

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	NEET (Not in education, employment and/or training) prevention contract extension
Date of decision:	30 March 2023
Decision maker:	Director of Resources and Assurance
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Decision taken by key cabinet member on 28th February 2022 to give delegated authority to the section 151 officer following consultation with the appropriate director to move funding between approved schemes within the Covid Recovery plan to ensure that any underspend can be maximised.</p> <p>https://hc-modgov.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8607</p>
Ward:	County wide
Consultation:	<p>The COVID Recovery Plan was approved by Cabinet on 24th June 2022 which provides funding of £6m to support the economy, community wellbeing and organisation with recovery. The plan provided an overview of the schemes for delivery, which included 'Educational catch up' 'Community and Personal Resilience' and 'Get Active' all appropriate consultation was undertaken at this time.</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=50037702&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A158109</p> <p>Following this, additional consultation with members has taken place which has given delegated authority to the section 151 officer to move any underspend between pre agreed schemes to ensure that this can be maximised.</p>
Decision made:	To award additional funding of £35,000 to Brookfield School, Hereford. As part of the council's ongoing response to Covid 19 this funding will support a cohort of 2023 school leavers from Brookfield School and HPRS who are most at risk of becoming NEET.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Year 11 pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs are highly vulnerable and at greater risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) during the transition from school to Post 16 Education and not sustaining education, employment or training. The outbreak of the Covid-19 virus has significantly increased this risk and vulnerability.</p> <p>This contract will support the positive transition of 30 year 11 students from Herefordshire Pupil Referral Service and The Brookfield School into Post 16 education, employment or training. The project will be a targeted programme with post 16 providers to work with those at risk of NEET. Young people will be supported to learn, adapt and engage so they are able to choose and sustain a suitable education, employment or training pathway post 16.</p> <p>Being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is linked to poorer health and employment outcomes for decades.</p> <p>Herefordshire NEET recorded statistic for December 2022 is 3.1% 116 young people higher than the West Mids (2,4%) and England (2,7%) averages.</p> <p>Monitoring of the NEET cohort suggests there is an over representation of young people who were considered to have SEMH needs previously</p>

	<p>attending a pupil referral unit, special school for children with SEMH or other young people in mainstream schools with identified SEMH needs.</p> <p>The Learning and Work Institute's NEET prevention what works report 2020, states that approaches that include flexible and tailored support are proven to be particularly effective in acting as a mechanism for positive outcomes across attainment and employment, progress and engagement for at risk young people.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Post 16 NEET Prevention considerations:</p> <p>The Brookfield School will deliver the contract and therefore the arrangement for delivery will be made through a Herefordshire Council Contract. Key performance indicators have been included in the contract for progression outcomes, attendance and sustainability.</p> <p>Equality considerations: The aim of the project is to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET. By working with Post 16 providers and joining up activity, young people will have a greater level of accessibility to required support. Brookfield staff will monitor attendance and participation to ensure that all young people identified as being at risk of NEET are able to access services.</p> <p>Each organisation participating in delivery of services to support the project will be responsible for carrying out their own risk assessment.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>No alternative option has been considered as Brookfield School have demonstrated that they are able to provide this support effectively. This has been evidenced through the successful delivery of the KPI's set as part of the original NEET prevention contract.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Signed

Date: 30 March 2023

Andrew Lovegrove
Director of Resources & Assurance