

**Economic and City Development Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

20th November 2012

Report of the Assistant Director Governance and ICT

Update Report – Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Review Task Group

Summary

1. This report provides a brief overview of the work that has been undertaken by the Youth Unemployment Task Group. Members are asked to note and comment upon the report.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27th March 2012 it was agreed that, in the 2012/13 municipal year, they would carry out a review around Youth Unemployment. They considered this topic further at a meeting held on 20th June 2012 and after consideration of a paper covering the following;
 - key statistics and trends
 - Initiatives and agencies supporting young people into jobs and opportunities
 - Support for 16 to 18 year olds
 - Possible focuses for the Scrutiny Committee to consider

agreed that the work should be carried out by a small Task Group comprised of three Members of the Committee working to the following remit:

Aim

3. 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
- 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 recommendations to address them.

Consultation

4. To date the Task Group have met with Jobcentre Plus and two providers of the Work Programme (Prospect Training and Pertemps). They have also spoken with some of Pertemps clients. In addition to this the Task Group have worked closely with key Council officers and posted a question on the GeniUS website. – *‘How Can City of York Council help young people to get work?’* – to date there have been 3 responses and these will be considered by the Task Group and included within their draft final report.

Information Received to Date

5. The Task Group have met on several occasions and have received and considered a wealth of information. They met for the time on 18th July 2012 with the Youth Support Service Manager and the Learning City York Partnership Manager. At this meeting they further discussed the information that had been presented to the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their June 2012 meeting. They also discussed a paper that had been presented to the YorOK Board in January 2012 entitled ‘Apprenticeship Developments in York and Programmes Supporting Young People 16-24 into Work’. Key themes discussed at that meeting were, very briefly:
 - The Local Authority’s statutory responsibility to secure education and training for young people aged 16 to 18
 - Statistics/trends around the length of time young people in York had been unemployed
 - A mismatch of opportunities to wishes (the jobs available were not necessarily the ones that young people were looking for)
 - Welfare Reforms and the Work Programme
 - Challenges and barriers to young people gaining employment

6. The Task Group then met again on 21st August 2012, in advance of visiting Jobcentre Plus (JCP) to look at information on how JCP referred claimants to the Work Programme and to think about what kinds of questions they might like to ask them.
7. On 19th September two members of the Task group and the Scrutiny Officer visited JCP and discussed some of the key facts and figures around youth unemployment, some of the barriers to gaining employment, the Enterprise Allowance Scheme (set up to provide flexible support to help people become self-employed), how to improve partnership working, jobs in the care sector and ideas for raising awareness of success stories.
8. On Thursday 20th September the Task Group visited Pertemps one of the organisations who were contracted to deliver the Work Programme. The Task Group sat in on a CV workshop that was being held and in the break had the opportunity to chat to some of the young people who were attending.
9. On Friday 21st September one member of the Task Group and the Scrutiny Officer visited Prospect Training; the other organisation contracted to deliver the Work Programme and had some very positive discussion around some of the barriers and challenges faced by young people looking for employment and what Prospect Training were doing to help. There was also a discussion around the Wage Incentive Scheme and the kind of work that younger people wanted and were suited to.
10. In addition to this on 9th October 2012 some Members of the Task Group and the Learning City York Partnership Manager attended a partnership meeting entitled 'Connecting People to Jobs and Opportunities'.
11. The Task Group have also received information on the Council's Apprenticeship Scheme and work experience placements.
12. Finally the Task Group met again on 22nd October where they discussed some themes for recommendations arising from the review. Whilst specific wording for the recommendations has not been agreed and there are still further discussions to be had the likely themes for the recommendations are:
 - A challenge to ourselves to set a target with partners to reduce longer term unemployment in the 18 to 24 year old age bracket
 - Job fairs
 - Sector specific workshops
 - Networking

- Marketing campaign for success stories
- Promoting the range of support available to employers
- Apprenticeships and work experience
- Transport (ways of overcoming this being a barrier to gaining employment)

13. All of the above will be set out with much more detailed explanation in the draft final report due to come to the December meeting of this Committee.

Options

14. There are no specific options associated with the recommendations within this report.

Analysis

15. Full analysis will be included in the draft final report. At this point in the review Members are asked to note this brief update report and the progress made on this review, including the likely themes for the recommendations arising. These themes have been identified by the Task Group after consideration of all evidence and discussions to date. The Task Group are due to meet again later in November to work further on the specifics of the recommendations and any implications that may arise from them.

Council Plan 2011-15

16. This scrutiny review is directly linked to the 'Create Jobs and Grow the Economy' priority of the Council Plan 2011-15. The aim of this 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

17. There are no known implications associated with the recommendations within this report. Implications may arise as the recommendations are drawn up and these will be addressed within the draft final report.

Risk Management

18. There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report. However risks may arise once the exact recommendations are known and these will be addressed within the draft final report.

Recommendations

19. Members are asked to note and comment on this report.

Reason: To progress this scrutiny review.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: None