Council 17 October 2013 Leader's Report

Education and Employment Opportunities

Medway's GCSE and A Level results have again been strong. Plans are progressing for the Medway UTC with the curriculum being developed and site selection being narrowed. Medway's unemployment rate has continued falling, with an unemployment rate of 3.4% compared to 7.7% nationally.

Economic Development and Growth

The Council has been leading on plans to introduce a federated model to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, devolving power and funding to Medway and Kent. Working in partnership with others, a jobs fair was held in October with 1500 opportunities available. In addition, development and infrastructure projects are progressing through the planning process.

Health and Wellbeing

The Council has now been responsible for public health for six months and has been working with health partners on a number of initiatives to improve health and wellbeing across Medway.

Pay Day Lending

The Council has taken action to limit payday lenders' ability to advertise in Medway, with a number of restrictions being introduced.

Children's Services

Children's Services have been taking a number of positive steps forward in the past quarter implementing the Improvement Plan that will lead to better outcomes for Medway's children and families.