
Children and Young People's Services Select Committee Select Committee

23 October 2019

Reduction in the Post-16 Support Service

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The Post-16 Support service provides interventions and careers guidance for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs), and also helps organise and support Careers/Apprenticeship Fairs across the county and the annual Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony.

The County Council has a statutory duty to promote participation of 16-18-year-olds in education or employment and to track the destinations of all young people in years 12 and 13 and anyone with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) up to the age of 25. Tracking of this cohort involves uploads of information from schools and colleges which is undertaken by the Data and Intelligence Team. This identifies how many young people's destinations are Not Known. These individuals are then followed up and supported by the Post-16 service.

The County Council has been identifying potential savings options to assist in closing the budget gap following reductions in government grant. In this respect an assessment has been carried out on the impact of reducing the level of support of, or completely withdrawing from, provision of the Post-16 Support service. There are two options that have been considered:

- **Option 1:** To reduce the level of support provided by the core Post-16 Support Service by 50% from April 2021.
- **Option 2:** To completely withdraw from the provision of Post-16 Support with effect from April 2021.

Following analysis of the impact and financial implications of these two options, the Children and Young People's Select Committee will note that, as set out in the draft proposed Cabinet Member decision report, it is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to support Option 1 and approve to reduce the level of support provided by the core Post-16 Support Service by 50% from April 2021.

Focus for scrutiny

The Children and Young People's Services Select Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report and provide comment to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills prior to the formal decision being taken later in November 2019.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached reports (Appendix A) including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

1. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Cabinet Member decision report. Issues members may wish to explore include:

- a) What the potential impact could be on other areas of the County Council and partners in education,
- b) Whether the service will be able to achieve improvements in performance, in terms of national targets as outlined in the draft Cabinet Member report,
- c) Whether there is a variance in outcomes of web based/telephone interventions compared to face to face interventions,
- d) The accessibility of the service for those eligible for face to face interventions and planned mitigations if required,
- e) What is planned in terms of consultation with members of staff currently employed in the service,
- f) What impact assessment has been carried out and any planned mitigations, bearing in mind the Councils public sector equality duty and other responsibilities identified in the decision reports.

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Appendix A

Decision Report: Reduction in the Post-16 Support Service.

Background papers

None.