

Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously Completed Scrutiny Reviews

Summary

1. This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from four previously completed scrutiny reviews. The review final reports for each of those reviews can be viewed at: [Scrutiny Review Final Reports](#)
2. This report proposes that Members sign off all recommendations considered to be fully implemented.

Background to Reviews

3. Disabled Access Scrutiny Review
In June 2014 this Committee agreed to proceed with a scrutiny topic proposed by Cllr Neil Barnes to review disabled access to York's heritage and cultural offer, with the aim of improving access for all. The following objectives were agreed for the review:
 - i. To understand legal requirements & identify best practice from elsewhere
 - ii. To assess current levels of access for those with a range of impairments
 - iii. To identify possible improvements and barriers
 - iv. Facilitate the sharing of good practice across York's network of providers
4. A Task Group was formed and at the same time they were undertaking the review, the Council was in the process of developing a new approach to delivering marketing, culture, tourism and business development in the city, which led to the creation of a new organisation - 'Make it York'. As a

result, in March 2015 when the final report was presented to the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee, some of the recommendations were designated for the Council - these were approved by Cabinet in April 2015. The remaining recommendations were endorsed by the Cabinet and subsequently presented to 'Make it York' for their consideration.

5. The recommendations and an update on their implementation as provided by CYC Officers and Make it York, is attached at Annex A.

6. Entrepreneurship in Schools Review

In June 2014 this Committee considered a scrutiny topic proposed by Cllr Semlyen on "School based teaching of skills related to self employment / entrepreneurship at secondary ages and at York College. Cllr Semlyen referenced York's very low record of creating new business or graduate start ups - 316th out of 326 English districts, drawing attention to there being 28% fewer York business start ups in the first 3 months of 2014, compared to 2013.

7. In response officers suggested that a review of this topic could research best practice in other Local Authority areas, and use the findings to influence providers of education and training to adapt successful models to the York context. The Committee agreed it was an important topic, and as it was felt there was a clear overlap with a previous review undertaken in 2013 on Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG), they agreed to reform the same Task Group (for further information on that previous review see paragraphs 14-19 below and Annex D).

8. Having considered their options, the Committee agreed the following review remit:

Aim:

To create a culture in York schools where entrepreneurial learning is embedded, through improving entrepreneurship education and opportunities for employability and enterprise-related activities for York pupils

Objectives:

- i. To identify best practice in other Local Authority areas which perform strongly on relevant performance indicators
- ii. Review current practices in York to identify:

- a) The commitment of local schools and colleges to develop the relevant skills and enterprising behaviours
 - b) Local good practice
- iii. To identify appropriate sources of employability and enterprise-related activities for York schools
9. Work on the review was completed in March 2015 and the review recommendations approved by Cabinet in April 2015.
10. Those recommendations are shown at Annex B together with an update on their implementation, as provided by the Head of Secondary School Improvement.
11. School Meals Scrutiny Review
At a meeting in June 2013, this Committee received a briefing on the take up of school meals in general, and the take up of free school meals by the Head of School Services.
12. At that time school meal take up across all York schools had been fairly static for a number of years - approx 34% of all pupils. So, in an effort to improve the take-up of school meals and free school meals the Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny review based on the following review objectives:
 - i. To explore reasons for the relatively small increase in take-up of school meals across all York schools.
 - ii. To investigate why some parents/carers who are entitled, do not register and claim for free school meals and consider how the Local Authority working with partners can encourage them to do so.
 - iii. To investigate the reasons why significant numbers of entitled pupils whose parents/carers **have** registered and claimed, do not take up the offer of a free school meal.
 - iv. To look at the effectiveness of cashless payment systems for school meals and their impact on school meal take-up.
13. The review was carried out ahead of the government's introduction of universal infant free school meals for key stage 1 (introduced in September 2014). Over a series of meetings a Task Group gathered evidence in support of the review, and their conclusions and recommendations were subsequently approved by the Cabinet in May 2014.

14. An update on the implementation of those recommendations has been provided by the Head of School Services – see Annex C.
15. Careers, Education, Information & Guidance (CEIAG) Review
In September 2012, in response to a scrutiny topic proposed by Councillor D'Agorne, the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report detailing national and local developments in the provision of careers education information and guidance (CEIAG) to young people in schools and colleges.
16. In January 2013, the Committee received an update on the national developments, together with information on a recent thematic review into CEIAG carried out by The Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) which had included visiting two schools in York. Initial feedback from OFSTED confirmed they were impressed with the collaboration between the schools and the Local Authority, in regard to CEIAG. However, the Committee recognised that if the provision of careers education differed between all schools in York, the conclusions from the OFSTED review would not represent the full picture. They therefore agreed it might be sensible to also look at the collaboration between 1 or 2 other schools and the Local Authority.
17. The Committee agreed to set up a Task Group to carry out the review on their behalf and agreed the following remit for the review:

'To assess the standard of CEIAG for young people in York, and where appropriate identify improvements'
18. Over a series of meetings the Task Group gathered evidence in support of the review and their draft final report was presented to the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee at a meeting in September 2013. All the review recommendations were subsequently approved by Cabinet in November 2013.
19. In July 2014, this committee received its first implementation update for the review. At that time, the Committee agreed to sign off three of the recommendations as fully implemented, and requested a further update on the remaining recommendations in due course. A further update was provided in February 2015 and as a result a further four recommendations were signed off.
20. The council's Connexions Service Manager has provided a further update on the remaining recommendation (iv – vi), shown at Annex D.

Options

21. Members may choose to sign off any individual recommendation where implementation has been completed, and can:
 - a. request further updates and the attendance of the relevant officers at a future meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations relating to the above reviews or;
 - b. agree to receive no further updates on those reviews

Council Plan 2011-15

22. At the time these reviews were carried out the Council Plan 2011 – 15 was in place. Three of those reviews supported the plan as follows:
 - Disabled Access Review - The review of this scrutiny topic supports the Council's priority to protect vulnerable people.
 - Entrepreneurship in Schools Review - The review of this topic supported the Council's priority to 'Create jobs and grow the economy'.
 - School Meals Review - 'Protect vulnerable people' – by increasing free school meal take up more children from low income families would be able access a daily healthy meal.
23. CEIAG Review - Whilst the review did not directly support the priorities within the Council Plan 2011-15, it did support a recommendation within the Children & Young People's Plan made by young researchers that asked for careers information and advice to be age appropriate, and for increased links between businesses and education.

Implications

24. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ITT or other implications associated with the recommendations made in this report.

Risk Management

25. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

26. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and:

- i. Sign off all recommendations that have been fully implemented.
- ii. Agree whether further updates are required in 6 months time.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A – Update on Disabled Access Review

Annex B – Update on Entrepreneurship in Schools Review Recommendations

Annex C – Update on School Meals Review Recommendations

Annex D – Update on CEIAG Review Recommendations

Report Abbreviations:

CEIAG - Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance

OFSTED - Office for Standards in Education