

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25 June 2018

By: Director of Children's Services

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations agreed 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 (CE IAG) 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 twelve month progress update was reported back to Scrutiny Committee on 26th June 2017. This report provides a further 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 completed or will be ongoing. The Department will therefore continue to take this work forward and will update Members of any further significant developments.

2.2 We have achieved our Participation targets for 2017/18 with 95% of 16 year olds in East Sussex participating in education or training and 88% of 17 year olds.

2.3 The publication of the new DfE Careers Strategy (Appendix 2) and subsequent statutory guidance setting out how schools and colleges need to meet all of the Gatsby Benchmarks, provides a further emphasis on the importance of CE IAG in schools and colleges, and the importance of employer engagement. East Sussex schools and colleges are well placed to deliver on the new requirements of the Careers Strategy due to the work that has taken place over the last few years as detailed in the action plan.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 Good progress continues to be 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 and comment on the progress made on the recommendations contained in the review.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: RPA Action Plan further 12 month update

Appendix 2: CEIAG Strategy briefing

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None