

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met on 23 November 2015.

Present: Councillors Kathryn Field (Chair), Stephen Shing (Vice-Chair), Peter Charlton, Angharad Davies, Claire Dowling, Michael Ensor, Kim Forward, Roy Galley, Alan Shuttleworth and Nicola Boulter (Parent Governor Representative), Dr Ann Holt and Simon Parr (Diocesan Representatives).

Also present: Councillors David Elkin (Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Resources), Nick Bennet, (Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness) and Councillor Sylvia Tidy (Lead Member for Children & Families).

1. Scrutiny Review of Raising the Participation Age

1.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Raising the Participation Age. A copy of the Committee's full report has previously been circulated to all members and is available on request from Andy Cottell (Tel: 01273 481955).

1.2 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.

1.3 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee **recommends** to the County Council – **Careers Advice**

1.3.1 All East Sussex schools should attain the Investors in Careers (IIC) standard for careers advice services, or an equivalent alternative, to demonstrate to Ofsted and ESCC that they operate careers advice to the standard required by the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance.

1.3.2 The Education Improvement Partnership Executive Committee should survey East Sussex schools to identify and disseminate examples of best practice for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) and in particular for the provision of work experience.

1.3.3 All schools should appoint a Governor as careers advice champion.

1.3.4 All year 10 pupils should be offered work experience placements in conjunction with local employers.

Vulnerable Groups

1.3.5 Schools, ESCC and its partners examine ways to support the 'next most at risk' young people who may not meet the official vulnerability criteria e.g. by expanding services

in schools, subject to funding.

1.3.6 ESCC and its partners explore how mental health awareness and support services to vulnerable young people in schools and colleges could be enhanced.

1.3.7 Post 16 providers and ESCC take into account the difficulty some young people, from the northern and western parts of the county, experience in paying for travel to access suitable post 16 provision when targeting travel support.

Meeting Employers' Needs

1.3.8 Commend the idea of an Employability Passport and encourage its swift development. Work should be undertaken where possible to make the Employability Passport regionally and nationally accepted and recognised.

1.3.9 Promote a single point of contact for businesses eager to be involved in work experience opportunities possibly through the new Enterprise Advisor Co-ordinator post or expansion of the ESCC work experience service.

1.3.10 The Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) be requested to seek to match the demand and supply of traineeships to identify whether current provision can be expanded, and together with partners, seek to moderate the high expectations of employers regarding apprenticeships.

1.3.11 Actively encourage the extension of the provision of Careers Fairs (including apprenticeships), following an evaluation of the Sussex Chambers events, to create a network of Careers Fairs to serve all schools across the County.

1.3.12 Seek longer term funding for the Skills East Sussex Enterprise Advisor project, upon successful completion of the pilot scheme.

[See also report of the Cabinet – 26 January 2015]

23 November 2015

KATHRYN FIELD
Chair