



AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors D Taylor (Chair), Webb (Vice-Chair),
Daubeney, Fenton, Fitzpatrick, Heaton and Hollyer

Date: Tuesday, 23 July 2019

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **15 July 2019**. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda item:

11. Scrutiny of York Learning

This report proposes strengthened scrutiny arrangements for York Learning through the establishment of a Stakeholder Governance Board to support the strategic leadership of the service, and seeks representation to that board from this committee.

This agenda supplement was published on **15 July 2019**

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Children, Education and Communities Policy 23 July 2019
and Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities and Culture)

Scrutiny of York Learning

Summary

1. This report proposes strengthened scrutiny arrangements for York Learning.

Recommendations

2. The committee is asked to:
 - Agree the governance proposal set out in paragraph 9.
 - Elect a chair for the proposed board.

Reason: To ensure effective governance arrangements for York Learning.

Background

3. York Learning is a CYC service area which focuses primarily on:
 - Helping those furthest from the job market to improve their confidence, self-esteem and employability skills.
 - Delivering community based learning, co-produced with local people, close to where they live and work, and designed to take account of community needs.
 - Working with the most disadvantaged to improve their English, maths and ICT.
 - Delivering provision to 90+ High Needs Support students who might otherwise require “out of area” placements.
 - Delivering apprenticeships both for the council and for small businesses locally.

4. The service reports twice yearly to this committee on its progress against its strategic plan. These reports form an important part of the service's governance arrangements. It is important for the service to be able to demonstrate to Ofsted that it has secure and robust governance arrangements in place. This requirement has been given more weight in a number of recent Adult and Community Learning Inspections and this has led us to review the current arrangements and to propose some strengthening.

New arrangements required

5. Adult Learning is often provided through FE colleges that have boards of governors. Ofsted see strengths in these arrangements in terms of the level of challenge that they provide. Such an arrangement does not translate into a local authority setting; however, the following proposal aims to introduce a board approach, through the scrutiny function, that is capable of helping to support the strategic leadership and direction of the service and providing appropriate challenge on performance.
6. The proposed Stakeholder Governance Board would improve the effectiveness of governance by increasing the number of individuals engaged as board members, including a majority who are independent of the local authority, leading to more direct scrutiny of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. The Board would also challenge and make input into our wider strategies with respect to our future offer, alternative methods for income generation (full cost recovery) and future-proofing. The Board would:
 - Help steer our direction so that we continue to meet the key needs of our target groups who are most in need, relating to the essential skills of English, maths and ICT as well as those with additional needs.
 - Provide robust challenge and scrutiny on our quality processes and self-assessment reports.
 - Bring advice and knowledge relating to opportunities for delivery in communities including funding sources together with an understanding of community needs.
 - Support the service in its business model for full cost delivery so that funds can support those areas of the service that can never be fully financed through external funding.

7. The composition of the Board should reflect the communities we serve, as well as our stakeholders and partners. Likely member categories would include representatives of:
 - Sub-contractors
 - Other learning providers
 - Learners
 - Explore Libraries and Archives
 - Job Centre Plus
 - Teacher
8. As well as covering relevant stakeholder groups a skills profile will be produced to ensure that the Board members bring a range of skills and knowledge relating to community, adult teaching & learning, business and economy, whilst supporting the service to develop and maintain an offer that supports improved economic growth and effectiveness in our communities. For example, knowledge in business and selling of services would be useful as would an understanding of community venues in the city.

Proposal

9. It is proposed to establish the new Board as part of the council's scrutiny arrangements. The Board will in effect be an informal scrutiny meeting. The key features will be as follows:
 - The Board will be chaired by a member of this scrutiny committee.
 - The other Board members will be co-opted from the categories set out above.
 - The Board will meet quarterly.
 - It will be serviced by the Head of York Learning.
 - The Board will produce a report on the performance of York Learning once a year which the Chair will bring back to this scrutiny committee.

Corporate Objectives

10. Any plans and strategies developed are set within the context of the council plan but also respond to a number of sub-regional, regional and national policy objectives.

Implications

- 11. The report has no Finance, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property or other implications.

Risk Management

- 12. There are no risks to consider that arise from this report.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

Date 15 July 2019

Wards Affected:

All

Abbreviations

CYC – City of York Council

FE- Further Education