

Summary Sheet

Name of Committee and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 18 July 2018

Report Title

Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Work Experience

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

This report outlines the findings and recommendations following a spotlight review undertaken by Rotherham Youth Cabinet regarding improving access to work experience opportunities for all young people in Rotherham.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

- 1 Receive the report and note the conclusions and recommendations as outlined in sections 5 and 6 of the review report in Appendix 1.
- 2 Agree for the report to be forwarded to Cabinet and Commissioners and partners for their consideration and to Council for information.
- 3 Request a detailed response to the recommendations to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet in the autumn.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A Report - Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Work Experience

Background Papers

Notes from Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge 25/04/2018

Rotherham Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2018

Others referred to in Appendix 1

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Council – 5 September 2018

Cabinet and Commissioners Decision Making Meeting – 22 October 2018

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Work Experience

1. Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

- 1.1 Receive the report and note the conclusions and recommendations as outlined in sections 5 and 6 of the review report in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Agree for the report to be forwarded to Cabinet and Commissioners and partners for their consideration and to Council for information.
- 1.3 Request a detailed response to the recommendations to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet in the autumn.

2. Background

- 2.1 As part of RMBC's continuing commitment to the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people. The takeover challenge is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles.
- 2.2 RYC chose work experience as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it is one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2018, emerging as the key issue in the UK Youth Parliament "Make Your Mark" results for Rotherham.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Discussion on current and future provision of work experience is timely in light of recent statutory guidance on careers guidance and access for secondary education providers, published in January 2018 to support the government's Careers Strategy.
- 3.2 Since the compulsory Trident work experience programme ended and government funding was withdrawn, there has been no uniform approach across Rotherham. Mainstream schools focus on academic qualifications first and foremost and although opportunities for work experience do exist these are not universally available, vary in quality and not always well publicised.
- 3.3 A partnership approach is clearly needed to improve the offer for young people, and there are policy and logistical barriers to overcome, but the review generated a number of positive ideas that could be progressed.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 In light of their review findings, RYC developed the recommendations contained in pages 11 and 12 of the review report. In summary these address improvements to:
 - access to opportunities
 - publicity
 - support for students with SEND
 - sharing good practice
 - quality assurance
 - multi-sectorial opportunities
 - meaningful experiences
 - equality

5. Consultation

- 5.1 RYC consulted young people of different ages and from various schools through surveys to ascertain their experiences and views on work experience.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 It is anticipated that following discussion at OSMB a date for a formal response to the recommendations will be confirmed for autumn 2018.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report although officers, schools and partners will take account of any financial or procurement implications in developing their response.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report but schools have to comply with recent statutory guidance and duties with regard to careers guidance.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The intention of the review was to impact positively on young people, through enhancing opportunities for work experience to develop skills and practical experience.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 The recommendations aim to bring about a positive contribution to promoting equality through improving the offer for all young people. Specific needs of students with mental health needs and/or Special Educational Needs and Disability, in both mainstream and special schools, need to be taken into account in planning activity.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 Improving access to quality work experience opportunities will necessitate a collective approach from the Council, all schools and other partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 None at this stage bar schools having to comply with statutory guidance.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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