRT) sites at Swift Lane and Chobham

2.5 In addition the Task Group asked that bidders met the following key criteria when bidding:

- Projects must be **preventative**
- Strategy for **promoting services** and **engaging young people**, including the use of **appropriate media**
- Work alongside **key local partners**
- Should also deliver during **school holidays, weekends and evenings**
- Focus on working with young people around **relationships** (e.g. friendships, peers, family and personal)
- Form strong links with **local schools and education providers**
- **Should not duplicate** existing support and should be **flexible to enhance or add value** to existing services
- Projects should offer young people **practical training** and the opportunity to gain **core skills**

2.6 The Local Committee agreed the recommendation on needs and priorities as set out above at its meeting held on 14 March 2013.

2.7 Following the March committee the funding opportunity was published and widely publicised, reaching at least 96 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 for the North West was held on 18 March 2013 and was well attended. Four bids were received and two providers were short-listed for presentation to the task group on 20 May 2013.

The Task Group consisted of both County and Borough/District elected members. In addition young people, YSS and Commissioning and Development officers were present. The Task Group received presentations from each provider, followed by questions to each provider on their bid. Following all the provider presentations a discussion was held to form the recommendation to the Local Committee.

2.8 The shortlisted bidder was the Eikon Trust which is a not for profit organisation.

2.9 Following the presentation by Eikon Trust (a partnership bid with SHAPE and the Windle Valley Youth Project), the Youth Task Group recommended that:

100% of the funding be awarded to Eikon Charity

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 The committee is asked to:

- a. Approve the award of funding to provider(s) for 100% of the available funding.

The Committee is asked to approve the award of funding to the provider as approved by the Youth Task Group. This will ensure young people receive a service from September 2013.

Should the Committee opt not to approve the providers bid. SCC would need to reopen the bidding process, which would mean a delay in the appointment of a provider.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 There has been wide ranging consultation with young people, staff, and partner agencies. 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. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 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.

## **7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 The Local Prevention Framework is at the heart of Services for Young Peoples commitment to localism. The LPF involves local young people, elected members and wider stakeholders in decision making.

## **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### 8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

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

### 8.2 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

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 an award of grant for a twenty four month period from 01 September 2013 to the following provider:

Eikon Charity for £79,000pa (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 grant for Surrey Heath will be awarded to Eikon Charity. This commission will start on 1 September 2013, ensuring a swift start 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.

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**Consulted:**

**Annexes:**

**Sources/background papers:**

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