

14 October 2013**Agenda Item: 9**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES & CULTURE

OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT: FUTURES

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Committee of the work of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures, an outside body upon which the Council is represented.

Information and Advice

2. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures (NNF) is a wholly owned Company of Nottingham City Council and the County Council, with both Authorities owning a 50% share in it. The Company was, until 2008, known as Nottinghamshire Connexions; its purpose then was to deliver Advice, Information and Guidance (AIG) services, mainly in the form of careers advice, to young people aged 13-19 years, usually in school settings across the City and County.
3. From 2009 onwards, the focus of NNF has gradually broadened to incorporate adult careers guidance (the Company is contracted to deliver the East Midlands component of the Government's National Careers Service by the Skills Funding Agency), work experience activity in schools, leaver tracking services for schools and FE colleges, and apprenticeship employment and training (NNF is the agency from which the County Council secures its current young apprentices).
4. This additional activity has been generated in response to two key drivers. First, the Coalition Government has changed the legislation around AIG and careers advice. Previously, local authorities had a statutory duty to secure universal AIG provision for all 13-19 year olds. Since 2011 however, the duty to secure careers advice to young people of secondary school age has transferred to schools, with local authority responsibilities being restricted to securing AIG for young people identified as vulnerable. Second, in line with the change in statutory responsibilities, the Government has substantially reduced the funding it makes available to local authorities to support this AIG activity, and there is no longer any ring fenced funding available to Councils. Funding has, in part, been transferred to schools to support their delivery of their new duty. In consequence, Council funding for Futures has reduced significantly in recent years, from over £6million in 2009/10, to approximately £2million in the current year (these reductions have been mirrored proportionately by City Council reductions).
5. The funding that the Council currently awards to NNF is governed by a contract that sets out the Council's performance requirements as the commissioner of AIG provision

for vulnerable teenagers. The contract requires NNF to support the Council's Early Help offer by seconding its 50+ delivery staff into the Council's Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service. As such, NNF staff form a key component of this multi agency service. The Council requires NNF to lead on its 16-18 year old NEET reduction activity, and in this respect the Company has a long track record of success. Current NEET levels in Nottinghamshire are around 3%, which are lower than both statistical neighbours and the national average.

6. The Council is represented on the board of NNF by the Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and the Service Director for Youth, Families and Culture. This representation reflects the increasing role of the Company in wider skills and economic development activity.
7. In the current year, it is anticipated that NNF will have a turnover of approximately £14million. As a Not For Profit Company, any surpluses it makes on its contracted activities will be reinvested proportionately in its Nottingham and Nottinghamshire activities.
8. The Company's current priorities include:
 - preparing for a forthcoming Ofsted inspection of its adult careers provision (it has self assessed its provision as "Good")
 - tendering for the soon to be re-commissioned National Careers Service contract (this process is likely to commence over the winter of 2013)
 - generating additional income from schools procuring careers advice provision
 - further developing its apprenticeship activity.

Other Options Considered

9. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

12. Appropriate consideration has been given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the view of the County Council that this outside body supports the development of responsible citizens.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

13. The outside body takes due account of safeguarding needs and requirements in all aspects of its responsibilities and functions

Human Resources Implications

14. Appropriate levels of human resources have been allocated to the outside body.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the work of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures, an outside body on which the Council is represented, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

15. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 29/08/13)

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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