

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy
Performance Board

DATE: 4th January 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development
Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Further developing links between Halton's
Businesses and Schools

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the PPB on work being undertaken to further develop the relationship between the Education and Business sectors in Halton.
- 1.2 There a number of interventions which already contribute to promoting strong links between schools and businesses.
- 1.3 The report summarises some recent positive activities which have taken place to achieve this.
- 1.4 However, there are additional proposals outlined in this report which will inform and complement future service design plans, particularly in regard to how schools are supported in engaging with and supporting local employers, but also how students are provided with effective and valuable careers information, advice and guidance.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) The PPB welcomes the progress made to date and supports the proposed actions contained within the report.**

3.0. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At a strategic level, the push for stronger collaboration between the Education and Business sectors in Halton is timely.
- 3.2 The Liverpool City Region has agreed its devolution arrangements with Government. At the core of these proposals is the long term ambition to maximise the potential of businesses and residents, in the City Region and to significantly reduce the gap between the Liverpool City Region and the national average in terms of skills levels and welfare dependency. The objective is to

create a flexible, responsive and fully integrated skills and employment system to ensure that:

- Businesses can access the skills they need now and in the future;
- Schools, colleges, learning providers and universities know what skills businesses require;
- Residents can gain the specific skills they need to get into work; and
- Residents with multiple barriers to work can receive integrated and personalised support to help them into work.

3.3 Halton Borough Council is working with the Liverpool City Region and local partners to implement the devolution 'asks' of Government to ensure that they are beneficial to both the business and education sectors in Halton.

3.4 The main devolution asks relating to this agenda are:

- Establish Liverpool City Region Careers Hub
- Government place a duty to co-operate on all nationally funded organisations delivering careers initiatives in the City
- Government to devolve the funding for the National Careers Service to the City Region.

3.5 Furthermore, Halton has contributed to a number of policy documents and initiatives that have a bearing on the borough's ability to link the respective worlds of business and education within a coherent framework.

3.6 The Liverpool City Region Skills for Growth Priorities and Action Plan (Appendix 1) is the most relevant policy document as it focuses on the need to ensure that employers have a greater say in skills provision; seeks to ensure that a local business presence is meaningfully represented on institutional Governing Bodies; enhancing links between business education and training; improving careers education and information, advice and guidance.

3.7 A sub group of the LEP has met twice to agree a strategic City Region approach in advance of bidding for Careers and Enterprise funding which will build upon existing delivery and showcase the growth sectors through a Careers Hub. The proposals suggested to date are that the Careers Hub will:

- Co-ordinate the development and implementation of a CPD programme for careers advisors, employment advisors, employer and teachers that will promote and celebrate the sub regions growth sectors.
- Build upon programmes that inspire young people to aim high.
- Identify and bring together examples of good practice of Education working with Business in the different sub regional areas for sharing across the whole sub region.

- Look to fund additional curriculum materials and projects to benefit all schools in the sub region and potentially linking to the widening participation work that Universities are currently developing.

3.8 **Mission Statement/Vision**

When developing a coherent framework to promote collaboration between the Education and Business sectors in Halton, it was necessary to establish a clear vision for how we would wish to deliver services to businesses and educational establishments.

Our vision is that we see Halton as:

'A dynamic and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills to support and sustain a thriving and growing local economy'.

Achieving this means that all young people aged 14 to 25 are provided with opportunities that raises their aspirations, informs them of relevant pathways to employment and ensures that they have access to broad and high quality programmes of learning, enabling them to make the transition into employment that will meet the economic aspirations of the City Region.

3.9 **Strategic Objectives**

The strategic objectives which will deliver this vision are to:

- Help our young people to be better equipped and prepared for the world of work; (this also includes advice and guidance on future employment options and opportunities, as well as curriculum content and 'job ready' interventions);
- Ensure that we match supply of labour to demand in respect of employment growth sectors;
- Promote civic pride by developing a stronger link between our regeneration/investment areas and our local (schools and college) community;
- Support our businesses to be more productive and competitive by having employees in the right place, at the right time with the right skills and experience;
- Broaden the horizons of young people, build confidence, inspire minds and develop the skills needed for future success.

3.10 Proposed Work Areas

The table below identifies some potential actions which will assist with the delivery of the strategic objectives outlined above.

REQUIRED ACTIONS	RESOURCES NEEDED (STAFF)	OUTCOMES	COMPLETION DATE
<p>Continue to update and refresh the information available to young people on future employment and learning opportunities locally</p> <p>Enhance the development of a young persons' directory with local and regional sector information.</p>	<p>Halton Employment Partnership</p> <p>Sector specific work with Riverside College</p> <p>Complementing the Youth Employment Gateway initiative</p>	<p>The on-line library of documents, research/resource materials is current and up to date.</p> <p>Young people can navigate the employment and skills services available more effectively</p> <p>The development of clear and effective career pathways for young people in Halton</p>	<p>31st March 2016</p>
<p>Develop Halton Education Business Partnership (HEBP) to support education business links and a school improvement service for Careers Education and Information, advice and Guidance (CEIAG). This will link to local authority arrangements for school improvement.</p>	<p>An assessment of SFA procurement calls will be required</p> <p>Links to establishment of Liverpool City Region Careers hub proposals</p>	<p>A CEIAG service that links to business and economic strategy. A school improvement service for CEIAG</p> <p>Consultancy and support planning for schools</p> <p>Education business links and brokerage</p> <p>Sector specific resources and lessons</p> <p>Teacher Continuous Professional Development training to support skills growth and economy</p> <p>Advice to employers on engaging with the education sector</p>	
<p>Further develop The HEBP website, Merseyinteractive and take up of the Uxplore offer as a resource for information and signposting for young people</p>	<p>Complements</p>	<p>Young people can navigate the employment and skills services available more effectively.</p>	<p>December 2016</p>
<p>Identify, understand and agree roles and</p>	<p>To include reference to Apprenticeships</p>	<p>A coherent framework established (which helps us to work with employers to focus</p>	

responsibilities of internal, as well as external partners and develop SLA or MoU.	and Trailblazers	on supplying the skills they need)	
Identify potential funding sources/areas for sponsorship.	External Funding team		Ongoing
HEBP informed by information from HEP to develop a work programme which outlines a programme of linked and themed activities, events.		Young people become more empowered to make informed choices about their learning, jobs and careers.	
Continue to host an annual Halton work skills event in collaboration with key partners & employers for years 6,7,8		<p>young people will be able to make more informed choices when choosing options in year 8 and making key decisions about their future careers</p> <p>young people will be made aware of the exciting opportunities for education and work in the region and borough</p>	

3.11 Who do we need to involve?

We are already engaging with the following stakeholders:

- Chamber of Commerce e.g. through First Tuesday and Board;
- 11-19 Halton association of Head Teachers and post 16 providers;
- Schools Riverside College and local training providers
- LCR Employment and Skills Secretariat;
- Advanced Manufacturing Cluster Network (Chaired by Cexec.);
- The Heath Technical and Business Park;
- Sci-Tech Daresbury;
- Early Intervention Strategic Partnership Board.
- HBC teams e.g. ELS, Customer Intelligence Unit.

3.12 Recent Activities

Reports to the Employment Learning and Skills and Community PPB have highlighted the fact that the Council's future business support strategy will need to focus on the businesses and sectors in the borough that have the willingness, capacity and capability to grow and make a significant contribution to the local

economy. Our business support team has established an Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster to better understand the needs, opportunities and challenges facing the sector; to encourage greater collaboration and dissemination of information across the supply chain, but also to consider the future skills requirements of the sector and considered the extent to which public sector partners could influence both curriculum development and government policy.

3.13 Embedding Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing in the school Curriculum

- Consequently, a number of meetings have taken place between the Council's Investment and Development Services, Learning and Achievement, and Post 16 Teams and representatives from U-Explore.
- U-Explore is an on-line proprietary service procured by Halton Borough Council to provide comprehensive careers advice.
- The group has developed a proposal to embed a broader understanding of advanced manufacturing at the core of the curriculum.
- The long-term ambition is that schools will be provided with the appropriate resources to connect learning with a deeper understanding of the sector.
- Resources currently in development include lesson plans, online resources developed by U-Explore, display materials, teacher professional development events, potentially assemblies/presentations and talks from willing employers and employer led challenges and learning.
- The initiative will be based around 'themed terms' and will provide subject specialisms with the resources required to link to the sector and demonstrate why the sector needs it. The initiative will cover all subject specialisms including; math, English, history, geography, computing, modern foreign languages, and sciences and sport and physical education
- The first 'themed term' will focus on advanced manufacturing, an example of how this can be delivered in the subject specialism is provided below using sport and physical education as an example (PE).

3.14 Why PE?

- UK advanced manufacturing is developing cutting edge technology to increase participation in sport and support future British Champions
- The International Sports Engineering Association (ISEA) was founded in the UK and is the world's leading sports engineering industry body.
- The UK has 850 companies manufacturing sporting goods.

3.15 The group has developed a suggested resource for PE and Advanced

Manufacturing as a means to demonstrate how Advanced Manufacturing can be embedded into the core curriculum, whole school curriculum, and school activity.

- 3.16 The initiative will provide schools with the resources and suggested activities including :-
- Research the technology behind Bradley Wiggins success. Would Wiggins have achieved his record without the support of advanced manufacturing?
 - Discuss as a group whether advanced manufacturing is crucial to British sporting success.
 - Research the role Halton advanced manufacturing companies play in sport.
 - Compare a piece of current sports equipment to the same one 10 years ago
 - Design a new or innovative piece of sports kit or equipment.
 - Design a sports App.
 - Research advanced manufacturing workplaces on U-Explore
 - Research advanced manufacturing careers on U-Explore
 - Undertake a case study on a sports star. How does sports technology enhance their performance?
 - Design a sports stadium or develop a proposal to upgrade a sports venue
 - Design a training App.
- 3.17 Riverside College currently provide sampling and taster sessions for Year 10 & 11 students, for example a recent 3D printing workshop which required young people to design a product on an iPad which was then printed
- 3.18 Riverside has also submitted a bid for a new STAM centre at the Cronton Campus which will allow the college to do far more with their feeder schools.
- 3.19 It has been suggested that both a Primary Challenge and a Secondary Challenge be developed.
- 3.20 A challenge will be promoted and managed through the Careers and Employment and Advisory Service.
- 3.21 The Halton Work Skills and Enterprise Event sponsored by Merseylink brought employers and schools together to inspire and build ambition in young people at a time when they are beginning to discover their own personal interests, abilities, and talents.
- 3.22 Key Events

Halton Work Skills and Enterprise Event – June 2015

The event was also designed to:

- Build awareness to the skills, qualifications and attributes young people will require for work in the future
- Provide information so that young people can make informed decisions

particularly when choosing which subjects to study

- Make young people aware that they are key to Halton's future
- Make young people aware of the exciting career opportunities that will be available in Halton in the future
- Introduce young people to a different working world that will be developed using emerging technology

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Halton is in an advantageous position to maximise the benefits of strong links between its Business and Education sectors. Firstly, it has a mature partnership with excellent support being offered by Business Leaders to facilitate positive relationships between schools and colleges. Secondly, Halton Borough Council's own internal reporting arrangements facilitate a good working relationship between its education and regeneration teams. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that more work is required to ensure that any input from the business community delivers maximum impact and that this input is sustainable and benefits the broader education base.

4.2 The report outlines examples of activity being undertaken in the Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing sector. Similar arrangements are being drawn up for Halton's pharmaceutical sector.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There will be a cost associated with delivering the above. A detailed proposal has been developed by Halton Education Business Partnership which has been presented to the Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Group. A decision from the Group regarding their willingness or otherwise to make a financial contribution to the programme is awaited.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The implications for this priority are outlined in the report

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The implications for this priority are outlined in the report

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The report seeks to promote equality of access in regard to how the Borough's pupils and students can benefit from strong and consistent relationships between employment and education providers.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.