

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 6th January 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – People and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Children and Enterprise Quarterly Policy Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of recent national policy announcements relevant to employment, learning and skills.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 **That the report is noted.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 A number of policy, legislation, consultation and guidance documents, are issued by government departments and agencies that have varying degrees of relevance to issues on the employment, learning and skills agenda and related topics.

3.2 A brief summary of key announcements is provided in this report along with observations of local relevance, where appropriate, so the Board can consider whether to initiate more detailed scrutiny and/or report to a future meeting.

4.0 NEW POLICY, STRATEGY, STATUTORY GUIDANCE & GENERAL INFORMATION

4.1 [Guidance: Industry preparedness](#)

Advice to businesses and industry and what they can do to make themselves more resistant to the online threat.

4.2 [Guidance: Online radicalisation](#)

Focus on the danger that vulnerable people face from online radicalisation.

4.3 [Guidance: Productivity challenge 2: Management and leadership in supply chains and networked organisations](#)

This challenge focuses on enhancing management and leadership capability in UK firms in the manufacturing, construction and legal sectors, by supporting "prime" organisations to work with their supply chains to develop skills and embed effective management practices.

4.4 [Guidance: Productivity challenge 1: Addressing skills deficiencies in the offsite construction sector](#)

This challenge focuses on addressing specific skills problems associated with technological developments which may prevent the offsite construction sector from realising its growth potential.

- 4.5 **Apprenticeships Delivering Skills for Future Prosperity – Ofsted Survey**
This latest report from Ofsted finds that a third of apprenticeships surveyed were failing to provide sufficiently high-quality training, suggesting that the drive to create more apprenticeships has diluted their quality. Growth in apprenticeships has been concentrated in service sectors, where there are too many low-skilled roles being classified as apprenticeships. Growth has not focused sufficiently on sectors with skills shortages.
- 4.6 **Universal Credit: estimating the early labour market impacts: updated analysis**
This analysis assesses the short-term impact of Universal Credit and informs its further development.
- 4.7 **Access to Work guide for employers**
Updated employers' guide to Access to Work: money to help disabled people do their jobs
- 4.8 **The costs and benefits of paying all the lowest-paid care home workers in the UK the Living Wage**
Funding pressures on social care are growing (to be eased somewhat by the precept announced by the Chancellor). The JRF report featured in this briefing investigates the impact of the proposed National Living Wage on the care sector and the costs and benefits of increasing pay to this level.
- 4.9 **Liverpool devolution deal**
This document sets out a devolution deal giving Liverpool City Region greater control over transport, skills, business support and other areas.
- 4.10 **Opportunities and outcomes in education and work: Gender effects**
An exploration of latest data and evidence on women's current position in terms of experience in, and outcomes from education, and the world of work in the UK.
- 4.11 **Disability Confident promotional material**
Updated material for the Disability Confident campaign about making disability confidence your business.
- 4.12 **Social Value Act: information and resources**
Information on the Public Services (Social Value) Act for commissioners and providers of public services, including case studies, which has been updated to reflect new Social Value awards and the Implementation and Measurement Project.
- 4.13 **New website launched for schools and colleges re: Intellectual property**
A new website has been launched giving schools and colleges access to free teaching resources to help students learn about intellectual property.
- 4.14 **UK Commission for Employment and Skills Report on Technology and Skills in the Construction Industry**
'Technology and Skills in the Construction Industry' details the findings of a study into the role of technology in driving high level skills needs in the construction industry, with a specific focus on offsite construction. This report is one of a number of studies commissioned with the purpose of understanding the skills

needs of Government priority sectors, which is essential to ensure appropriate responses in relation to tackling skills gaps and shortages, so that the UK is best placed to compete in a global marketplace.

- 4.15 **The LGIU/CSN have produced a Briefing Post-16 Education and Training Institutions: BIS Guidance on Area Reviews**
The government is seeking to reform post-16 education through a programme of area reviews, intended to cover all FE and Sixth Form colleges, some of which are likely to face closure or merger as a result. The reform is expected to produce fewer, larger and more specialised providers, including a network of new Institutes of Technology
- 4.16 **JRF research report - How do Landlords Address Poverty and LGIU Briefing**
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report conducts a review of landlord strategies to examine whether and how landlords address poverty and deprivation.
- 4.17 **LGIU Briefing The National Living Wage and Tax and Benefit Changes: Economic and distributional impacts**
This briefing analyses the likely economic impacts of the National Living Wage and with the combined distributional impacts of the NLW, benefits cuts, and tax changes announced in the Budget – before November’s spending review where there will now likely be some changes to the tax credit proposals.
- 4.18 **LGIU Briefing Scotland and England: local government devolution – lessons and issues**
This briefing, originally written by the LGIU for Scotland may also be of interest to England: it provides an overview of devolution in England, analyses what have been the major issues to date, and looks at collaboration and competition issues for Scottish and English devolution - especially in the North of England
- 4.19 **Impact assessment: Protecting the term 'apprenticeship'**
Impact assessment summarising the impact that new measures to protect the term 'apprenticeship' will have on business.
- 4.20 **Report of the inter-departmental ministerial group on modern slavery 2015**
The report assesses modern slavery in the UK and explains what the UK is doing about it
- 4.21 **The Housing and Planning Bill**
The Housing and Planning Bill received its (formal) first reading on 13 October 2015. It is essentially the legislative implications of delivering the government’s manifesto commitments to expanding affordable home ownership, improving housing management in both the social and private rented sectors and implementing planning reforms to remove any unnecessary obstacles to these objectives.
- 4.22 **Encouraging girls into STEM-related careers**
This Ofsted good practice example shows how the school encourages girls to pursue non-stereotypical careers as those in STEM-related areas.

4.23 **Work Experience for under 16s**

82% of more than 3,000 bosses polled by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) have called for a reintroduction of compulsory work experience for under 16s, which was scrapped in 2012 by the coalition government. It also called for more [help for businesses](#) – especially smaller ones – to offer work placements for teenagers.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The varied range of issues covered in this report potentially present a number of challenges and opportunities across a number of the Council's current priorities. Where appropriate a more detailed analysis of the information and relevance to the council will take place.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Currently the changes are out for consultation so there are no direct implications at this time.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 There are no immediate risks directly relating to the information in the report.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 None

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

7.1 None under the meaning of the Act. (For information - Hyperlinks to all of the full reports are embedded within the headings.)

8.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

8.1 If members would a more detailed analysis of any of the issues mentioned in this report, or paper copy of any of the documents referred to, the should contact; Debbie Houghton Principal Policy Officer at debbie.houghton@halton.gov.uk or 0151 511 8231