

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	22 October 2014
Title:	Youth Support Services Public Consultation Approval
Reference:	6192
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 In January 2014, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services considered a proposed budget for the Children's Services Department for 2014/15, subsequently approved by Full Council on 20 February 2014 in setting the Council Tax precept. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to initiate a public consultation for six weeks, commencing in October 2014, on proposals developed for the provision of Youth Support Services. Proposals have been developed in response to the objective of reducing the Early Help budget by between £0.8m and £1.2m as described in the "Children's Services Revenue Budget 2014/15" paper published on 14 January 2014.

1.2 The proposals will describe changes to the delivery mechanisms for targeted youth support in order to ensure an equitable distribution of services, designed to provide for those young people most in need.

1.3 The consultees will include young people, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and District Councils.

2. Contextual information – Youth Support Services

2.1 The current budget for commissioned youth support services (including services for NEET (not in education, employment or training)) young people is £1.8m. This is delivered in grants to organisations for the provision of targeted youth support services across Hampshire. The "Children's Services Revenue Budget 2014/15" paper published on 14 January 2014 set a funding envelope that included the reduction of this budget by between £0.8m and £1.2m.

2.3 The proposals in the consultation will set out a new framework for delivery of youth support services which is integrated into the Early Help Hubs and is a combination of direct provision and commissioned services.

3. Contextual Information – Public Consultation

3.1 This paper seeks approval to initiate a six week public consultation, commencing in October 2014, on the proposals for changes to targeted youth support services currently commissioned through grants to the VCS.

3.2 Consultation will take place with young people, the VCS providers, District Councils and other stakeholders. It will include opportunities for the submission of views and opinions including structured consultation questionnaires and meetings.

3.3 The outcome of the consultation will be considered by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in January 2015 and the finalised service provision determined.

4. Finance

4.1 The financial context driving these changes is the requirement that Hampshire County Council has to identify £102m in savings through the Transformation to 2015 programme by April 2015.

4.2 If the consultation does not proceed within the timescales detailed in this report, the achievement of the required savings by the authority may be at risk.

5. Recommendation(s)

5.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the initiation of a public consultation for six weeks, commencing in October 2014, on proposals to implement a re-design of commissioned targeted youth support services.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Children's Services Revenue Budget 2014/15	<u>Reference</u> 5445	<u>Date</u> 22 January 2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An equality impact assessment is currently being undertaken on the proposals to be consulted upon and will be completed when the results of the consultation are finalised.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 The funding of services directly impacting on vulnerable groups of young people is expected to impact positively to reduce potential crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The consultation will be carried out electronically in order to reduce the impact on our carbon footprint.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This is a time limited public consultation and does not have any long term impact on climate change or its longer term impacts.