

**OPTION: CAREERS EDUCATION INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE SERVICE**

**BUDGET SAVING: £1,000,000**

### **DESCRIPTION OF OPTION**

The Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) service has a budget of £2,760,700.

The Council provides a wide range of careers advice to young people across the borough, including 1:1 information and advice to vulnerable and NEET (not in employment, education or training) young people, providing an alternative web portal offering information on career choices and providing tailored training programmes.

The services are mainly provided through the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership although some support for vulnerable and NEET young people are provided in house.

***The option in this area would be to redesign and reduce these services, ensuring that targeted work still took place at the level defined by the Council's statutory duties.***

A reduction totalling £1,000,000 to the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership (GMCP) contract for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) is proposed of which £500,000 has been already achieved in 2012/13.

The service is currently commissioned in partnership with five other Liverpool City Region (LCR) local authorities - Halton (lead), Liverpool, St Helen's, Knowsley and Sefton. The current contract with The Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership (GMCP) is due to conclude 31 March 2014.

The contract with GMCP includes the delivery of two strands of activity, an information, advice and guidance service for young people vulnerable to becoming NEET and a young people's tracking service.

### **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

The responsibility for the delivery of CEIAG changed with the passage of the Education Act 2011 with schools, colleges and providers becoming responsible for the delivery of CEIAG to their learners. DfE has issued guidance that "local authorities will retain their statutory duty to encourage, enable or assist young people's participation in education or training".

As there is no longer an expectation that local authorities will provide a universal careers service with schools, the Council has sought to achieve budget reductions whilst at the same time remodelling a targeted CEIAG service to enable the local authority to deliver its statutory duties. Other options have not been considered as the existing contract with GMCP is in its penultimate year and already makes provision for budget reductions.

CEIAG services are part of services to young people. DFE benchmarking data indicates that overall this is an area where costs are high compared to statistical neighbours £101 per head compared to an average of £76.

## **IMPACT**

A reduction in service has the potential to impact on all wards.

The risk to staff lies with Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership.

Year on year contract reductions of this level have the potential to impact upon the Liverpool City Region contract if GMCP gives notice on the contract. However it is worth noting that all other LCR authorities are seeking financial reductions of varying degrees.

If GMCP give notice on the contract then there is a risk that there will not be time to enter into another procurement round to secure the service.

There is no direct impact on the VCFS. It should be noted that GMCP is a registered charity and a reduction in contract value may impact on their wider business.

## **MITIGATION**

Remodelling a targeted CEIAG service would enable the local authority to deliver its statutory duties