

**What
Really
Matters?**

Budget Option
Careers
Advice and
Guidance

Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
200	-	-	200

Option summary

This option refers to the Merseyside wide contract to provide careers advice and guidance to get young people into education, employment or training. The option would involve targeting resources to provide most support to those young people who are not in education, employment or training, or one at most risk of becoming NEET.

Importantly, this service is also provided to young people who need it by many other providers, including schools, colleges and organisations within the voluntary and community sector.

Potential impact

The service is currently being redesigned, with other Liverpool City Region authorities, and a new service will be commissioned with delivery to commence 1st April 2014. The planned developments in the service including a shared young person data tracking and monitoring service, will need to take account of the overall reduction in resources.

Whilst there will still be engagement workers within the review who support young people, the ratio that directly interface with young people NEET or at risk of disengagement will increase. Young people will therefore have reduced access to support and could lead to increasing proportions of young people becoming NEET and a drop off in participation rates. In addition, delivering the Council's statutory duty in terms of Raising of the Participation could be adversely effected.

Increasing the number and proportion of young people NEET within the borough may lead to increased social and health related issues for young people, including, an increased prevalence of anti social behaviour and petty crime. Significant challenge will be presented at 'hot spot' times including the run up to October 2014 following August GCSE and A Level results. Providing insufficient support to young people during this period of transition to ensure they have a positive destination may have an impact on the Council's excellent participation rates.

Insufficient resources to track monitor and target interventions may lead to the Council delivering a lower performance in terms of the DfE September Guarantee and reducing levels of participation. Poor performance may have a detrimental impact when the Department is next inspected by Ofsted.

Reducing the impact

The Council will work to make sure every opportunity for partnership working is maximised, and will ensure the service is able to access alternative funding opportunities such as The Youth Contract. Effective targeting those young people most at risk of becoming NEET, will reduce the impact of the youth unemployment rate rising.