

**Report to:** Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 23 November 2015

**By:** Chair of the Review Board

**Title:** Scrutiny Review of Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

**Purpose:** To present the outcomes of the scrutiny review and make recommendations.

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***RECOMMENDATION:***

**The Committee to consider the report of the Review Board and make recommendations to Cabinet for comment, and County Council for approval.**

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**1. Background**

1.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee established the scrutiny review of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) to examine whether East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is meeting its statutory duties and to identify whether any improvements can be made to increase participation in education, employment or training.

1.2 The aim of raising the participation age (RPA) is to ensure that young people remain positively engaged with education, employment 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.

**2. Supporting information**

2.1 The members of the Review Board are Nicola Boutler (Chair), Councillors Kim Forward, Roy Galley, and Francis Whetstone. Catherine Platten also took part in the early stages of the review.

2.2 The attached report (appendix 1) contains the findings and recommendations of the Review Board. An evidence pack of supporting documentation is available on request from the contact officer.

2.3 The Committee is recommended to receive the Review Board's report for submission to Cabinet and County Council on 26 January 2016 and 9 February 2016 respectively.

**3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendation.**

3.1 The Committee is requested to consider and endorse the report of the Review Board for submission to Cabinet and Full Council.

NICOLA BOULTER  
Chair of the Review Board

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LOCAL MEMBERS: All.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.