

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families
Policy Performance Board

DATE: 27th January 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development
Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Update on recommendations from the 2017/18
Scrutiny topic '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 an update on recommendations that were made in June 2018 as a conclusion to the 2017/18 Scrutiny topic 'Further developing links between Halton's Businesses and Schools'

2. **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

i) **The PPB note the information provided.**

3. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Following the 2017/18 Scrutiny topic 'Further developing links between Halton's Businesses and Schools' in June 2018 the following recommendations were approved by the PPB.

3.1.1 Request every secondary school to have a **named** Governor responsible for overseeing how the school engages with businesses and develops pupils' employability skills.

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 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.

3.1.4 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.

- 3.1.5 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.
- 3.1.6 That the Director's report to Governors contains information about Careers Guidance and developing employability skills termly.
- 3.1.7 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.
- 3.2 **Recommendation 3.1.1.** Request every secondary school to have a **named** Governor responsible for overseeing how the school engages with businesses and develops pupils' employability skills.
 - 3.2.1 This request was reiterated to schools through the Director's Report to Governors Autumn Term 2019. In addition six of Halton's secondary schools are now part of the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub, for which having a named Governor is also considered to be good practice.
 - 3.2.2 Six of Halton secondary schools already have a named governor, two schools are actioning this in the next Governor's meeting as a result of the Director's Report to Governors. Two schools do not have a named Governor.
- 3.3 **Recommendation 3.1.2.** 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.
 - 3.3.1 This check did take place in 2018 and all schools did have the information provided on their website. This continues to be the case.
- 3.4 **Recommendation 3.1.3.** 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.
 - 3.4.1 Schools are aware of this requirement and those working with the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Careers Hub and also Enterprise Advisers will carry out periodic assessments of their performance in meeting this requirement. Data is available for the Wave 1 LCR Career Hub schools that demonstrates 33% of Halton schools have fully met this requirement. This compares to 21% across the Liverpool City Region.
- 3.5 **Recommendation 3.1.4.** 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.

- 3.5.1 Riverside College exceed the Government requirement by holding focused weeks for engagement with employers and industries, as well as visits and talks that take place in each curriculum area. The Riverside College twitter page includes examples of this.
- 3.6 **Recommendation 3.1.5.** 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.
- 3.6.1 Please see Appendix 1 for information. No quality assurance of the Careers Programmes provided has or will take place by Local Authority Officers.
- 3.7 **Recommendation 3.1.6.** That the Director's report to Governors contains information about Careers Guidance and developing employability skills termly.
- 3.7.1 A Careers focused item does appear in the Director's report to Governors on a termly basis.
- 3.8 **Recommendation 3.1.7.** 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.
- 3.8.1 The Careers and Enterprise Company respond to contact from the 14-19 Team and report back periodically through the LCR Careers Hub and to the LCR 14-19 PASS Group. Communications are well established with the LCR Careers Hub Lead, who provides updates on work within schools and also on opportunities available for schools.

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 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The work 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.