

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Report submitted by: Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People

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Part I

Electoral Division affected:
All

Commissioning Framework

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Executive Summary

The current commissioned contracts with the Third Sector through the Young People's Service Funding Framework 2012/14 are due to come to an end on 31 March 2014.

The 'Youth Offer' is an integral component of the Lancashire Improving Futures Programme and the development of an integrated working early support prevention model of service delivery, including the delivery of Early Support, Children's Centres, Young People's Service and Working Together with Families. To consolidate this approach within the Young People's Service it is proposed to develop the commissioning model for future years around a Framework Agreement methodology as developed as part of the Early Support Core Commissioning Offer.

The framework agreement will be advertised to incorporate the two agreed themes of the Young People's Service Youth Offer;

- Targeted Youth Support
- Youth Work

It is proposed to subsequently develop this Commissioning model to include appropriate Directorate Services operating within the integrated working early support prevention model of service delivery including Children's Centres, Early Support and Working Together with Families.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools is recommended to agree the proposal to draw up a commissioning specification for Targeted Youth Support and Youth Work for future years on the following basis:

- in line with the County Council's contracting processes, invite providers to express an interest to become a preferred provider within a Framework Agreement to deliver Targeted Youth Support and Youth Work services across the 12 districts of Lancashire (excluding Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen);
- to subsequently develop this Commissioning model to include appropriate Directorate Services operating within the integrated working early support prevention model of service delivery including Children's Centres, Early Support and Working Together with Families.

Background and Advice

The Young People's Service has a long history of working in partnership with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Lancashire.

In order to support the vision and priorities highlighted within the Lancashire County Council Corporate Strategy; Lancashire Children and Young People's Plan; Young People's Vision (within the Children and Young People's Plan); Lancashire Youth Strategy and Early Support the Young People's Service has commissioned provision with the Third sector, within a locality, through the Young People's Service Funding Framework 2012/14 through two distinct strands or specifications;

- Targeted Youth Support
- Youth Work

The current commissioned contracts with the Third Sector through the existing Funding Framework 2012/14 are due to come to an end on 31 March 2014.

The aims of the Young People's Service is to work with young who are Just Coping or showing signs of Struggling to Cope, to build their capability and capacity for them to manage challenges or difficulties safely and enable them to Thrive (Thriving as defined by the Lancashire Continuum of Need).

Targeted youth support and youth work (the 'Youth Offer') contribute to the government's vision that young people should enjoy happy, healthy and safe teenage years that prepare them well for adult life and enable them to reach their full potential. Local authorities are required to secure sufficient 'positive activities' including youth work, for young people in their area and effectively publicise these to them. This expectation is set out in the Government's Strategy *'Positive for Youth'*.

The 'Youth Offer' is integral to the Lancashire Improving Futures Programme and the development of an Integrated Early Support Prevention model of service delivery. Early Support multi agency teams for 12-19yr olds and their families will be based

around Youth Zones and Young People's Workers are identified as key delivery partners.

To consolidate the Integrated working early support prevention model it is proposed to develop a Commissioning model around a Framework Agreement methodology as developed as part of the Early Support Core Commissioning offer.

At this stage, the framework agreement will be advertised to incorporate the two agreed themes of the Young People's Service Youth Offer;

- Targeted Youth Support
- Youth Work

To pull together commissioning activity around the integrated working early support prevention model it is proposed to subsequently develop this Commissioning model to include appropriate Directorate Services including Children's Centres, Early Support and Working Together with Families.

In order to ensure that delivery can be effectively co-ordinated in a locality it is anticipated that commissioned projects will work closely in partnership with Young People's Service (including co-delivery at Young People's Centres where appropriate), Youth Strategy Groups, local Early Support Officers and District Children and Young People's Trusts.

Each area of Lancashire has its own characteristics and specific areas of need and it is proposed that commissioned activity will be secured under each theme based on identified, specific district priorities. Work is currently underway with local district YPS staff, VCFS partners and young people to conduct a gap analysis to inform the district priorities for 2014/15. Providers will be commissioned on the basis of their ability to deliver quality provision against these priorities, which leads to improved outcomes for young people. They must also be able to evidence the impact of their work through a structured monitoring process designed to capture both individual progress for young people and broader outcomes contributing to the priorities identified.

It is proposed to draw up a commissioning specification, and in line with County Council's contracting processes, invite providers to express an interest to become a preferred provider within a Framework Agreement to deliver Targeted Youth Support and Youth Work services across the 12 districts of Lancashire (excluding Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen).

Consultations

The commissioning priorities across districts are being prepared in consultation with a number of key officers with links to/responsibility for funding to the VCFS, district operational staff, young people and the VCFS sector.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

Funding allocations for Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations to deliver against the targeted youth support and youth work commissioning specification for the period 2013/14 amounted to £0.741m, including a £0.1m contribution from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Whilst it is known that the CAMHS £0.1m contribution will no longer form part of the Young People's Service commissioning specification it is unknown, at this point in time, what financial resources will be available for commissioning targeted youth support and youth work to Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) for 2014/15 and beyond.

Funding levels for targeted youth support and youth work during 2014/15 remain subject to budget confirmation. However, in view of the considerable financial pressures which the County Council faces both currently and in the foreseeable future, it is anticipated that there will be a reduction on the current year's allocation.

Funding to support the future development of the integrated working early support prevention model will be incorporated into this commissioning model over the course of the agreement. The funding levels available to support this model remain subject to budget confirmation.

Risk management

The Framework Agreement commissioning model is proposed to operate over a four year contract period from 2014. However, the funding level for this period is subject to budget confirmation.

All projects are subject to review following agreed monitoring criteria set out in the Service Level Agreement

Legal

The funding will assist the county council in responding to its statutory duty to deliver the local 'Youth Offer'. Performance of commissioned organisations in meeting outcomes will be monitored in accordance with a Service Level Agreement detailing monitoring requirements. This will be based on a standard template and has been developed in consultation with Legal Services.

The services will be commissioned in line with procurement obligations under the Treaty of Rome and/or the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Procurement Regulations laid down in Appendix R of the County Council's Scheme of Delegation to Chief Officers.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Positive for Youth	01/02/2010	John Gordon/Directorate for Children and Young

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A