

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday 20 th May 2019
Report Subject	ADTRAC Project
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer Education & Youth
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an update to Members on the work and outcomes of the ADTRAC project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To acknowledge the work and impact of the ADTRAC service.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PROJECT CONTEXT AND PROVISION
1.01	ADTRAC is a European Social Funded (ESF) project targeted at 16 to 24 year olds who have been classified as being not in education, employment or training (NEET). The project has been live since July 2017 and will run for 3 years until October 2020.
1.02	ADTRAC is a regional project which is split into 2 sub regions, East and West. Flintshire County Council is partnered with Wrexham County Borough Council and operates under the East branch of the project. Other key project partners include Betsi Cadwallader University Health Board (BCUHB), the Department for Work and Pensions and Careers Wales.

1.03	The terms and conditions attached to ESF grants is such that the funding can only be used to provide additionality to existing services. Careful thought was given along with wider consultation to determine where this funding could be used appropriately and effectively to support young people across Flintshire. It was agreed that the focus of the activity should be for those young people who were furthest away from engagement, particularly those who required a more intensive package of support and whose barriers were linked to mental health.
1.04	As a result of this decision, the overall target for engagement across the 2 counties for the lifespan of the project is 324 young people. It was anticipated that each person engaged could potentially require input for between 12-18 months to support them into a secure outcome which resulted in the deliberately low figure.
1.05	The funding allocated to the East project is approx. £1.6m for the 3 years. This funds the management structure of 0.5 project manager, 0.5 finance officer, ADTRAC coordinator and administrative staff; the remaining 0.5 allocation for the project manager and finance officer is allocated to the TRAC project which ensures a strong link between these 2 ESF projects. The service is delivered via youth engagement mentors and a mental health practitioner (employed by BCUHB).
1.06	There are 3 referral routes into the service namely via Careers Wales, from the Work Coaches linked to young people through Job Centres and also self-referral or referral from another supporting agency.
1.07	Once accepted onto the project, the young person accesses the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2-1 intensive support • Personalised action plans to guide them on their journey • Well-being support including the opportunity to access provision for mild/moderate mental health needs • Access to training to help them achieve their goals • Employability support.
1.08	To date, 158 young people have engaged with the ADTRAC project, with a further 14 in the pipeline. Of these, 64% have been long term unemployed, with 30% living within a jobless household. A total of 6% have presented as homeless. A significant percentage are identified as having mental health conditions (84%), with 45% having a learning disability or difficulty. A number of the young people have experienced abuse in the form of domestic abuse (20%) or substance abuse (20%), demonstrating the overall complexity of the cohort engaged with the ADTRAC project.
1.09	A total of 86 young people have achieved positive outcomes so far as a result of being part of the ADTRAC project. These range from the softer outcomes of improvement in emotional health or mental wellbeing to the more formal outcomes of accessing work experience, completion of qualifications or engagement with training or employment.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	To access ESF, local authorities are required to identify match funding to the value of the grant allocated. This has been provided in the form of matched Council expenditure on officers across a range of portfolios who are currently engaged with young people/adults who are NEET.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation took place prior to commencement of the project with a range of internal services and external partners to identify where additionality would be most effective. Feedback from young people has also been used to further shape and refine the project's delivery model.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The project staff are directly employed by Wrexham County Council Borough Council but deliver the service on behalf of both authorities. An element of funding has been built into the finances of the project to support the redundancy costs that will occur upon cessation of ADTRAC in October 2020; Flintshire County Council will be liable for 50% of the redundancy costs. It is not anticipated that the redundancy costs will exceed the funding allocated however, a contingency is in place using the flat rate funding to cover any potential additional costs, removing the financial risk for the Council.
4.02	Discussion has taken place between the regional management board and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) with regard to the impact of Brexit. Confirmation has been provided that the current budget allocation will be maintained for the lifespan of the project.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None included.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jeanette Rock, Senior Manager Inclusion & Progression Telephone: 01352 704017 E-mail: jeanette.rock@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>ADTRAC: the name of the project targeting 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>European Social Funding (ESF): The particular aim of ESF spending is to support the creation of more and better jobs in the European Union, which it does by co-funding national, regional and local projects that improve the levels of employment, the quality of jobs, and the inclusiveness of the labour market in the Member States and their regions.</p> <p>Flat rate: ESF recipients receive a percentage of the overall project's staffing expenditure as part of the grant allocation. This is referred to as the 'flat rate' and can be used flexibly to support the project.</p> <p>Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO): the Welsh government office responsible for distributing the European funds which Wales receives.</p>