

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00073

For publication

Subject: 16/00073 - NEET Service Contract Award

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to: award to the NEET contract to the supplier identified in appendix 1, as this supplier successfully passed both the Selection and award stage.

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 Kent County Council (the Council) has a strategic commitment (the Education and Young People's Services NEET Strategy and Action Plan 2015-16) to reduce the number of NEETs within the County to less than 1% by 2017-18.

1.2 A young person who is not in education, employment or training has been defined in the NEET Strategy and Action Plan 2015 – 16 as 'NEET' if they of an academic aged of 16 to 18 years old or have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 16-24 years old and are also not in education, employment or training.

1.3 Evidence shows that being NEET between and including the ages of 16 to 18 years old is a major predictor of later unemployment, lower job security and rates of pay (under-employment); short periods of under-employment with periods of unemployment in cycles of 'churning' in and out of work.

1.4 There are many services, both delivered by the Council and VCS organisations that work with young people to assist them to participate in education, employment or training. There is currently a commissioned service specifically to deliver support to NEET young people including those that are SEND titled 'Promoting Participation'. This is delivered by CXK and will end on 30 November 2016.

1.5 Through consultation with internal staff and the current provider, a need has been identified for a targeted and intensive level of NEET Support Service which will engage with young people that have been NEET for 12 weeks or more, or who have not been able to sustain education, employment or training in the past. These young people need guidance and additional support to find opportunities and achieve their personal outcomes. This service will aim to reduce the number of NEETs in Kent and also provide additional capacity to Early Help and Preventative Services – in order to support attainment of Kent's strategic target of fewer than 1% of the population being NEET.

1.6 The service will assign a suitably trained Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance qualified professional (follows national guidance on Careers Information Advice and Guidance) NEET worker to each young person with whom the service is working and who will provide high quality impartial advice, guidance and support. Each NEET worker will hold a caseload of 30-40 young people and

will aim to achieve their engagement in education, employment or training (EET) within 12 weeks.

c. Financial Implications

There is a budget of £500,000 per annum for the next three financial years. The contract will include the option of extending further for up to 24 months if there is available budget to do so.

Projected Savings

Based on the initial value of £1,500,000 (£500,000 per annum) for initial 3 years with the option of extending further for up to 2 years, this procurement exercise has reduced the original contract price from £1,500,000 to £1,495,231.20 which has saved the Council £4,768.80.

The contract is due to start by the 1 December 2016 for the duration of 3 years with the option of extending further for up to 2 years.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting**

**Any alternatives considered:
These were all explored during the commissioning process.**

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:
None**

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Signed

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Date