

Report of the Chair of the Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Review

Scrutiny Review of Youth Unemployment

Summary

1. This report sets out the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review into Youth Unemployment. A copy of the full final report is at **Appendix 1** to this report and Councillor D'Agorne, the Chair of the Task Group who undertook the work around this topic, will be in attendance at the May Cabinet meeting to present the report.
2. Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations arising from this review.

Background to the Review

3. At a meeting of Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27th March 2012 it was agreed that during the 2012/13 municipal year, they would carry out a review around youth unemployment. At a meeting held on 20th June 2012 It was subsequently agreed that the review would be carried out by a Task Group¹ working to the following remit:

Aim

4. With a particular focus on vacancies within the care sector and business administration, to look at ways City of York Council can help young people to navigate the employment economy.

Key Objectives

- i. Investigate what the barriers are for young people (ages 16-24) getting work

¹ The Task Group was comprised of Councillors D'Agorne, Riches and Semlyen

- ii. Investigate whether all agencies are playing their part in supporting young people into work
- iii. To investigate whether there are any gaps and/or overlaps in provision and if so make recommendation to address them

Recommendations

- 5. Over a series of informal meetings the Task Group gathered the evidence set out in **Appendix 1** and its associated annexes. This led to the following recommendations being made:
- 6. **Recommendation 1** - That the Learning City York Partnership Manager, via the 'Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities' partnership network and the Learning City Strategic Board, take overall responsibility for setting an achievable target with key partners within the city to reduce longer term unemployment in the 18-24 year old bracket.
- 7. **Recommendation 2** – That City of York Council continue to offer apprenticeships to young people under the age of 24 and evaluate the success of this by collecting information on how many of those that have completed an apprenticeship at the Local Authority are still in work or further training 6 – 12 months later and that the Learning City York Partnership Manager lead on a programme with the Head of Adult Services to develop a programme that better supports unemployed 18-24 year olds into unfilled apprenticeship vacancies.
- 8. **Recommendation 3** - That City of York Council continue to offer work experience placements to under 16's (whilst still at school) and under 18s not yet ready for an apprenticeship. And in addition to this:
 - i. That the Head of Strategic Workforce Development and Resourcing, in conjunction with the Learning City York Partnership Manager, offer a discrete, managed, matched pilot, of work experience placement opportunities for unemployed 18 to 24 year olds, who have been unemployed in excess of three months
 - ii. That the Head of Strategic Workforce Development and Resourcing ensures that there is a robust Graduate and Student Internship Programme in place within the authority.
- 9. **Recommendation 4** - That the Head of Adult Services at City of York Council ensures that Future Prospects works in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and leads on the co-ordinating of twice yearly job fairs.

10. **Recommendation 5** - That the Head of Adult Services at City of York Council ensures that the Future Prospects team continue to work in conjunction with Jobcentre Plus, to offer sector specific workshops and that both Work Programme providers and their clients* are made aware of the sector specific workshops on offer.

*in this instance clients means unemployed 18 to 24 year olds, including those on the Work Programme

11. **Recommendation 6** - That the Learning City York Partnership Manager continue to facilitate quarterly networking meetings of 'Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities' to support residents on out of work benefits and seeking employment. This networking meeting should include a standing item on looking at potential solutions to enable currently unemployed 18-24 year olds back into work.

12. **Recommendation 7** - That the Council's Head of Communications lead on a branded campaign that effectively markets:

- i. success stories and inspiring cases about York's young people finding jobs/self employment and those that have overcome barriers to gain employment
- ii. apprentices and interns
- iii. a video of the next job fair
- iv. wage incentives and support available to employers

13. **Recommendation 8** - That the Learning City York Partnership Manager continue to promote the range of support available to employers.

14. **Recommendation 9** - That the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Transport explore potential ways and investigate the feasibility of funding/providing sustainable subsidised travel that fits shift patterns and would help young people to access entry level jobs outside of the city centre (e.g. bicycles, public transport, car share)

15. **Recommendation 10** - That the Work Programme providers, working with the Learning City York Partnership Manager and the Head of Adult Services at City of York Council, develop a plan for improving the skills of those clients without basic literacy and numeracy. This should happen in the first year of the Work Programme's two year cycle.

16. Further details on how Members arrived at these recommendations are contained within **Appendix 1** to this report.

Consultation

17. Consultation took place throughout the review and Members have taken guidance from officers within the Council. In addition to this they met with representatives from Jobcentre Plus and both the Work Programme prime contract holders and the sub-contracted providers. Further details of the consultation that took place are contained within **Appendix 1** to this report.

Options

18. Having considered the final report at **Appendix 1** and its associated annexes, Cabinet may choose to amend and/or approve or reject the recommendations arising from this review as set out in **paragraphs 6-15** of this report.

Analysis

19. Analysis of the evidence gathered is contained within the body and the analysis sections of the full final report at **Appendix 1** to this report.

Council Plan 2011-15

20. This Scrutiny Review was directly linked to the 'Create Jobs and Grow the Economy' priority of the Council Plan 2011-15. The aim of the priority is for all of the city's residents to enjoy the opportunity to achieve their potential within York's economy. A strong and growing economy will provide new job opportunities and the ability for residents to achieve a high quality of life for themselves and their families.

Implications

21. Implications are set out within the full final report at **Appendix 1** to this report.

Risk Management

22. In order to meet the priority in the Council Plan 2011-15 around creating jobs and growing the economy there is a need to address what opportunities there are for young people to become gainfully employed. There is a danger that if we do not introduce some or all of the measures set out in this report the Council would not meet some of the ambitions contained within the Council Plan.

Recommendations

23. The Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask the Cabinet to:

- (i). Note the contents of the final report attached
- (ii). Consider the recommendations as shown at **Paragraphs 6-15** of this cover report

Reason: To fully inform the Cabinet of the outcome of this scrutiny review.

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Report
Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Appendix 1 Final report & associated annexes