

Key4Life – At Risk Preventative Programme in Somerset

Executive Portfolio Holder: Cllr Val Keitch, Environmental Health, Health & Safety, Equalities & Diversity
Director: Alex Parmley, Chief Executive
Service Manager: Helen Rutter, Communities Lead
Lead Officer: Helen Rutter, Communities Lead
Contact Details: helen.rutter@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01963 435012

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Executive on progress made with “in kind” support for the work of Key4Life following a presentation to the Leadership Meeting in September 2017.

Forward Plan

2. The report was added to the forward plan for March 2018 at the request of the Portfolio holder.

Public Interest

3. This programme is aimed at vulnerable and marginalised young men, in Somerset, at risk of going to prison. Through intensive support, empowerment and meaningful work experience, with local employers, 79% obtained employment, training or meaningful occupations. Apart from the transformation they experience, the benefits for wider society are considerable. Proactive SSDC support ensured that a proportion of those in the programme were from South Somerset. Rather than offer financial support at this stage SSDC has become involved as an employer offering work experience and other practical help.

Recommendations

4. That the District Executive:-
 - (a) notes the work undertaken to date;
 - (b) approves the proposal to investigate further similar opportunities with Key4Life, relevant Officers to progress them, implement where appropriate and report back at the end of this programme.

Background

5. 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. It helps them to find a new purpose in life through an innovative rehabilitation programme. The Charity uses tried and tested methods to devise bespoke support and empowerment packages to vulnerable young offenders. So far it has been very successful at reintegrating this group into society upon release from prison. For those going through the Key4Life prison programme, reoffending rates run at 17% compared with a 74% reoffending rate nationally.

Mendip District Council supported a Key4Life pilot programme in 2015. This included working with young men from Yeovil by helping to rehabilitate and support them to find meaningful employment. This pilot was very successful, with 90% completing work tasters and securing work. The programme resulted in a doubling of their ability to deal with their emotions and sustain a positive attitude to work. In 2016 the Charity ran a Somerset at Risk Preventative Programme. SSDC declined to support this with funding in summer 2016, but instead agreed to get involved as

an employer offering work experience at Lufton Depot. We were the first District Council to offer support in this way.

Somerset at Risk Preventative Programme 2016/17

The Key4Life programme offered “joined up delivery” to support up to 15 young men at risk of going to prison. Of these, 3 were from South Somerset. The target group was some of the most marginalised young men in society with complex family and emotional issues. A forum was established to share best practice and there was a public awareness campaign to attract backing. The total cost of that programme was £60,000, or £4,000 per participant. The charity sought funds from a wide range of businesses, public sector, private donors and other sources to enable it to run up to one year through the staff team and an alumni post course programme of activities.

The programme was delivered very successfully in 7 stages over a 6-month period. This included 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 a further 6 months. It was funded by Mendip, Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor District Councils, Avon & Somerset Police and Trust funds. Key features included:

- 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 7-step programme is meeting with the families
- Key4Life’s achieved consistent involvement of local employers, such as Greencore, Eurilait, HYC Hire Solutions, Yeo Valley, Bath & West Showground Ltd, etc. They supported through mentors, employability workshops, interview technique advice, 3-day “Work Tasters”, which lead to a majority attaining job opportunities

The Charity worked on the ground with relevant support agencies such as YMCA, Promise and YOT, both for referrals and to build links to work alongside relevant support agencies. It costs £4,000 to put a young man through the Key4Life At Risk Programme. It costs the taxpayer at least £37,000 to keep one young offender in prison for a year.

Impact in Somerset

The Charity developed the 2016/17 At Risk Programme because it realised that this service was needed, especially as changes in support for vulnerable young people meant that access to intensive support services has diminished, putting them at increased risk of offending.

At the end of the 2016/17 programme 79% of participants were in employment, training or other meaningful occupation. This gives them a real chance to create and sustain a new life. The wider benefits for SSDC, the Police, the legal system and society as a whole are wide ranging. This could include: less demand for emergency accommodation, reduction in antisocial behaviour, less demand for overstretched specialist services such as mental health support, avoidance of youth offending, the costs that result from custodial sentences.

The Chief Constable Andy Marsh has taken a close interest in the programme and the Force has offered practical, as well as financial, support. In addition, with help from Mendip District Council, Key4Life bid for, and were awarded, funding from the DCLG Communities Fund 2017, to resource transitional, post programme, support.

Most recently it has commenced a residential programme at HMP Guys Marsh. At the same time it is rolling out a further Somerset preventative programme. To progress this and share good practice, a Strategic Round table Partnership is being held in March 2018, involving a wide range of Partners involved with the programme,

Summary of Linkages and Support from SSDC

Cllr Val Keitch and relevant officers have met with Key4Life representatives to better understand the Charity's work and build up practical working links. This has also enabled us to discuss the results from the current programme and the new one starting in March 2018. Yeovil will be one of 3 bases in Somerset from which a total of 15 young men will be supported. Finding suitable housing is a key issue for these young men. Below are some of the avenues that have been, or could be, progressed with the Charity:

- Direct work placements are one of the main ways SSDC can help. During 2016/17 the Environmental Services Manager offered work placements at Lufton Depot to 2 young men from the programme. One of these was subsequently appointed to an apprentice role. His life is completely turned around as a result of the programme and our involvement in it. The experience and transformation of these recruits (crucially with substantial ongoing support from the Charity) has been so dramatic that we recommend we increase our work with them.
- Environmental Services have agreed to further Work Tasters 4-5 young men (more if needed) and are also considering the development into longer term paid placements across all departments, eg: 'spanners'/workshop; plant nursery; cemetery; maintenance; cleansing site; trees for our next At Risk, which would be managed through the use of our recruitment agency.
- In the last 2 months the Manager at Westlands has offered work taster sessions to a young man from the programme to run in February 2018.
- SSDC could, in the future, advocate this programme with our contractors, especially those offering social value as part of their contractual approach.
- The Director of Property and Commercial Services has offered to be a mentor/coach on the programme and other Officers or Councillors may like to put themselves forward.
- Contacts with other key agencies and organisations operating in South Somerset have been given to the Charity. A critical part of their approach is to work with, and add value to, other providers. Cllr Keitch recommended contact with Yeovil4Families who may be well placed to help with mentors. She also will be visiting the Guys Marsh training facility during 2018.
- Key4Life met, in January 2018, with the multi-agency Yeovil One operational group (which includes Police, social housing landlords, Fire, SCC, SSDC, etc). The purpose was to identify young men who may be suitable to be referred onto the forthcoming programme.
- SSDC will attend the Strategic Round table, being organised by the Charity, on 23 March 2018 and will be represented by the Environmental Services Manager and Cllr Val Keitch.

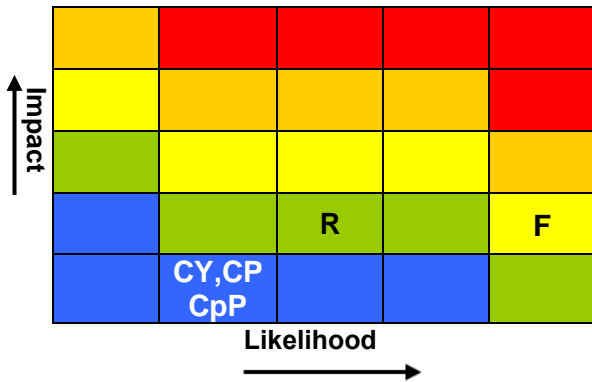
Financial Implications

6. None at this stage, the work of the Charity is being integrated into SSDC to deliver social benefit and value. This is a preventative programme and, where successful, it turns around the lives of

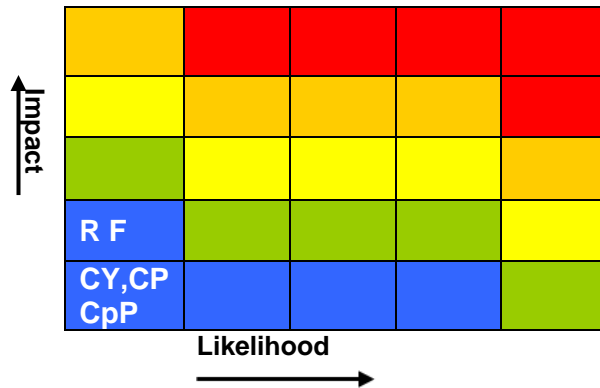
these young men. This will have both personal benefits for them and also wider benefits for society.

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

- The work of Key4Life contributes to our primary aim: “To improve health and reduce health inequalities”. More specifically it addresses the targets: “Offering support to areas of need. Working with partners to tackle health issues such as mental health. Working with partners to keep our communities safe.”

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

- None

Equality and Diversity Implications

- The Programme works with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised young men in our community. It offers a chance for them to be supported and empowered to live independent and successful lives. SSDC support can help to sustain this programme in Somerset.

Privacy Impact Assessment

- Not applicable

Background Papers

- None