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## Summary Sheet

### **Name of Committee and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 25 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 under the auspices of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge regarding improving access to work experience opportunities for all young people in Rotherham.

This report is presented for information to share the review findings with the wider membership of the Council. Following this meeting, the Cabinet and Commissioners will be required to respond formally to the recommendations and indicate agreement or otherwise and what action will be taken to implement the recommendations, together with details of timescales and accountabilities. Schools and other external partners will also be involved.

## **Recommendations**

1. That the report and recommendations in respect of the review of Work Experience be noted.
2. That the response of Cabinet be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Report - Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Work Experience

**Background Papers**

As listed in the review report.

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 18 July 2018

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Work Experience**

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the report and recommendations in respect of the review of Work Experience be noted.
- 1.2 That the response of Cabinet be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

### **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 The review group formulated a number of recommendations, as set out on pages 11 and 12 of Appendix 1, which were endorsed by the Overview and Management Board.. 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 the formal response to the recommendations will be reported back in the autumn.

## **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 7.1 Any financial or procurement implications will be considered in developing the response from Cabinet and Commissioners.

## **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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