

Report to: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 26 June 2017

By: Director of Children's Service

Title: Scrutiny Review of Raising the Participation Age – 12 Month Monitoring Report

Purpose: To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a 12 month progress update report on the implementation of the recommendations agreed

RECOMMENDATION:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the progress made on the recommendations contained in the review.

1 Background

1.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee established its review of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) to examine whether East Sussex County Council (ESCC) was meeting its statutory duties and to identify whether any improvements could be made to increase the participation of young people in education, employment or training. The report focused on three key areas: careers advice, vulnerable groups and meeting employers' needs.

1.2 The aim of RPA is to ensure that young people remain positively engaged with education or training until at least the age of 18, offering the best possible opportunity of developing the skills that will enable them to pursue successful careers, and make a positive contribution to their community.

1.3 The Children's Services Department welcomed the Scrutiny Review of RPA which was presented to Cabinet in January 2016, in particular the recognition that it gives to the importance of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in securing and sustaining education, training and employment opportunities. The Department produced an action plan to deliver the recommendations, which includes close working with schools who have the statutory responsibility to deliver high quality careers education. A six month progress update was reported back to Scrutiny Committee on 26th September 2016. This report provides a 12 month progress update.

2 Supporting information

2.1 Significant progress on the implementation of the action plan has been achieved as outlined in **Appendix 1**. All actions have either been exceeded or are on track to be achieved by the target deadline.

2.2 The Council's RPA Strategy 2013-2015 was reviewed in 2016 and a new Strategy was developed following a 16-19 Summit in June 2016 which was attended by senior leaders and decision-makers from: schools, academies, FE Colleges, training and apprenticeship providers, business, enterprise, voluntary and community sector, ESCC and District and Borough Councils. The new strategy '16-19 Strategy East Sussex: All Young People Learning & Working' was published in October 2016 and is attached at **Appendix 2**.

The 16-19 Strategy is based around four key themes:

- Education and skills that meet the needs of the labour market
- Career management
- Support for vulnerable learners
- Improving work readiness

2.3 95.9% of 16 year olds within East Sussex are participating in education or training. This is an improvement on last year (95.5%) and is ahead of both national (95%) and south-east (93.9%) figures. 88.6% of 17 year olds within the county are participating, which is an improvement on last year (88.4%), although slightly below national (89.3%), but ahead of south-east (87.2%) figures (March 2017).

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 Good progress is being made on implementing the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee's review as evidenced in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee consider the progress made on the recommendations contained in the review.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Fiona Wright, Assistant Director, Education and ISEND
Tel. no: 01273 481231
Email: fiona.wright@eastsussex.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: RPA Action Plan 12 month update

Appendix 2: 16-19 Strategy East Sussex: All Young People Learning & Working

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None