

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 20 March 2017

Wards: All

Subject: **Scrutiny review of routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts**

Lead officer: Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Dennis Pearce, Chair, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix 1) arising from the scrutiny review of routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts undertaken by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
2. That Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the recommendations through an action plan being drawn up by officers in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member to be designated by Cabinet.
3. That Cabinet decides whether it wishes to formally approve this action plan prior to it being submitted to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To present the scrutiny review report on routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts for endorsement and seek approval to implement the review recommendations through an action plan being drawn up.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel has recognised that if you are a vulnerable person in Merton you are more likely than your peers to not be in education, employment or training (or what is described as 'NEET'). As a result, the Panel decided during the 2015/2016 municipal year to dedicate its task group activity to look at the support provided for vulnerable cohorts to progress into employment.
- 2.2. It was agreed that vulnerable cohorts should specifically mean 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 was presented to the Panel on 8 February 2017 and is attached at Appendix 1 for Cabinet's consideration.

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.
- 3.2. Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.
- 3.3. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.
- 3.4. If Cabinet is unable to support the implementation of a recommendation, it is expected that a clearly stated reason will be provided for each.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. In carrying out its review, the task group questioned council officers, directors and the Merton Economic Wellbeing Board.
- 4.2. Appendix 1 of the task group report lists the witnesses at each meeting.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The final report was approved by members of the Panel at its meeting on 8 February 2017 and it was agreed to present the report to Cabinet.
- 5.2. Cabinet is asked to provide a formal response to the Panel within two months.

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. None for the purposes of this report.

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 – task group review report of routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None