

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy
Performance Board

DATE: 11th June 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development &
Children, Education and Social Care

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

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this paper is to provide the PPB with the final recommendations proposed by the Scrutiny Topic group titled 'Further developing links between Halton's Businesses and Schools.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

i) The PPB agree the recommendations.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In January 2017 the PPB agreed a Scrutiny topic titled: Further developing links between Halton's Businesses and Schools. Councillor G. Logan was nominated as the Chair of the Scrutiny topic group and three lines of enquiry were agreed with Councillor Logan, those being:

3.1.1 Employer engagement

This line of enquiry will look at:

- The national programmes commissioned by Government and local programmes commissioned by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to support school and business links.
- The current level of interaction between schools and businesses in Halton, including engagement in the programmes above, work experience opportunities and other programmes schools themselves run.

3.1.2 Careers education information

This line of enquiry will look at:

- The statutory duties for schools and the Local Authority.
- The companies delivering Careers Education in Halton.
- The work undertaken by the Local Authority to add value to the work in schools.

3.1.3 Business Needs

This line of enquiry will look at:

- Processes used to gain feedback from employers about their future needs.
- The current report of employer needs in the region.

3.2 Four meetings of the Scrutiny topic group took place, each of the first three meetings reviewing a different line of enquiry from the above list and the final meeting reviewing the result of further actions/investigations agreed during the Scrutiny topic meetings.

3.3 Whilst the scrutiny topic work was taking place the Government released its new Careers Strategy titled: Making the most of everyone's skills and talents. Following this strategy the statutory guidance for schools and colleges about the requirements for delivering careers guidance and linking with employers was updated. These documents were reviewed by the Scrutiny topic group during their final meeting and have also influenced the final recommendations.

3.4 The final recommendations developed by the scrutiny topic group are:

- 1) Request every secondary school to have a **named** Governor responsible for overseeing how the school engages with businesses and develops pupils' employability skills.
- 2) Halton Borough Council officer to check from September 2018 that schools and the College do identify a Careers Leader and that schools publish how outside providers can talk to pupils in schools. This will be reported to PPB annually.
- 3) That all schools implement the requirement to offer every young person at least seven encounters with employers during their education, with at least one encounter taking place each year from years 7-13, ahead of the Government proposed timeline of 2020.
- 4) That the College implements the requirement to offer every young person at least two meaningful encounters with employers per year ahead of the Government proposed timeline of 2020.
- 5) That PPB receives a copy of the published careers programme for each school and the College from September 2018. This will be reported to PPB annually.

- 6) That the Director's report to Governors contains information about Careers Guidance and developing employability skills termly.
- 7) That the Careers and Enterprise Company is requested to update Halton Borough Council termly on the activity of Enterprise Advisers in Halton, and asked to encourage schools to engage directly with the Local Authority to provide feedback about the impact of Enterprise Advisers.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Schools and Colleges are required to have a strategy for the careers guidance they provide to young people which should include:

- Providing access to a range of activities that inspire young people;
- Building strong links with employers – by 2020 this should include at least one encounter(schools) or two encounters (colleges) with an employer each academic year;
- Schools should be widening access to advice on options post-16, for example, apprenticeships, entrepreneurialism, or other vocational routes alongside the more traditional A levels and university route – from January 2018 this includes allowing Post 16 providers to come into schools to talk to young people;
- Providing face-to-face advice and guidance;
- Working with local authorities to identify vulnerable young people and those at risk of not participating in post 16 education and training;
- Providing information to students about the financial support that may be available to help young people stay in education post-16;
- Schools should be working with Job Centre Plus to develop a smoother pathway between education and work.

4.2 Further to several reports commenting on the careers education taking place in schools, and young people's readiness for work, the Government set up the Careers and Enterprise Company in 2014. It provides support to schools and colleges on engaging with business leaders and giving young people frequent access to the world of work.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The scrutiny topic focuses on children and young people being able to have quality careers guidance, as outlined in 4.1 above this would include links with employers.

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

Encouraging educational institutions in Halton to provide quality careers guidance to every young person will support them in being ready for employment, and support them in knowing what opportunities there are for employment in Halton.

For Halton Businesses, engaging with schools allows them to influence their future workforce.

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 Scrutiny topic 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.