

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 16 October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: Youth Provision

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report provides an update on the proposed restructure and tender for Youth Provision within the Borough.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That Executive Board

- 1) Approve combining universal and targeted provision for young people into one contract; and**
- 2) Delegate approval of the specification for the contract for youth provision to the Strategic Director for Children and Enterprise in consultation with the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 3rd November 2011 the Board agreed to the redesign of the services to young people and approved extending provision from 11-19 and up to 25 years for those young people with additional needs to 10 to 19 years and up to 25 years.

3.2 From April 2012 Halton Youth provision has been primarily delivered through contracts with Catch 22 and Young Addaction. Catch 22 have been responsible for delivering the Universal Youth Provision at a cost of £450,000 per annum. Early Intervention and Targeted Outreach Provision for young people has been delivered by Young Addaction at a cost of £450,000 per annum. Both these contracts end on 31st March 2015.

3.3 We are proposing to continue to maintain the current strategy of delivering youth provision in targeted hotspots areas for risk taking

behaviour, while maintaining access for all children and young people. However, in order to provide a more flexible and efficient service it is proposed to combine both the universal and the early intervention and targeted outreach into a single contract.

3.4 The youth provision will continue to identify and respond to statistical analysis of data regarding substance misuse, teenage conceptions and youth related anti-social behaviour. This will often take the form of working in partnership with voluntary agencies, schools and children's social care to support particular pieces of work. Examples of these include:-

- Anti-social behaviour projects;
- Teens and Toddlers Project;
- Reducing teenage conceptions;
- Amy Winehouse Foundation/Skills for Change;
- Reducing under 18 alcohol related hospital admissions;
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards;
- Major's Award; and
- Youth cabinet/Involve Group.

3.5 It is proposed that a service specification is developed for a single tender and that approval of this specification is delegated to the Strategic Director for Children and Enterprise, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families. We will look to involve young people in this work and will encourage potential Providers to collaborate with the local voluntary, community and faith groups in any proposed tender bid.

3.6 The new tender will continue to support the recent progress made in reducing teenage conceptions, under 18 hospital admissions for alcohol misuse and youth related anti-social behaviour. In addition, analysis of current use of provision will also be undertaken to ensure resources are appropriately targeted.

4.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Through combining the two separate contracts and seeking a more flexible approach to the delivery of youth services we will be looking to make efficiencies. Once the specification has been completed the level of efficiency can be identified.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

5.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Children and young people aged 10yrs to 19yrs will continue to have access to clubs and street based activities.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Children and young people aged 10yrs to 19yrs will continue to have access to informal education and learning opportunities in Halton

5.3 A Healthy Halton

Children and young people will continue to have access to interventions aimed at improving health and well-being

5.4 A Safer Halton

Children and young people will continue to be engaged in positive activities, aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 An assessment of risk will be carried out as part of the tendering process. Any highlighted risk will need to be addressed by the interviewed provider during the interview process.

6.2 The most significant risk for Halton will result in the failure to award the contract because providers do not meet the criteria or comprehensively demonstrate their abilities, knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of our specification.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be completed and each provider through the tendering interviews will be expected to demonstrate their commitment and abilities in engaging with young people across the spectrum of need, background, culture, identity, disability and sexuality

7.2 Additionally the young people's panel will explore and challenge in detail the abilities, knowledge and skills of the frontline staff in addressing these aspects as a means of making sure the new provider/s are committed and able to achieve equality of access and opportunity.

8.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION

8.1 To agree to combining the current youth service provision and to go out to tender for services for April 2015.

9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9.1 Maintaining the current provision was considered; however the need for a more flexible service and the opportunity to look for efficiencies has necessitated the change.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

10.1 The new service would need to be fully operational by April 2015.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document Officer	Place of Inspection	Contact
Specification for Universal Services Specification for Early Intervention and Targeted Services	2nd Floor, Rutland House Runcorn Manager	John Bucknall Commissioning