

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
Terry Laws – Learning and Skills Council
Karen Murphy-Ryan – National Apprenticeship Service
Karen Woodward – National Apprenticeship Service

1. Chair and Vice-Chair

It was agreed that Councillor Liz Yates would be appointed as Chair and Councillor John Allin would be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wendy Quigley (on other County Council business) and Mr James Parry.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

4. Apprenticeships Review Briefing

Terry Laws and Karen Woodward gave a presentation on apprenticeships and the roles of the Learning and Skills Council and National Apprenticeships Service.

In response to members' comments and questions, Mr Laws and Ms Woodward stated:

- 18 year olds were the priority for the apprenticeship schemes, and funding was received for 16-18 year olds.
- There were 3 roles the County Council played in terms of apprenticeships which were promotion at schools, working with employers to take on apprentices and developing an in house apprenticeship scheme.
- Apprenticeships can be started all year round. Recent figures showed that the number of new starters had gone down since the start of the recession, with many companies allowing current apprenticeships to complete, but not taking on anyone new to replace them.
- Many organisations had shown an interest in apprenticeship schemes believing that they no longer existed and did not know how to access support to start a scheme. The LSC and NAS were able to support organisations in taking on apprentices.
- Different levels of qualifications could be gained, and the intention was that in the future level 3 and 4 qualifications would have UCAS points towards university.
- The employer pays for the wages of the apprentice, but not for the train. The minimum wage for an apprentice is £95 a week.

It was agreed that visits to some apprenticeships schemes would be carried out after Christmas.

5. Managing the Programme of Work

The programme of work for the review was discussed.

It was agreed to have the next meeting of the Apprenticeships Sub Committee on Monday 21 December 2009, with other public sector employers who have apprenticeships schemes invited to present.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

CHAIR

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