

Cabinet - 12 September 2012

Walsall Targeted Youth Support Services Re-commissioning Arrangements

Portfolio:	Councillor R Andrew – Children’s Services
Related Portfolios:	Councillor I Shires, Community Engagement and Voluntary Sector Councillor C Towe, Finance and Personnel
Service:	Children’s Services
Wards:	All
Key Decision:	No
Forward plan:	No

1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for Walsall Council’s Integrated Young People’s Support Service (IYPSS) to tender for the provision of Targeted Youth Support, which includes the provision of positive activities in identified neighbourhoods/localities as well as support to individual and groups of vulnerable young people from April 2013. Currently this work includes the provision of community association run youth groups within identified localities as well as support to Borough wide provision for specific groups of young people e.g. Young Carers. Approval for commissioning will allow new contracts for Targeted Youth Support services to be procured for a period of three years from 1 April 2013 to 1 March 2016, once existing contracts cease in March 2013. Targeted support for young people in Walsall, particularly the most vulnerable will be provided through these commissioned services and will directly support the reduction of youth related Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and support the pathways for young people into employment. During 2011/12 this work evidenced a reduction of 38% in youth related ASB. It is also anticipated that cost efficiencies can be achieved via a new procurement exercise, bringing more choice and competition to the market place.
- 1.2 The combined annual budget for the Targeted Youth Support work will be £719,000 (as for 2012/13), with the total award for three years being approximately £2.157m, for which Cabinet approval is required. The Public Contract Regulations 2006 (as amended) will also apply to this procurement.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet are asked to note the current level of funding and proposed level of funding to the voluntary and community sector for the provision of Targeted Youth Support activities.

- 2.2 Cabinet are asked to grant delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to undertake the commencement of a new procurement process for the appointment of suitable organisations to provide Targeted Youth Support activities particularly for vulnerable groups of young people in Walsall.

3 **Report detail**

- 3.1 Having regard to the general principals of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as reasonably practicable, a local offer of positive activities that is sufficient to meet local needs and improve young people's well-being as well as their personal and social development. Local authorities should strive to secure the best possible youth offer within available resources, reviewing the sufficiency of the offer ensuring feedback from young people on the adequacy and quality of provision. The coalition government have reinforced this message through the revised statutory guidance, under Section 507B of the Education Inspections Act 2006 in June 2012.
- 3.2 Based on lessons learnt from the 2010 procurement process, a consultation exercise has been undertaken with existing providers to evaluate the current process which will help shape the development of the new commissioning cycle. Considerable work has been done with existing providers to establish effective partnerships and a professional working relationship with the Integrated Young People's Support Service (IYPSS). A project panel has been set up with membership from West Midlands Police, council procurement services, IYPSS, West Midlands Youth Work Unit and the Drugs Action Alcohol Team.
- 3.3 This proposal is fully in line with council policy to improve services for children and young people, by observing the objectives outlined within the Children & Young People's Plan for 2011 - 2014 and reflect Walsall Council's corporate priorities. Applying the Working Smarter principles will ensure effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable delivery with quantifiable outcomes for young people in Walsall.
- 3.4 The existing Targeted Youth Support activities are currently provided through a three year contract/ Service Level Agreement delivered by community and voluntary sector organisations through delegated responsibilities. The procurement proposal will allow new providers the opportunity to provide services.
- 3.5 Financial terms and conditions are negotiated for each individual contract based on a needs analysis. The value across each contract varies depending on the level and nature of delivery. Given the range of prices charged by service providers and the formal contract monitoring framework, there is an opportunity for new providers to enter the market, it is anticipated that efficiency savings can be realised in the short and long term through a competitive tendering process.
- 3.6 This mixed economy of directly provided and procured provision has been successful in supporting the reduction of youth related Anti-Social Behaviour

(ASB) by 38% in 2011/12. These figures have been verified by the police who also measure levels of public satisfaction which in relation to ASB, rose from 60% to 76% for the summer period in 2011 (the highest it had been in 3 years).

- 3.7 Central to the development of improved service delivery is the engagement of young people, a message reinforced by the coalition government policy statement 'Positive for Youth'. Young people will be fully involved in the procurement arrangements and on-going monitoring of contracts for the delivery of Targeted Youth Support work. This is consistent with statutory requirements and corporate working smarter principles of putting the customer (young people) at the centre of all we do.
- 3.8 To maximise interest in Targeted Youth Support work, it is the intention to advertise new contracts in an open process so that a wide range of providers are attracted. The contracts will be for a three year period, with annual reviews depending on performance, available budget and council priorities. This will allow the council to determine on a yearly basis the budget impact and also to measure the impact/outcomes of service delivery.
- 3.9 The specification for the re-commissioning of Targeted Youth Support work is being finalised. Given the timetable for the procurement exercise, it is essential that the tendering process is started as soon as possible to ensure that there is a seamless service and continuity of delivery for Targeted Youth Support work is maintained.

4. Council priorities

- 4.1 It is our intention to use a needs based resource allocation model for the allocation of resources across the six Area Partnerships, as implemented in the previous commissioning process in 2010. This ensures that resources are allocated against council corporate priorities and based on the needs of the children, young people and their communities. The current model considers the levels of deprivation; we will ensure statistical information will be updated to reflect the current position in Walsall.
- 4.1.1. The model allocates differing levels of resources across each of the six Area Partnership Areas based on the following indicators of need:
- Youth Offenders (First Time Offenders aged 10-17)
 - Teenage Mothers (aged 15-19 years)
 - Free School Meals (January 2012 school census)
 - Non Achieved GCSE Grade A-C (based on 2011)
 - NEET (16-18 Years) 2010
 - Ethnicity (2001)
- 4.2 Potential Providers Tenders are judged against the following criteria:
- Ability to meet priorities.
 - Fewer Young People Offending or Engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour.
 - Contributing to the Not In Education Employment or Training Agenda (NEET)

- Increase young people's participation in Positive Activities (Youth Work)
 - To provide Counselling Services to improve the health & well being of children and young people.
 - Supporting and providing Services to Children & Young People identified as Young Carers.
- Quality of customer feedback and ability to engage in effective partnerships.
 - How the proposal adds value to current service delivery.
 - The capacity and capability of the arrangements to successfully deliver.
 - Service costs.

5. Risk management

- 5.1. The effectiveness of working jointly with other agencies is actively risk managed, both corporately and within the Integrated Young People's Support Service. Specifically, attention is paid to the legal, financial and governance aspects of joint agreements to protect council resources and to ensure that the current and future needs and rights of the council are appropriately protected, as is its right to act as a democratic autonomous body, as and when it may be necessary.
- 5.2. The development and implementation of the procurement process will be actively managed within the Integrated Young People's Support Service. The intention behind the new contracts will be to allow further improvements in service delivery through the inclusion of outcome based performance indicators within the contract and service specification.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 Walsall Children's Services budget for the Targeted Youth support activities is £506,000 annually, with a total of approximately £1.5 million over a three year period. The Target Youth Support (Early Intervention Grant) which will be rolled out in the Revenue Support Grant from 2013-14 is anticipated to be £213,000 per year with a predicated spend of £636,000 over a three year period. The total projected commissioned funding for Targeted Youth Support is therefore £2.157m over three years. It noted that there may be a reduction in funding in relation to this area, and therefore awards will be reviewed and awarded in line with budgets identified. The following areas are covered within the awards:
- The delivery of targeted Positive Activities across the six area partnerships for young people aged 13 to 19, (up to 24 with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities) which meets and reflects the needs of young people and the priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan;
 - Targeted Youth Support with vulnerable young people.
- 6.2 Although the savings potential is to be maximised by scanning the wider market, it is also recognised that providing a consistent and high quality service are equally important. The need for the council to have significant control and management of the services will also be built into the contracts; above all, it is important to ensure that the terms and conditions reflect the need to monitor

and maintain high quality services.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The proposed procurement arrangements will be subject to the Public Contract Regulations 2006 (as amended). Procurement Services and Legal Services will be consulted on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the council's Contract Rules 2010.

Although Contracts for Integrated Young People's Support Service are classified as Part B services and therefore subject to a more limited application of the public procurement regime, the council has an obligation to act in an open, fair and transparent manner, ensuring that the contract is advertised to reach as wide an audience as possible. This will encourage as much competition in the market as possible and will ensure that those tendering for the contracts are treated equally and without discrimination. Failure to do this would render the council liable to challenge.

8 Staffing implications

- 8.1 There are currently 6 part time staff members which equates to one full time 37 hour post, located between two community association providers. Existing seconded council staff are part of current contract arrangements and will be subject to transfer to the new provider under the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE).

9. Equality implications

The implementation of the procurement process for Targeted Youth Support services will give the council the opportunity to further enhance the consistency and robustness of its focus on identifying and meeting the needs of young people, particularly the most vulnerable children of the borough. Through the use of contracts with independent service providers it will be possible to create clear and objective expectations in terms of delivering equality outcomes and equity of resource allocation.

10. Consultation

Children's Services Portfolio Holder, existing service providers, young people, Legal Services, Finance, HR and Procurement services have all been consulted.

Background papers

Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Service and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-Being June 2012

Cabinet Report 9 June 2010 – Positive Activities in Walsall

Cabinet Report 9 June 2010 – Positive Activities Working Group Report – Report to Children's and Young People's Scrutiny and Performance Panel

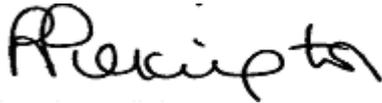
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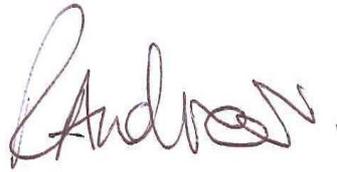


Signed:

Pauline Pilkington

Executive Director

Date: 20 August 2012



Signed:

Councillor R Andrew

Portfolio Holder

Date: 30 August 2012