

Membership

Councillors

Liz Yates (Chair)
John Allin (Vice Chair)
LB Cooper
V H Dobson
Sybil Fielding
● Michelle Gent
● Wendy Quigley
Martin Wright
Stuart Wallace

● absent

Statutory Co-optees

- Edward Hayes
 - James Parry
- David Richards
John Rudd

Officers

Sara Allmond – Governance Officer
Helen Lee – Scrutiny Officer
Sarah Platt – Children & Young People
Chris Pritchett – Children & Young People
Dermot Cooney – Nottinghamshire Training Network
Terry Laws – Learning and Skills Council
Richard Kisgory – National Apprenticeship Service

1. Minutes of meeting on 24 November 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michelle Gent and Mrs Wendy Quigley.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

4. Apprenticeships Review Briefing

Members considered a written report on Workforce Planning in Adult Social Care and Health regarding the work done in the past two years by the Workforce Planning Team in its aim of encouraging more people into the social care workforce.

Dermot Cooney of the Nottinghamshire Training Network gave a presentation on the work of the Training Network in relation to apprenticeships.

In response to members' comments and questions, Mr Cooney stated:

- The skills frameworks were developed by the industry it related to and was flexible so it could be adapted for individual businesses needs.
- Ofsted inspections were carried out on training providers to ensure they were fit for purpose and were delivering the training to a high enough standard.
- The Training Network matched the needs of the business with the right apprentice to ensure both benefited from the scheme.
- Young people still at school could do a Level 2 Apprenticeship which involved them going to the employer 1 day a week. If the student then continued into a full apprenticeship scheme they would have done a lot of the work required for year one of the scheme already.

Sarah Platt and Chris Pritchett of the Engagement and Enrichment Division of the Youth Support Service gave a presentation on the Apprenticeships Schemes they offered in relation to Childcare. The Division hoped to be able to expand the types of Apprenticeships they offered and wanted to be able to approach Service Managers of other departments within the Authority to facilitate setting up Apprenticeship Schemes within those departments.

In response to members' comments and questions, Ms Platt and Mr Pritchett stated:

- There was currently no co-ordinated approach to providing apprenticeships within the County Council and no central record of each apprentice to ensure they were all given equal support from the Council in carrying out their apprenticeship.
- The Engagement and Enrichment Division was considered to be a good provider following its Ofsted Inspection which resulted in a grade 2 rating.

- All the childcare students were training within Nottinghamshire County Council schools and it was expected that many of them would go into employment within these schools.
- Students currently applied for apprenticeships through the Connexions service, which would match what the student was looking for with the service provider which could offer that scheme.
- It was proposed that in the future there would be support for a corporate framework with the aim of proactively engaging managers, resulting in an increase in the number of apprenticeships available across the local authority.
- Of 96 Apprenticeship Schemes currently being undertaken within the Authority the Engagement and Enrichment Division were only managing 50 of them and finding out which departments had apprenticeships was proving very difficult as this information was not collated centrally.

Terry Laws informed the Sub Committee that on 1 April 2010 the Council would take over the commissioning of Apprenticeships and it was important to ensure that there were checks and balances in place, so that all service providers felt that the system was fair.

It was agreed: -

- (a) that further information be provided on the Care Ambassador Scheme managed by the Workforce Planning Team in Adult Social Care and Health.
- (b) that the Chairman would send a letter to all Service Directors, on behalf of the Sub Committee asking for details of all apprenticeship schemes currently being undertaken within their department.

5. Managing the Programme of Work

The programme of work for the review was discussed.

It was agreed that a visit to the Engagement and Enrichment Division should be carried out by the following Members: -

Councillor Liz Yates
Councillor John Allin
Councillor L B Cooper
Councillor Stuart Wallace
Councillor Martin Wright
Mr David Richards
Mr John Rudd

It was agreed to have the next meeting of the Apprenticeships Sub Committee on Monday 29 March 2010 and to invite a business who had apprentices to attend and give information on how they found the Apprenticeships scheme.

The meeting closed at 3.12pm.

CHAIR

Ref: m_8Mar10