

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 3 March 2014

Title: Report of the Apprenticeship sub-group

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Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to introduce the report of the apprenticeship sub-group.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to approve the report and refer to Cabinet for consideration.

3. Detail

3.1 At its meeting in July 2013, the Children, Education and Skills sub-committee established a sub-group to look at the issue of apprenticeships. The group comprised the following membership:

- Cllr Gary Madden
- Cllr Pamela Brooks
- Michelle Ord (parent governor representative)

3.2 The initial remit of the sub-group was to establish whether apprenticeships are fit for purpose and what outcomes they provide for young people. Apprenticeships must be provided through a Skills Funding Agency provider; there are around 66 providers based in the North East, but with over 500 operating in the area.

3.3 Collation of performance information in relation to apprenticeships is undertaken by the Skills Funding Agency and little information is shared in relation to long-term success rates.

3.4 The sub-group therefore felt it would be more useful to concentrate on ensuring that the Council is delivering the best service possible to apprentices and encouraging employers to create apprentice positions.

3.5 The sub-group met with relevant officers to discuss a wide range of issues including:

- current demand and provision of apprenticeships;
- the support offered by the Council to employers interested in creating apprenticeships;
- how opportunities to create apprentices are marketed; and
- case studies of young people that have completed apprenticeships

- 3.6 As a result the sub-group identified 4 recommendations aimed at increasing the number of apprenticeships available within North Tyneside and rewarding quality apprenticeships.
- 3.7 The report was considered by the Children, Education and Skills sub-committee at its meeting on 17 February 2014 and approved for referral to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. Appendices (if any)

Appendix 1 – Report of the Apprenticeship sub-group