

Key4Life - At Risk Preventative Programme in Somerset

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Purpose of the Report

To consider a request for funding from Key4Life. The charity is planning to run a programme in Somerset for at risk, young men from September 2016.

Forward Plan

This is a new proposal and has been placed on the agenda at the request of the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Public Interest

This programme is aimed at the most marginal young men in the Somerset area who are at risk of going to prison. SSDC support would mean that we can ensure that a good proportion of those in the programme are from South Somerset.

Recommendations

That the District Executive:-

- (1) awards funding of £8,000 from unallocated reserves to support the Key4Life programme during 2016;
- (2) requests that a report be presented to the Executive, on the effectiveness of the programme, after its 6-month duration.

Background

Key4Life is a Somerset based charity that works with young men in the 18-25 year old bracket. It works with those both in prison and at risk of going to prison and helps them to find a new purpose in life through an innovative rehabilitation programme. The Charity uses tried and tested methods to devise a bespoke support and empowerment package to vulnerable young offenders and so far have been very successful at reintegrating them into society upon release from prison. Reoffending rates from the programme are 17% compared with 74% nationally.

The Charity has 4 full-time staff and 8 part-time staff and is supported by 50 active volunteers. Since its formation in 2012 it has worked with 45 young men and has a further 36 in programmes that are underway. It does work across the country and has a particularly strong track record in working with young men in prison.

There has been considerable interest across Somerset in running a local programme. The Youth Offending Team had 1,500 referrals in 2014. Of those young people in care in Somerset over 12% received conviction warnings over double the national average.

Mendip District Council supported the Key4Life pilot programme in 2015. This included working with young men from Yeovil Foyer by helping to rehabilitate and support them to find meaningful employment. This pilot was very successful. Ninety percent completed work tasters and secured work. The programme resulted in a doubling of their ability to deal with their emotions and sustain a positive attitude to work. This has led to the proposal currently before the Executive.

Somerset at Risk Preventative Programme 2016

The Key4Life programme is modelled to provide “joined up delivery”:

- Services responsive to individual needs
- Trusting relationships with trained volunteer mentors, who genuinely motivate young men to make positive changes
- A supportive and rehabilitative culture that motivates and enables offenders to make positive changes in their lives, developing emotional resilience
- A strong focus on employability and finding meaningful employment opportunities for the young men and actively involving them in designing their futures
- Support for closer integration with their families and communities – a key stage in the seven-step programme is meeting with the families
- A unique aspect of Key4Life’s work is the consistent involvement of local employers. In Somerset it has relationships with an increasing number of businesses such as Greencore, Eurilait, HYC Hire Solutions, Yeo Valley etc. who support through mentors, employability workshops, interview technique advice, three-day “Work Tasters”, which lead to a majority attaining job opportunities
- Support agencies: The charity works on the ground coordinating with relevant support agencies such as YMCA, The Foyer etc. both for referrals & to build links to work alongside relevant support agencies
- It costs £4,000 to put a young man through the At Risk Programme (while it costs the taxpayer at least £37,000 to keep one young offender in prison for a year)

The next programme is due to start this September. Mendip has committed to being a support partner. The charity is seeking to work alongside Somerset Councils and agencies to support up to 15 young men at risk of going to prison. The target group is some of the most marginalized young men in society. A forum will be established to share best practice and there will be a public awareness campaign to attract backing. The total cost of the programme would be £60,000, £4,000 per participant and the charity will be seeking funds from a wide range of business, public sector, private donors and other sources to enable it to run.

The programme will be delivered in 7 stages over a 6 month period. This includes developing self-awareness, a personal action plan, work taster, development of new life skills and intensive support to sustain their action plan into work. Support continues with mentoring sustained for up to 1 year through the staff team and an alumni post programme activities.

This service is needed now because changes in support for vulnerable young people means that access to intensive support services has diminished putting them at increased risk of offending.

Referrals into the programme could be made by:-

- Housing provider, Foyer & SSDC Housing and Welfare service
- Yeovil4families
- Youth Offending Team
- Yeovil / Chard One Teams

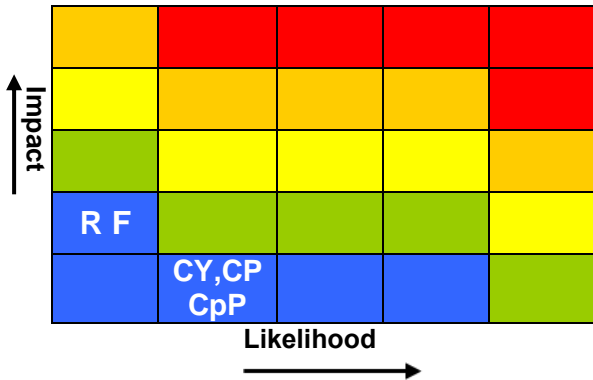
– Job Centre

Financial Implications

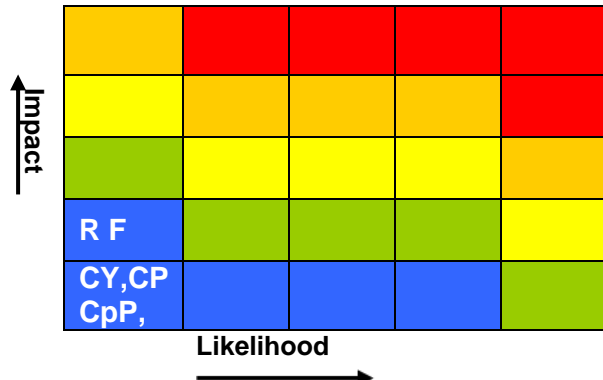
If the District Executive wishes to support this programme £8,000 would be found from unallocated revenue balances.

Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

Council Plan Implications

Include links to Council Plan 2012 – 2015 – see separate document for copying and pasting of focuses.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Privacy Impact Assessment

Not applicable

Background Papers

None