

Apprenticeships Review

Purpose

1. To provide Members of the Apprenticeships Review Committee with the opportunity to:
 - o Discuss the final report, conclusions and recommendations for the review.

Information

2. On 23 July 2009 the Overview Committee agreed to include in the scrutiny work programme a review of apprenticeships in Nottinghamshire with a particular focus on public sector providers.
3. The review examined current apprenticeships available for young people in Nottinghamshire across all sectors, with a specific focus on public sector providers and in particular the County Council. It considered if there are sufficient places to meet demand and the role of the County Council in increasing the number of apprenticeships available and in promoting this route to obtaining employment.
4. The committee met on five occasions and at the first meeting received information about apprenticeship participation and promotion across all sectors in Nottinghamshire. Representatives from The National Apprenticeship Service and the Learning and Skills Council explained their role in supporting organisations when establishing apprenticeships.
5. The meeting on 8 February 2010 heard about the work of the Public Sector Compact in developing and supporting apprenticeships in the public sector in Nottinghamshire and the County Council.
6. At the third meeting on the 8 March 2010 Members were informed about work undertaken by Skills for Employment, Youth Support Services, Nottinghamshire County Council and the vocational opportunities and work based learning projects they offer young people. Workforce training issues within the Adult Social Care and Health and their involvement in offering young people work placements and apprenticeships in social care was also considered.

7. Representatives from Connexions attended the review to discuss how they in support young people in their career choices. Members also heard how the County Council works in partnership to ensure that 14 - 19 year olds have access to education and training that will prepare them for adult working. This included the role that apprenticeships can play in achieving this objective.
8. Members undertook visits to the Eastbourne Centre to find out how the Nottinghamshire Skills for Employment Service operates its apprenticeship scheme and also the Ashfield School who have forged successful links with the business community.
9. At the final evidence gathering meeting on 26 April Members were informed about progress towards establishing an apprenticeship scheme within the County Council.
10. It was agreed that a draft final report be produced for consideration at the meeting on 18 May 2010. The draft report will be circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the Apprenticeships Review Committee:
 - o the Committee considers the draft final report and discuss the recommendations
 - o that subject to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee agreeing the final text of any amendments, the Committee agree the final report
 - o the minutes of the meeting of the Select Committee on 18 May 2010 are agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Review and be submitted to the Education Standing Committee for information.

Councillor Liz Yates
Chair of the Apprenticeships Review Committee

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Background papers:
Nil