

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 8 February 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group

Lead officer: Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Cllr Dennis Pearce, Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Contact Officer: Annette Wiles (annette.wiles@merton.gov.uk/020 8545 4035)

Recommendations:

- A. That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers and endorses the report arising from the scrutiny review of routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts, attached at Appendix 1; and
 - B. That the Panel agrees to forward the review report to Cabinet for approval and implementation of the recommendations, by means of an action plan to be drawn up by officers working with the Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet.
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present the routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel for endorsement and to seek agreement to forward to Cabinet for its consideration.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel has recognised that vulnerable young people in Merton are more likely than their peers to not be in education, employment or training. Through the work of a task group, the opportunity was taken to reflect on what Merton is doing right for its most vulnerable children and to look at what can be done better to help them into employment.
- 2.2 It was agreed that the focus of the task group should be children and young people in care/care leavers and /or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- 2.3 The report of the routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group is attached at Appendix 1.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 In carrying out its review, the task group questioned council officers, heads of service and directors as well as consulting with the Economic Wellbeing Group, which is the key forum operating within Merton coordinating interventions to reduce unemployment and increase economic wellbeing.

4.2 Appendix 1 to the task group's report lists the witnesses at each meeting.

5. TIMETABLE

5.1 The task group was established by the Council's Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel and so this report will be presented to its meeting on 8 February 2017 for the Panel's approval, with a view to presenting to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 March 2017.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None for the purposes of this covering report. Any specific resource implications will be identified and presented to Cabinet prior to agreeing an action plan for implementing the report's recommendations.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None for the purposes of this report.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to broadly benefit all sections of the local community.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None for the purposes of this report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None for the purposes of this report.

11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

11.1 Appendix 1 – the routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts task group report

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None for the purposes of this report.