

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2018

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 18-25 YEAR OLDS (INCLUDING APPRENTICESHIPS) – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment
and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive

Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adult Services

Author: Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This supplementary report sets out the outcome of consideration of the report from the in-depth Task Group review on Employment Opportunities for 18-25 Year Olds (including apprenticeships) by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 January 2018.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 11 January 2018, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave consideration to the report from the in-depth Task Group review on Employment Opportunities for 18-25 Year Olds (including apprenticeships).
- 1.2 Set out below is the extract from the minutes of that meeting:
 - 1.2.1 The Committee received the final report of the in depth Task Group review on Employment Opportunities for 18-25 Year Olds (including apprenticeships).
 - 1.2.2 The Committee thanked all the witnesses who gave evidence, in particular the young people as well as officers who had supported the Task Group. The Committee commended the Task Group on the production of a comprehensive report and raised a number of points and questions including:
 - 1.2.3 **External witnesses** – A Member commented that the Task Group had hoped to receive evidence from a mainstream secondary headteacher, however this was not possible. The Director of Children and Adults Services advised the Committee that a Medway Education Partnership had been established and would have representatives from Medway headteachers associations and the further education

college. In addition to the Skills Board, this group would also take particular interest in the work of the Task Group and comments of the Committee.

- 1.2.4 **Careers advice** – With reference to the careers advice provided at secondary schools, Members commented that schools needed to improve the quality of the advice given to young people. A Member highlighted that Parliamentary Select Committees had raised concerns in relation to careers advice and the Chairman of the Medway Youth Council also noted that the British Youth Council had recognised this was a national issue.
- 1.2.5 **Financial support for apprentices** – In relation to the areas examined by the Task Group, a Member suggested that financial support for young apprentices should be examined, owing to the potential impact this could have on young people as they reach the age of 16. Whilst referring to a particular case in which grant support was withdrawn from a young person by the Department of Work and Pensions, while the young person had been undertaking a low paid apprenticeship, a Member suggested financial support should be improved. Members suggested this could be taken forward by the Skills Board.
- 1.2.6 **Housing Task Group** – A Member identified a link between the outcomes of this Task Group and the Housing Task Group with regard to schools promoting apprenticeships to close the skills shortage gap.

1.2.7 **Decision:**

The Committee noted the report and recommendations made by the Employment Opportunities Task Group, set out at appendix A to the report and agreed to recommend it to Cabinet on the 6 February with the following comments:

- a) The Cabinet is recommended to refer the recommendations arising from the Task Group to the Skills Board for attention as a priority.
- b) The Cabinet is recommended to ask the Skills Board to examine the financial support for young apprentices.

Lead officer contacts:

Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01634 332012 E-mail: ellen.wright@medway.gov.uk

Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01634 332008 Email: jade.milnes@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

None

Background Papers:

None.