

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET 23 JULY 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report makes recommendations to Cabinet for approval to commission Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). The proposed providers will make provision for vulnerable and challenging young people during school holidays. The aim of the Positive Activities for Young People Programme, is to provide diversionary activities for young people who could offend or become NEET, (Not in Education Employment or Training) because of a number of factors such as negative peer group pressure, poor school attendance, substance or alcohol misuse.

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet at its meeting on 23 April agreed the criteria to underpin the commissioning for Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) (Appendix A). The funding for this programme of activities previously was funded through Connexions however this funding is now routed through the local authority. The allocation covers school holidays from April 2009 – 31 March 2011. To ensure there was continuity of provision, contracts with existing providers were rolled over to cover the Easter and Whit Holidays. If Cabinet approves the proposals, the new contracts will commence on 1st August 2009.
- 1.2 In line with council policy a commissioning process was used to identify the prospective providers. A commissioning panel was established to oversee the process and validate decisions at each procurement stage. The commissioning panel had representation from the following:
 - Link Forum,
 - Tranmere Neighbourhood Pathfinder
 - 14-19 Team,
 - Primary Care Trust and (the Children)
 - The Children & Young People's Department.
- 1.3 The procurement process consisted of advertisements in the press and on-line. This was followed by an invitation to prospective providers to attend a procurement workshop and submit a method statement and a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire. The selection process also consisted of evaluation of a sample activity by potential service users (young people) and a selection panel consisting of officers from the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD).
- 1.4 PAYP is a programme targeted at both vulnerable and challenging young people. Organisations in completing the Method Statement had to demonstrate a clear understanding of the requirements. In those cases where this was not the case organisations were not short listed for the second stage. Individual debriefing sessions for those organisations have taken place and officers will be willing to work in the future with those organisations so that they can develop a better understanding of the requirements for any future bidding rounds.

2 The Commissioning Process

2.1 Cabinet at its meeting on 23 April approved the criteria and the membership of the commissioning panel. The following is a summary of the commissioning stages

- Tender advertised 13 May
- Procurement Workshop 22May
- Closing date 16 June
- Desk top evaluation 18/19 June
- Validation Panel 22 June
- Interviews 25 June
- Reconvened Panel and Evaluation Matrix sign off 29 June

2.2 The commissioning of PAYP is underpinned by the need to work with young people who are identified from certain risk factors. Cabinet at the meeting on 23 April agreed priorities (see Appendix A) to be used to frame the work and to inform the areas to be covered in the Method Statement.

2.3 The commissioning of PAYP focused on commissioning full time equivalent (FTE) places in agreed activities. Places on activities will be offered following a referral from one of the following agencies Police, Connexions, Youth & Play Service, Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care and schools. A funding formula (Appendix B) previously used by Department of Children Schools and Families was applied in this process. In the current financial year the number of weeks available to be commissioned is eight, in 2010-11 the number of weeks available will be thirteen covering Easter, Whit, summer, October, Christmas and February half term. The cost for each FTE in 2009-10 is £830 and in 2010-11 it is £1350.

2.4 A total of thirteen tender documents were received and from this list seven were short listed and invited to attend for interview. One tender from Involve Northwest could not be considered as the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire and front sheet were not filled in. The full list of applicants can be found in Appendix C.

2.5 Applicants were required to complete a Method Statement and a Supplier Questionnaire. A Procurement Workshop was organised for applicants to clarify issues relating to the process. The Method Statement and Supplier Questionnaire were both subject to desk top evaluations by officers and their assessment including scores were presented to a validation meeting of the Commissioning Panel. The validation meeting provided the commissioning panel with the opportunity to revisit the scoring and determine if they agreed with the proposed scores. From the information provided in the Method Statement and the scores, the panel decided which organisations would be short listed for interview. Seven organisations were asked to prepare a ten minute presentation on the following:

'Your vision for PAYP in promoting better outcomes for young people'

2.6 All organisations were asked the same set of questions which were intended to draw out the knowledge and understanding of the organisation in respect of the requirements of PAYP. (Please see Appendix D for the questions). Each organisation was scored on the presentation and the questions with 25 as the maximum possible score. Please see Appendix E for final scores.

2.7 At the end of the commissioning process, the decision for the Panel was to determine how many places would be commissioned from each of the successful providers. In making this decision the Panel were mindful of the need to make places available not

only in 'hot spot' areas such as Tranmere and Rockferry and Seacombe but also Wirral wide. The range of activities available had to be balanced and challenging enough to encourage young people to remain on the programme and at the same time contribute to the support and personal development needs of the young people.

- 2.8 Details of the types of programme are set out in Appendix E, they include cultural activities, personal and social development, sports and fitness activities.
- 2.9 The Panel are recommending that contracts are offered to those suppliers that scored the highest. In addition those suppliers will also be able to ensure that both 'hot spots' are covered and that young people across the four Districts who are at risk of offending or becoming NEET will be able to access provision.

3. Recommendation of the Commissioning Panel

2009/10

Organisation	District/Area	Number of FTE	Total cost
Youth Federation	Birkenhead/Wirral	25	£20,750
Fairbridge	Wirral wide	10	£8,300
Youth Offending Service	Wirral wide	26	£21,580
Activate Arts	Wallasey/Birkenhead/ Wirral wide	16	£13,280
Positive Futures	Wirral wide	36	£29,880

2010/11

Organisation	District/Area	Number of FTE	Total cost
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4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 All funding for the PAYP programme is part of the Area Based Grant. In year one £93,790 is available and in year two £152,550.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications. The cost of support staff seconded from Connexions are covered by the PAYP grant allocation.

6. Equal Opportunities Implications

6.1 The PAYP programme is specifically aimed at vulnerable young people and to promote equality of opportunity.

7. Community Safety Implications

7.1 The PAYP activities are provided in recognised 'hot spot' areas and for young people at risk of being engaged in offending behaviour are referred to the programme.

8. Local Agenda 21 Implications

8.1 PAYP encourages young people to respect their environment and community and can involve community work.

9. Planning Implications

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

10. Anti Poverty Implications

10.1 PAYP seeks to engage with young people who may be under achieving and engage them in provided activities to prevent them becoming NEET.

11. Social Inclusion Implications

11.1 PAYP seeks to identify young people who have been identified as being excluded and as such are at risk.

12. Local Member Support Implications

12.1 This report affects all wards.

13. Background papers

13.1 Cabinet report 23 April

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That following a commissioning process the following providers are offered a contract to provide PAYP for the periods set out below

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Youth Federation	Birkenhead/Wirral	25	£20,750
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- b. Feedback is provided to unsuccessful bidders.
- c. Individual specifications require providers to ensure there are guaranteed places for young people from organisations working with priority groups of young people such as young carers.

Howard Cooper
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