

Select Committee Report to Cabinet

Title:	The Young People Ready for Work Select Committee Inquiry Report
Date:	28 th April 2014
Date can be implemented:	7 May 2014
Author:	The Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee (Mrs Val Letheren – Chairman)
Contact officer:	Michael Carr – Scrutiny Policy Officer 01296 387164
Local members affected:	All
Portfolio areas affected:	Education and Skills

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

The Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee agreed to conduct an in-depth Inquiry in Young People Ready for Work in 2013, to investigate the programmes, advice and support available to young people to prepare them for the world of work and transition into employment in Buckinghamshire and to develop proposals to the Buckinghamshire County Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and other local partners in Buckinghamshire.

This is a report of the key findings and recommendations of the Inquiry, which are summarised on page 5 of the report and detailed throughout the report.

Recommendation

Cabinet is invited to consider the nine recommendations summarised below and provide an Executive Response and executive decisions in respect of each recommendation.

Recommendation One: A Ready for Work Passport

It is recommended that the department's work on producing a Ready for Work Passport be further developed, in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Partnership and be offered to young people (via schools and colleges) upon completion of a certified demonstrable standard



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of basic “work-ready” skills. This should include a broad range of recreational and voluntary activities and aimed at engaging parents as well as the young people themselves.

Recommendation Two: Guidance to Schools

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member provide clear concise guide lines on the appropriate careers guidance to be delivered in schools, in line with statutory and Ofsted inspection requirements, drawing on best practice and including raising awareness of employment and key employability skills and signposting key resources for young people, parents and schools.

Recommendation Three: Careers and Work Readiness Advice in Schools

It is recommended that schools be encouraged to strengthen their capacity for careers and work-readiness delivery through an independent specialist service such as the Connexions Service. This may be accompanied by the development of in-house teaching specialisms.

Recommendation Four: Careers Governance and Accountability in Schools

It is recommended that school governing bodies appoint a lead member for careers advice and hold Head Teachers to account over their statutory duty to provide every child with high quality careers guidance.

Recommendation Five: Inspiring Children into the World of Work

It is recommended that primary schools include some appropriate degree of awareness raising of pupils so that young people start to become aware of work ready skills at an early age. This could form part of the preparation for transition to secondary school.

Recommendation Six: Getting Business into Schools

It is recommended that schools be encouraged to invite local businesses and former pupils to speak to pupils about being ready for work as part of careers and life-skills aspects of their programme for personal, social and health education (PSHE).

Recommendation Seven: Local Connexions

It is recommended that the Connexions Service review their arrangements for referral of jobs and apprenticeships opportunities to make sure that local businesses are linked with local applicants.

Recommendation Eight: Business Links

It is recommended that local businesses be encouraged to form links with schools and colleges within their local community and within the County, so as to increase pupil’s awareness of work and business in their community.

Recommendation Nine: Supporting Young Parents into Work

The commitment to delivery of young parents’ careers and skills development through Children’s Centres is applauded and we recommend that programmes specifically aimed at supporting young parents be continued.

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 25 April 2014. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 383627 or 383610), Fax (to 01296 382421), or e-mail to cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk