

Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Date: 30 March 2015

Title: Report of the Young Women and STEM Sub Group

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Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To consider a report produced by the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee's Young Women and STEM Sub Group.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider and approve the report and its recommendations and refer it to Cabinet for consideration on 13 April 2015.

3. Details

- 3.1 As part of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee work programme for 2014/15, a report on the 14-19 years curriculum was received on 20 October 2014 which generated discussion on a number of topics. It was agreed that the options for a sub group on one of the topics be presented to the next meeting of the sub-committee. On 17 November 2014 it was agreed to establish a sub group to examine how to encourage young women to study STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).
- 3.2 STEM was selected because areas of employment growth in the borough were anticipated within the technical, manufacturing, engineering and digital sectors. It was important that young people had the relevant skills and qualifications in the area to enable them to benefit from the expected employment growth and that these opportunities were taken up by boys and girls. It was considered that the Sub Group could make a positive contribution to the formulation of future plans or strategies and would allow for community involvement.
- 3.3 The remit of the Sub Group was to examine the attempts at increasing the numbers of girls and young women studying STEM subjects; to consider the success of these attempts; and to consider other actions which could also increase the numbers of girls and young women studying STEM subjects.
- 3.4 Members held a series of evidence gathering meetings with representatives from organisations and schools and also spoke to some young women studying STEM subjects at GCSE and AS Level and as apprentices.
- 3.5 The findings and recommendations of the Sub Group can be found in the full report attached at Appendix 1.

3.6 The report was submitted to the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee on 16 March 2015 for endorsement and has been submitted to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for its approval and then submission to Cabinet, in accordance with Part 4.3 Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Rules of Procedure in the Authority's Constitution.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Young Women and STEM Sub Group.