

Purpose

1. To supply Members of the Apprenticeships Review Committee with information regarding apprenticeship provision in Nottinghamshire County Council which is required as part of the evidence gathering process for the review.

Information

2. On 23 July the Overview Committee agreed to include in the programme of work for scrutiny a review of apprenticeships in Nottinghamshire with a particular focus on public sector providers.
 3. The review will examine current provision of 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 will consider if there are sufficient places to meet demand, if the County Council has a role in increasing the number of apprenticeships available and in promoting this route to obtaining employment with a recognised skills qualification.
 4. At the first meeting of the review Terry Laws, Partnership Director, the Learning and Skills Council and Karen Woodward, Regional Apprenticeship Director, the National Apprenticeship Service discussed apprenticeships including participation and promotion across all sectors in Nottinghamshire.
 5. Marjorie Toward, Service Director HR Services, Corporate Services, Nottinghamshire County Council and Chair of the Nottinghamshire Public Service Compact, and Chris Donkin, Compact Facilitator attended the meeting on 8 February and discussed public sector apprenticeships in Nottinghamshire and how the County Council was seeking to increase apprenticeships, traineeships, graduate schemes and work experience places. The Committee learnt that apprenticeship opportunities in the County Council are limited and that no coordinated programme exists across departments to identify and promote apprenticeship opportunities. There are a small number of apprentices within the authority allied to departmental specialisms in Adult Social Care and Health and the property division of Corporate Services.
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6. This meeting is to consider issues relating to apprenticeships in Nottinghamshire County Council. The County Council is the single largest employer in the area but has a very limited involvement with the provision of apprenticeships. It does however offer vocational level programmes.
7. A report from Claire Pool, Service Manager, Workforce Planning Adults Social Care and Health discusses the role of workforce and training issues within the department and the involvement in offering young people work placements and apprenticeships in social care. (Appendix 1).
8. Dermot Cooney, Membership Service Manager, Notts Training Network will attend the meeting and give a presentation about the work of the Network. The Training Network promotes work based learning and supports work based learning providers which are involved in delivering apprenticeships.
9. Nottinghamshire Skills for Employment provides a range of vocational learning opportunities for young people, primarily but not exclusively in the Mansfield and Ashfield areas. This includes work based learning projects for trades and skills such as painting and decorating, child care, horticulture and construction. Chris Pritchett, Team Manager, Apprenticeships and Sarah Platt, Service Manager, Skills for Employment, Youth Support Services will discuss their role in supporting young people to obtain employment.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the Apprenticeships Review Committee:
 - consider and ask questions about the information provided and discuss any issues arising from the presentations
 - consider issues where the Committee may require additional information and agree any areas around the future work programme
 - consider if Members would like to undertake a visit to observe the work undertaken by the Skills for Employment team.

Councillor Liz Yates
Chair of the Apprenticeships Review

Lead Scrutiny Officer: helen.lee@nottscc.gov.uk

Background papers:
Nil