

Meeting:	Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group
Date:	24 March 2011
Subject:	Prevent Grant 2010/2011
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal for the utilisation of the £138,000 allocation for Preventing Violent Extremism that was made available to the Local Authority in 2010/2011. The report outlines a proposal that will be made to the Council's Executive Committee in April 2011 whereby the money will be allocated in order to provide a ring-fenced budget to deliver mentoring services for young people over the coming three years.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Strategic Group is asked to
- Note the information contained within the report, and
 - Support the proposal being made to the Council's Executive in order to secure funding for a mentoring project in the period 2011 to 2014.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In December 2010, the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee considered a report that provided an update on the delivery of the Prevent agenda in Bromley. The report provided background information on the initiatives delivered under the Prevent banner in the previous two years and addressed the allocation of funding that had been carried forward in to the current financial year. A decision in relation to allocation of the £138,190 available in 2010/2011 was deferred until such time as a case was provided to support targeted youth services within the borough.
- 3.2 One area of targeted support for young people that has been explored relates to the recruitment, "matching" and management of volunteer mentors for young people within the borough. This initiative is noted as being in line with one of the Portfolio Holder's key priorities for the current year. Having identified groups of young people who are assessed as at risk of developing criminal or anti-social behaviour, the support for mentoring is premised on the understanding that targeted support will act as a positive diversion for young people and reduce incidents of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

- 3.3 The work to develop options in relation to mentoring identified the provision of services within the Council under the management of the Education Business Partnership within the Children and Young People Department. This service is responsible for delivering a programme of mentoring, with approved provider status, across a range of services working with young people including social care and education. However, it was noted that direct work with those young people most at risk of developing further criminal and anti-social behaviour was not prioritised. In discussions with the service providers, a draft programme has been agreed to provide a targeted service to young people who have come to the attention of the Youth Offending Services within the borough and those who have been referred to the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Unit.
- 3.4 The current mentoring service is delivered under the management of one full time member of staff and the project works with approximately 62 mentors and 50 young people (or "mentees"). It is proposed that an investment of funding over the coming three years will enable the recruitment of second member of staff and the expansion of the numbers of both mentors and mentees, with an emphasis on expanding services addressing criminal and anti-social behaviour. Final project milestones and targets are currently being finalised with an expectation that delivery can commence on 1 April 2011. However, a number of key principles have been agreed as part of negotiations at this stage and, if an investment of £46,000 is secured, the following parameters have been set:
- Funding will be allocated to recruit a second member of staff to support project delivery (recruitment of mentors, matching to young people and management of ongoing interaction)
 - Funding will be linked to an identified increase in the number of mentors recruited and the number of young people benefiting from the service.
 - The focus of the project should be on those young people most at risk of developing criminal and anti-social behaviour with an emphasis on providing positive diversionary interventions.
 - As part of the ongoing project delivery, a business case should be developed within the first six months of the project to achieve trust status that will enable access to alternative funding sources on the basis of charitable status.
 - That management of the project will be delivered under the governance of the existing steering group for Mentoring Services, facilitated by the Children and Young People's Department.
- 3.5 In recommending this proposed allocation of funding, it is noted that mentoring is a service that meets a number of the key elements of the Prevent agenda, in particular, the capacity to support mainstream voices and increase resilience of communities. In addition, the delivery of mentoring services will support vulnerable individuals and provide some interventions in relation to address grievances etc.