

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	30 August 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation Councillor David Sweeton, Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment
Reporting Officer:	Nick Lamb, Interim Assistant Director for Investment, Development & Housing
Subject:	UKSPF PEOPLE & SKILLS FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)
Report Summary:	The report provides an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills funding for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), with approval being sought to accept the funding as detailed in this report and outlining the project proposals to achieve the outcomes set by GMCA.
Recommendations:	That Executive Cabinet approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The acceptance of a grant totalling £0.618m from the GMCA as part of the UKSPF funding to support Young People considered as NEET, of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. £0.490m will support the delivery of the proposed programme of work from September 2023 – August 2025. b. £0.128m will support the recruitment and retention of additional resource to manage the programme. 2. The delivery of a cross Directorate project that will achieve the outcomes set by GMCA, in accordance with the grant conditions, and provide positive progression for young people in the Borough. <p>That Members note the funding from the GMCA is follow on funding to maintain NEET provision across the region, following the cessation of the previous programme that had been funded by the European Union’s European Social Fund.</p>
Corporate Plan:	This supports the Aspirations & Hope priority of increasing the number of 16-19 year olds in employment or education.
Policy Implications:	Effective delivery of this work supports priorities with the Inclusive Growth Strategy, Equality Policy and Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty Strategy.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	The Council is being offered UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills grant funding of £0.618m to deliver a two year programme designed to meet GMCA outcomes in respect of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The funding consists of £0.490m for delivery of the programme and £0.128m for programme management. The funding is to be utilised to finance additional fixed term posts to

provide mentoring and support to young people. Funding will also be utilised to commission additional mental health support and to provide additional funding to the Youth Employment scheme. A summary of the proposed funding allocation is set out in section 5.

The Council will be required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with GMCA. This has not yet been received but is expected to include specific terms and conditions for utilisation of the grant, and reporting and monitoring requirements. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of grant may put funding at risk and result in financial loss to the Council.

Officers must ensure that the project proposals are deliverable and affordable within the grant funding envelope, and that there is no adverse impact on the 2023/24 revenue budget or future year MTFS proposals and the general fund.

Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)

As outlined in the report, approval is sought to accept Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills funding for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Grant Funding Agreement has not yet been received. It is likely that it will set out specific monitoring requirements and timescales for compliance. It will also likely specify the circumstances under which the funding could be suspended, withdrawn or recovered and so further Legal advice on its terms will need to be sought to ensure compliance with its terms. Given there are likely to be obligations to comply with procurement legislation and the Subsidy Control Act 2022 any commissioned works funded by the grant will need to be procured in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and appropriate advice from STAR Procurement sought in order to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and to avoid any subsidy arising. Due to the value of this grant, this is a Key Decision.

Risk Management:

Supporting young people who are not in education, employment or training into positive employment and careers enables long term economic growth.

Access to Information:

Not confidential

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Sarah Jamieson, Head of Economy Employment & Skills



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This funding replaces the ESF (European Social Fund) which has delivered support for young people recognised as NEET (Not in Employment Education or Training). In Tameside this has been delivered by Ingeus (Future You) and Career Connect (Connect to Your Future). These programmes ceased to take new referrals from June 2023 with delivery due to end in September 2023. These programmes have not been commissioned by Tameside Council and we have not had any involvement or control of these contracts.
- 1.2 The provision expected from this new fund is to provide locally delivered support to move young people into or towards employment, education or training. This is separate from the statutory duty of Local Authorities to track young people and to provide careers advice, although the work will have operational links.
- 1.3 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority, after consultation with Local Authorities Work & Skills Local Leads, have agreed a funding split for part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills E33 (Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills) and E34 (Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills) interventions.
- 1.4 The funding split has been calculated from a review of the percentages of young people who are in the NEET (not in education, employment or training) group.
- 1.5 This will enable Local Authorities to deliver a hyper place based approach to supporting young people aged 15-18 years of age, and those aged up to 24 with an Education & Healthcare Plan (EHP) or aged to 21 if care experienced, who are at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET); who are already NEET; or who are in the group referenced as 'Unknown' where the current education, employment or training situation is not recorded.
- 1.6 This decision was confirmed in writing on 30 June 2023 and a proposal was required to be submitted to GMCA by 14 July 2023 confirming how the funding will be utilised by the Local Authority.
- 1.7 A grant of £490,000 is offered to Tameside Local Authority to deliver the project and additional funding of £128,000 to recruit additional resource for a two-year period to manage this work monitor outcomes and act as liaison with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
- 1.8 The grant funded spend and related work must take place between September 2023 and completed by 31 March 2025.

2. FUNDING ALLOCATION

- 2.1 The funding allocation is based on NEET (16-17)/ Not Known rates (March 2023 data) which has then been converted into a % of GM share for the proposed NEET (£4.75m) interventions.
- 2.2 The table below shows the allocations for Greater Manchester.

Local Authority	NEET (16/17) / Not Known as % of GM	UKSPF NEET Funding allocation
Bolton	8.9%	£420,000
Bury	5.0%	£240,000
Manchester	23.3%	£870,000

Oldham	15.2%	£720,000
Rochdale	10.2%	£480,000
Salford	9.9%	£470,000
Stockport	6.5%	£310,000
Tameside	10.3%	£490,000
Trafford	6.7%	£320,000
Wigan	9.2%	£440,000

3. PLAN AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The grant will be provided to deliver a hyper place based programme of activities that will support priority groups through key transition groups to:
- Decrease levels of young people identified as at risk of NEET transitioning into NEET,
 - Reduce NEET levels for priority groups,
 - Reduce the disparity in NEET levels for priority groups against whole age cohort,
 - Reduce levels of young people whose situation is not known and increase participation levels of priority groups.
- 3.2 The support provided must include a personal support fund to remove barriers and identified mental health support.
- 3.3 Specific outcomes and outputs have been set by Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and monitoring with evidence will be required to show that they have been achieved, these are as follows:
- Number of people engaged in job-searching following support,
 - Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision,
 - Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support,
 - Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF,
 - Number of people with basic skills following support.
- 3.4 The timeframe, as advised by GMCA, is as follows:
- Specification, template and Annex A issued 30 June 2023,
 - Template and Annex A to be completed and submitted by Local Authorities by 14 July 2023
 - Appraisal 17 July 2023 – 20 July 2023 by GMCA
 - Hand over to Grant Funding Pack development team – 20 July 2023,
 - Grant Funding Agreements provided to LA's mid-late August for return to allow delivery from September 2023.

4. TARGETS AND COHORT

- 4.1 GMCA have advised that the minimum expectation for Tameside is for 258 young people to be engaged with during the lifetime of this project, from September 2023 to 31 March 2025.
- 4.2 Whilst the cohort in scope for this support will change in September 2023 when young people decide if they are engaging with the education, employment or training (EET) outcomes initially planned, the current known cohort is as follows:
- 280 NEET (not in education, employment or training)
 - 110 'unknown' (not known if NEET or EET)
 - 104 care experienced young people

4.3 Engagement will be made with Year 11 providers to understand the ‘at risk’ cohort when the new academic year begins, as education providers are now within the summer break it is not possible to gain this information.

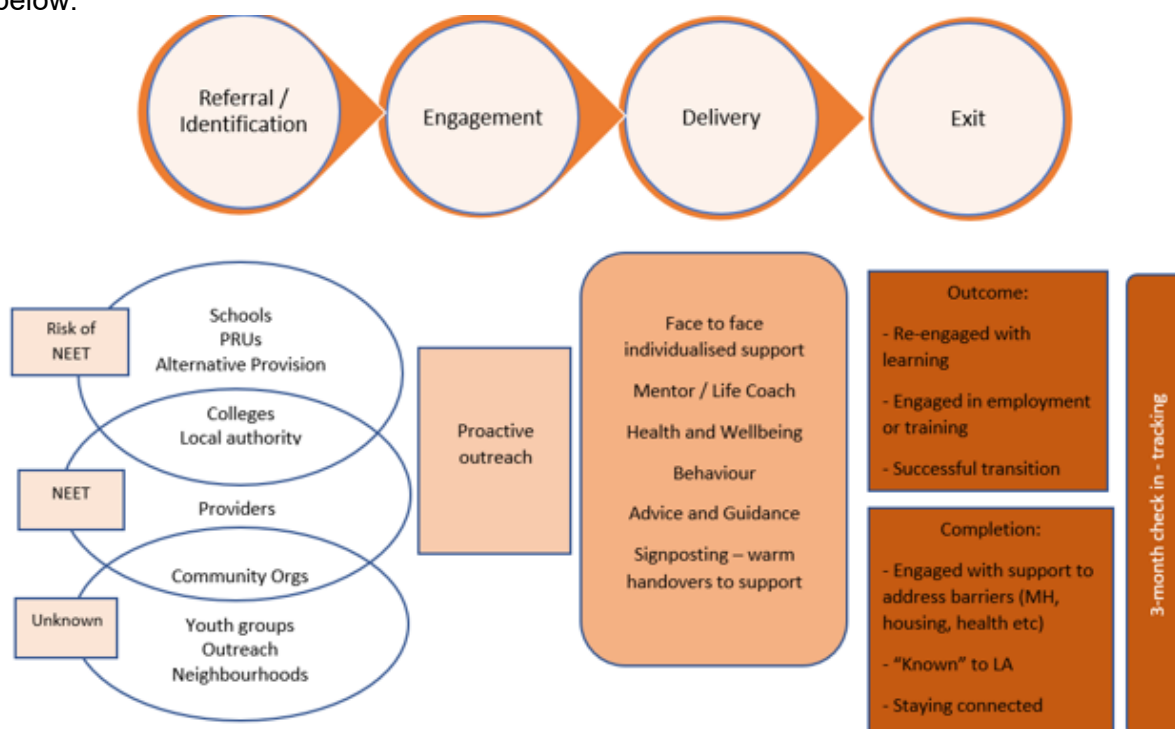
5. TAMESIDE DELIVERY PROPOSAL

5.1 A task group has been formed with colleagues from Economy, Employment & Skills, Childrens Services (including Leaving Care, SEND and Virtual School) and Population Health to develop the proposal in the short time frame available with advice taken from Director of Childrens Service.

5.2 A summary of the proposal is set out in this section and the full proposal submitted to GMCA is attached as **Appendix 1**. Funding is to be allocated as follows:

Funding Allocation	Cost
Staffing (Approx, Oct 23 to Mar 25): Outreach Support worker x 2 EET Focused Support Worker x1 Routes to Work Keyworker x1 NEET Partnership Engagement Officer x1 Apprentice Support x1	£315,000
Commissioned Mental Health Support	£49,000
Youth Employment Scheme	£100,000
Development Fund & Contingency	£26,000
Programme Delivery Grant Total	£490,000
Programme Management Funding	£128,000
Total Funding	£618,000

5.3 The delivery will match the GMCA requirements following the model shown in the visual below.



- 5.4 This project will build on cross Directorate and partnership work in Tameside. Delivery will be primarily through the creation of Mentor roles who will link with existing teams for the additional resource required that will allow an increased focus on EET destinations. This will act as a 'link' team between the services who work with our young people, including Youth Justice Services, Virtual School, SEND, Leaving Care, Young Carers, SHIFT, Staying Close, Youth Employment Support, FE Pastoral teams, our Careers guidance team and the EET opportunities which include the offer from Further Education, Apprenticeships, Supported Internships and employment.
- 5.5 The need for support for young people with an EHCP has been highlighted and we will extend the successful Routes to Work supported employment model to create a role that will focus on EET outcomes for young people with health barriers. The role will have matrix management from the Routes to Work manager and the Tameside Futures team.
- 5.6 Additional Mental Health support will also be commissioned, following a recent commission for the Staying Close project this will be duplicated to create additional support that young people can access as there will be crossover from both projects.
- 5.7 The proposed staffing model is shown in the table below:

Engagement	Outreach & detached - 2 x Mentor
Mentoring	1 x Mentor / Keyworker 1 x Disability Specialist Supported Employment Mentor / Keyworker 1 x Partnership & Engagement Officer
Mental Health	Support via Big Life Living Well specialist
Administration	Business Administration Apprentice

- 5.8 In addition to staffing, a proportion of the fund will be allocated to the creation of job opportunities using the Tameside Youth Employment Scheme model which reimburses employers for the critical first months of employment. This has been successful in creating roles for care experienced young people in a tolerant environment enabling a routine to be established and employer expectations understood, leading to sustained employment.
- 5.9 A smaller allocation is set aside for the spot purchase of support or specific training where not already available or to overcome other barriers to EET outcomes. Existing support will be considered before the use of this fund.

6. MONITORING AND CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Whilst the timescale for the development of this proposal has not allowed for consultation with young people, this will be included within the project implementation following the Lundy Model, which is the consultation model preferred by GMCA.
- 6.2 Consultation has taken place with a range of professionals from the teams referenced in section 3.4 with the aim of ensuring that the plan has the involvement of all required partners.
- 6.3 Following the requirements set by GMCA, an IT database system will be utilised to monitor outcomes and outputs that is able to link directly to the GMCA GMIT system. A separate task group is being established with colleagues from IT, Audit and Information Governance to ensure that the planned Sharepoint system is suitable and that data is protected in the correct manner.
- 6.4 Data Protection Impact and Equality Impact Assessments will also be completed.

7. UKSPF GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

- 7.1 The grant funding agreement for this element of UKSPF is expected to be provided in mid/late August to all local authorities in Greater Manchester.
- 7.2 The signing of the grant funding agreement will enable the Council to deliver the UKSPF SME Workspace investment priority for Tameside and drawdown associated funding. The Grant Funding Agreement is based on the Government's "Model Grant Funding Agreement" and sets out the conditions which apply to Tameside receiving the UKSPF SME Workspace investment grant.
- 7.3 It is expected that the grant funding agreement will be as received and signed to accept the UKSPF Communities & Place and UKSPF Local Business funding streams.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 As set out at the front of the report.