



LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10.00 AM

REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 17 October 2022 (*Pages 3 - 4*)
2. Disclosures of interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
3. Urgent items
Notification of items which the Lead Member considers to be urgent and propose to take at the end of the appropriate part of the Agenda
4. Mental Health and Wellbeing Offer for Ukrainian Children and Young People (*Pages 5 - 10*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
5. Retender of the Youth Employability Service contract (Advice and Guidance) (*Pages 11 - 14*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
6. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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18 November 2022

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NOTE: As part of the County Council's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be broadcast live on its website. The live broadcast is accessible at:
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LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley, on 17 October 2022 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Councillor Alan Shuttleworth spoke on item 4 (see minute 10)

Councillors Alan Shuttleworth, Steve Murphy and Roy Galley spoke on item 5 (see minute 11)

8. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

8.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2022.

9. REPORTS

9.1 A copy of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

10. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS IN EAST SUSSEX 2024-25

10.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex 2024-25 - permission to consult. The Director of Children's Services reported that in Appendix 1 the 'Children wishing to transfer between a linked infant and junior school' criteria should be listed as criteria number 4 and the criteria after that should be re-numbered accordingly.

DECISIONS

10.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

1) agree to consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools in East Sussex for the 2024-25 academic year as set out in appendix 1 of the report;

2) note that there are two proposed changes to the admission arrangements which are explained in appendix 2 and appendix 3 (A supporting map is attached as appendix 4) of the report;

3) agree to consultation on the proposed published admission numbers (PANs) for Community and VC schools for 2024-25, as set out in appendix 5 of the report; and

4) agree to consultation on the proposed co-ordinated schemes of admissions as set out in appendices 6-8 of the report.

Reason

10.3 The County Council is required by law to consult on its admissions arrangements every seven years, or sooner if any changes to those arrangements are proposed for the schools for which it is the admission authority.

11. EAST SUSSEX SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2022-2026

11.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding the School Organisation Plan 2022-2026.

DECISIONS

11.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to approve the publication of the School Organisation Plan 2022-2026.

Reason

11.3 The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand across East Sussex. The draft School Organisation Plan for the period 2022-2026 sets out the projected demand for primary, secondary and SEN places and where we think we will need to commission additional places or reorganise existing provision to maintain a sustainable network of schools with the right number of places in the right locations to serve local need.

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **28 November 2022**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Mental health & wellbeing offer for Ukrainian children and young people**

Purpose of report: **To seek the approval of the Lead Member for the use of Homes for Ukraine (HfU) funding to provide a social prescribing programme to support mental health and emotional wellbeing of Ukrainian children and young people in East Sussex.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1. approve the allocation of £303,820 of the Homes for Ukraine grant to provide a mental health and emotional wellbeing programme for Ukrainian children and young people as set out in the report;**
 - 2. to note that this work will include alignment with Holiday Activity and Food programme and the broader development of social prescribing approaches in the county, and;**
 - 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to ensure monitoring requirements and the conditions of the grant funding are met.**
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1 Background

1.1 458 school-age Ukrainian children and young people (CYP) have been placed in East Sussex schools (as of 7 September 2022) as part of the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) programme. A recent ONS Survey suggests that 2/3 of Ukrainian families intend to stay in the UK.

1.2 Given the trauma that has been experienced by many Ukrainians, this proposal seeks to provide support for their emotional wellbeing and mental health through a preventative offer, which will also reduce pressure on specialist services and long-term costs.

1.3 Currently, there is no data regarding the mental health and emotional wellbeing needs of Ukrainian CYP. It is known they have experienced trauma which is being observed by schools and other East Sussex County Council (ESCC) services. The [Mental Health Foundation](#) (MHF) states that 20% of adolescents experience a mental health problem in any given year. NHS Sussex Commissioners for Children and Young People's Mental Health estimate this will be much higher amongst Ukrainian CYP, based on UNHRC reports on the impact on global forced migration due to conflict. It is estimated by ESCC and the NHS that the need is approximately 50% of the cohort (229/458 CYP). Anecdotal evidence from schools, conversations with the Admissions and Customer Relations teams, and feedback from Ukrainian host families and the Ukrainian Advisory Group supported this figure.

1.4 The NHS has identified 5 steps (link [here](#)) to mental wellbeing. It is considered that this social prescribing proposal will directly support with the first three of these: enabling CYP to (1) connect meaningfully with their peers and others in their local community, (2) take part in physical activity and (3) develop new skills.

2 Proposal and supporting information

2.1 The proposal is to provide support from youth focused social prescribers to Ukrainian CYP who will encourage participation in positive activities in the community for up to a year. Eligible CYP will be identified as those experiencing mild to moderate emotional difficulties. Four social prescribers, funded through the programme, will work directly with eligible young people and their families to establish whether social prescription is the most appropriate form of support and, if so, to assist them to identify suitable activity provision.

2.2 These funded positive activities could be referred into by existing mental health support and referral processes (e.g. CAMHS, i-Rock, Mental Health Support Teams in Schools, School Nurses etc) as well as by other partners and services, e.g. SPOA, schools, churches, voluntary organisations, GPs.

2.3 The positive activities will be delivered through purchasing activities from existing providers, drawing on the expertise and reach of local community sector organisations. Many of these organisations have previously been funded through the Holiday Activities and Food (“HAF”) programme, and who have experience of working with vulnerable CYP and those with mental health and emotional wellbeing (“MHEW”) needs.

2.4 The benefits of the programme will include:

- A positive impact on the emotional wellbeing and mental health of Ukrainian CYP. A project team will be established to deliver and evaluate the programme. The impact will be measured using a combination of service user feedback from participating children and families as well as by reviewing the impact on demand for specialist support services.
- Demand management by reducing the number of referrals for specialist services and ensuring timely preventative interventions.
- Developing capacity and the assets in the community to better support CYP.
- Improving knowledge about the current MHEW services and clinical pathways and creating an alternative pathway so CYP can get earlier help.
- Improve awareness of and confidence in an asset-based social prescribing approach amongst MHEW services, GPs, schools, Vol sec, and service users.

2.5 The full cost of this programme will be £303,820. Appendix 1 details the proposed programme budget.

2.6 This proposal directly supports the following priorities in the [Council Plan](#).

Driving sustainable economic growth

- Supporting local infrastructure – Funding local providers to deliver sessions.
- Supporting children to engage with education – Positive activities to support CYP with MHEW needs at an early stage and enable them to continue attending school.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

- Support for vulnerable people – Providing early intervention to a specific cohort identified as vulnerable (Ukrainian CYP with MHEW needs).

Helping People Help Themselves

- Putting people first – Social prescription model ensures a person-centred approach tailored to the needs of each young person.
- Local mutual support systems – Place-based approach to support Ukrainian CYP and their families to engage with local activities and organisations.

Making Best use of resources now and for the future

- Working in partnership – Proposal developed in partnership with NHS. Activities to be delivered through a network of local partner organisations.
- Value for money – Early intervention to support low-level MHEW needs to prevent future involvement of specialist services.
- Maximising funding – Utilise HfU funding allocation whilst this is available.

Consultation

2.7 This proposal has been developed in partnership with NHS Sussex (commissioners and providers) and ESCC Public Health.

2.8 This proposal has already been considered and supported by the HfU Programme Board on 3 October. As it was above the £250,000 delegated threshold for them to authorise the funding, this report is now seeking Lead Member approval.

2.9 The proposal was reviewed by the Ukrainian Advisory Group on 5 October 2022. The group, consisting of Ukrainian parents/carers, described it “a really wonderful proposal”, welcoming the recognition of the impact of war and trauma on their children, and this resultant social prescribing proposal to support their wellbeing. They particularly appreciated the opportunity this presents for their children to develop meaningful, local connections with other children, families, and groups. No concerns were raised.

2.10 As a comparator to a similar model of funded positive activities in the community: 80 Ukrainian children attended the summer HAF Programme. 100% of parents said their children enjoyed it and made new friends. 40% said their children were calmer, happier and more settled at home.

2.11 All those consulted about this social prescribing proposal considered that this is an achievable proposal model (as demonstrated by the HAF Programme) and one which is not reliant on specialist mental health practitioners. They recognised the ongoing benefits in terms of building community assets and better partnership working.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 All stakeholders recognise a need to support Ukrainian CYP with MHEW needs.

3.2 The proposal takes the form of an asset-based social prescribing programme, to enable Ukrainian CYP to be supported and funded to access positive activities in the community.

3.3 This report recommends that the Lead Member:

- 1) Approve the allocation of £303,820 of the Home for Ukraine grant to provide a mental health and emotional wellbeing programme for Ukrainian children and young people as set out in the report.
- 2) Note that this work will include alignment with Holiday Activity and Food programme and the broader development of social prescribing approaches in the county.
- 3) Delegate authority for this funding to the Director of Children’s Services.

ALISON JEFFERY
Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

As a county-wide programme, this proposal could potentially impact all electoral divisions.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Appendix 1 - Proposed Programme Budget**Context - Cohort size (as of 7/9/22)**

Total Ukrainian young people cohort (ages 5-19)	518
School age Ukrainian cohort (5-16)	458
Post 16 Ukrainian cohort (17-18)	60
Target cohort = Mild to moderate MHEW needs (50% of school age CYP)	229

Activity costs

Proposed session cost allocation (including travel)	£20
Number of weekly sessions / YP / year	40
Total number of sessions/year (cohort size x individual annual sessions)	9160
Total cost of sessions/year (total sessions x allocated session cost)	£183,200

Note: The proposed session cost of £20 has been calculated based on the average HAF session delivery costs and the costs of extra-curricular clubs already run by local activity providers.

Delivery staff costs

Total cost for 4 link workers / annum	£53,780
<i>Individual Link Worker cost (0.5FTE) - SS9</i>	<i>£13,445</i>
PROJECT COORDINATOR cost (0.4FTE) - SS13 / annum	£16,320
Total proposed delivery staff cost / annum	£70,100

Combined delivery costs

Year 1 - Combined delivery cost (staff and activities)	£253,300
Interpretation costs (£100/child accessing support)	£22,900
Provider learning and development (e.g. MHEW training)	Alternative funds being sourced
Total direct delivery costs	£276,200

10% Management and Administration	£27,620
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Note: To fund staff capacity for Project Management resource within Equality, Participation and Strategic Partnerships team to oversee and evaluate project delivery.

Total cost

Total project costs for 1 year (including 10% Management)	£303,820
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Report to:	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Date of meeting:	28 November 2022
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title:	Re-tendering of the Youth Employability Service (YES)
Purpose:	To seek the approval of the Lead Member to commence re-tendering the Youth Employability Service contract (Advice and Guidance).

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) approve the recommissioning of the Youth Employability Service contract to be awarded in May 2023 with a start date of 1 September 2023; and**
 - 2) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to take all necessary actions, including contract award, to give effect to the implementation of the above recommendation**
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1 Background

1.1 Local authorities have statutory duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. Specifically, these are:

- to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Act 1996. To fulfil this duty, local authorities need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision
- to make support available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of the Education and Skills Act (ESA) 2008
- tracking young people's participation is a key element of these duties, as is promoting effective participation

1.2 Local authorities have a critical role to play in supporting young people to access education and training – and therefore in understanding the characteristics and current activity of the young people in their area. The Department for Education (DfE) monitors the performance of local authorities in delivering their duties, and specifically in their tracking and supporting of 16 and 17 year olds, (and up to 25 year for those with an EHCP) using data collected by authorities monthly and submitted to the National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS). The NCCIS system at East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is referred to as 'Aspire' and a team is commissioned to oversee and support this work.

1.3 The Youth Employability Service (YES) contract helps ESCC meet these statutory duties, particularly in relation to providing direct support which will encourage, enable, or assist vulnerable young people to participate in education or training, as well as tracking, identifying and supporting those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). YES also help to promote participation as well as identify and inform gaps in provision locally.

1.4 The Youth Employability Service contract value is £2,517,285, based on £503,457 per annum for three year, plus the option to extend the contract by 2 x one year. Given ESCC budget uncertainties and the pressure on the Mid Term Financial Plan (MTFP) going forward, some flexibilities to the amount and/or term of the contract are to be included within the contract agreement.

2 Supporting information

2.1 YES currently provide support to over 3500 vulnerable young people per year who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET from Year 11 until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18. YES also support some over 18s on EHCPs or Care Leavers with agreement from those specific Children's Services teams. YES provide different levels of support dependent on the needs of the individual young person. The majority of YES advisors are Level 6 qualified in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) some at Level 7 and a few at level 4 working toward level 6. YES also have some specialist advisors who are co-located with ESCC specialist teams.

2.2 YES utilise the ESCC Aspire database to record all their activity and interventions, which enable a robust monitoring and reporting mechanism. YES Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are reviewed quarterly by ESCC. The latest KPI review indicated good outcomes as a result of YES specialist advisor support, particularly for Looked After Children (LAC)/Care Leavers.

2.3 ESCC Contract Management meets fortnightly with the YES management team for wider joint working discussions. YES deliver more than just the specified contract requirements; they work jointly with Children's Services on other projects, initiatives and events. They are very much seen as part of the wider Skills Education, Employment and Training team and, crucially, they are the direct link to 3500 young people on the ground.

2.4 The YES contract is currently delivered by the charity CXK, who provide support, advice and guidance to help young people and adults to find work, or move into learning or training, and in doing so improving their life chances. CXK are a well-established charity who have delivered several large national and regional contracts, currently including the National Careers Service for the South. Children's Services have also partnered CXK on several bids including most recently to Youth Foundation Fund, which will also align well with the Early Help Team bid for Youth Investment Fund.

2.5 There is no option to further extend the YES contract to CXK so this will go out to competitive tender next year.

2.6 ESCC will work with all relevant specialist teams throughout the re-tendering process to ensure young people are actively involved.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Youth Employability Service help meet ESCC's statutory duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. The service provides good quality support to a significant number of vulnerable young people, ensuring they have the opportunity to progress into and through post 16 education, training or employment improving their life chances and choices.

3.2 The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) approve the recommissioning of the Youth Employability Service contract to be awarded in May 2023 with a start date of 1 September 2023; and
- 2) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to take all necessary actions, including contract award, to give effect to the implementation of the above recommendation.

ALISON JEFFERY
Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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