

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee
Learning at Work: Policy Review recommendations 10/11

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	That the Council's Corporate Parenting Board takes a lead role in reducing the percentage of Looked After Children and Care Leavers classified as NEET to the level of the city as a whole and provide a quarterly report to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee in relation to progress on this target	<p>The Children and Young People in Care Strategy 2011-2013 Delivery Plan contains specific actions to achieve this outcome. Progress on the plan is reported to the MALAP and Corporate Parenting Board on a quarterly basis</p> <p>Children's Services will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City Services to provide apprenticeships for care leavers • Deliver teenagers to work to enable young people in care to have work taster opportunities • Provide extended support to care leavers over 21 who wish to attend university • Ensure high quality advice and guidance to care leavers through a two-day secondment from Connexions • Continue to deliver a job club for care leavers aged 16 and 17 who are currently NEET to support their transition into education, training and employment • Continue to work with the National Care2Work programme to develop practice in Sunderland 	<p>M Boustead</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board/MALAP</p>	<p>September 2011</p> <p>July 2011</p>	

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(b)	That Children's Services look to explore with schools ways of supporting young people for their post-16 future both for academic and vocational routes, including basic skills, through the facilitated sharing of best practice with a particular focus on those young people who may not follow an academic pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14-19 post within restructure to gather evidence of good practice with 14-19 partners Develop further mechanism of dissemination, eg themed agendas at 14-19 Strategic Group, pen portraits of young people who have undertaken a variety of learning/training routes Investigate all age careers services and impact on support for young people Agree way forward for 2011/12 with prospectus, work related learning and work experience (consider implications on post 16) 	M Foster 14-19 Partnership	January 2012	
(c)	That Children's Services look to ways of working closer with our partners, in particular Job Centre Plus, to ensure more appropriate support in the transition of young people (16-19yrs) into the adult labour market (19-24yrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify current level of participation by JCP on key local strategic groups Identify involvement in existing programmes between JCP/Young People's Services and draw out best practice Facilitate the involvement of suitable partners on relevant steering groups where transition is key Continue to develop links between the 14-19 Strategic Group and JCP through ESF funding (with particular focus on JCP clients accessing Supported Apprenticeship programmes) 	B Scanlon Connexions (Delivery)	January 2012	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop protocols between Connexions and JCP to ensure JCP advisors are aware of opportunities that are available through 14-19 Partners for JCP clients Continue to investigate data sharing protocols between Sunderland City Council and JCP to enable more targeted support to be offered to any 16-19 year old JCP client via Connexions and partners organisations Work with Economic Development Team to carry out feasibility study into incorporating contractual clauses into inward investors contracts specifying requirements for recruitment of local NEET individuals, increased work experience places for 16-24 year olds and increased Apprenticeship places for 16-24 year olds 			
(d)	That in recognising the reduced resource from the Connexions Service there should be an increasing focus, in relation to resource allocation, on those pupils who may not follow an academic pathway to enhance the opportunities available to these young people in providing experiences and an understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connexions Personal Advisers work with schools to identify pupils in this category Appropriate school staff liaise with Connexions to organise relevant activities Young people are monitored to ensure they benefit from these experiences 	B Scanlon Connexions (Delivery)	Ongoing but monitored and reported on a monthly basis	

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	of work				
(e)	That Children's Services work with partners across Sunderland to look at options for a co-ordinated approach to tackle the issues associated with the removal of EMA funding from the majority of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Task Group to identify issue relating to removal of EMA • Conduct survey on uses of EMA with college and school sixth form students to inform the use of the new grant • Co-ordinate consultation return on EMA replacement/Bursary Grant on behalf of Sunderland NEET Improvement Group and 14-19 Partnership • On receipt of funding guidance for EMA replacement, develop uniform citywide protocols and guidance for funding • Use electronic guidance tools – Area Wide Prospectus, Connexions websites, etc – to increase awareness of replacement scheme and claims procedures • Work with Sunderland City Council staff to ensure refreshed transport policy accounts for EMA removal 	B Scanlon EMA Task Group	Sept 2011	

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(f)	That further utilisation of the Pallion and Harraton Centre be explored in relation to vocational delivery in line with the findings from the Wolf Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunderland Futures to consider implications/impact of new government directives identified within the Education Bill and the proposals within the Wolf Review Consider the impact any changes of Sunderland Futures function/curriculum/training offer will have on post 16 provision 	M Foster 14-19 Partnership	November 2011	
(g)	That the 14-19 Partnership Board monitor the future direction of schools in relation to academic and vocational pathways and assess the impact (potential and actual) of any changes on those pupils at risk of becoming NEET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14-19 Officer to continue to work with established School Curriculum Leaders group to monitor academic and vocational pathways Establish new lines of communication with SSS and Connexions staff with remit for data and targets Monitor current position and identify key priorities and indicators – identify areas for partnership offer, eg Humanities, Languages Consider impact of all age careers service and changes to role and remit of schools Consider implications on the future direction of schools on post 16 provision Investigate the future direction of post 16 provision. 	M Foster 14-19 Partnership	July 2012	

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(h)	That Children's Services look to develop the 14-19 Partnership Board to provide a more targeted approach to the issue of NEET's including strengthening the strategic relationship with the Economic Leadership Board, the City's Economic Masterplan and the work of partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen 14-19 Partnership links with NEET Improvement Group – NEET Improvement Group to report progress towards action plan on a termly basis to 14-19 Strategic Group Review membership of 14-19 Strategic Group to include representatives of the City's Economic Masterplan and the City's Skills Strategy 	M Foster 14-19 Partnership	July 2012	
(i)	That Children's Services look to engage and develop relationships with a cross section of small, medium and large employers and seek to have employer representation on the 14-19 NEET Improvement Board to tackle a broad range of issues related to the support and development of apprenticeships across Sunderland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the Economic Development Team is invited to attend the Improvement Board A representative from Gentoo is invited to attend the Improvement Board The Economic Development Team advise on developing relationships with a cross section of employers Data is obtained from the National Apprenticeships Service to monitor the number of young people taking up apprenticeships in Sunderland Data obtained by National Apprenticeship Service with focus on the number of local employers currently offering Apprenticeship opportunities and in which employment sectors The 14-19 Strategic Group re-establish the Employer Engagement Group with 	B Scanlon NEET Improvement Group	Dec 2011	

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		<p>particular focus on securing Work Experience opportunities for local 16-18 year olds who are NEET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSP team arrange a follow-up to the 2010 Apprenticeship Employer Event with particular focus on targeting small to medium enterprise organisation 			
(j)	That the Council investigates the ways to promote, support and develop the benefits to employers in the area, including the recognition of good practice, reporting progress back to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	Working with the partnership of training providers in the city and the existing employers network activities will be identified that identify existing good practice and develop case studies for communication and promotional activity.	S Stanhope Director of HR and OD	Six-monthly from January 2012	
(k)	That the Connexions Service looks to gather additional data for training providers on actual employment rates following training and apprenticeship schemes to determine the success of these, as well as, actual drop-out rates (inclusive from day one) and the career pathways of this group of young people	Connexions Hub Services will produce a comparison of three years individual data of all young people undertaking training to highlight opportunity routes, percentages into positive outcomes and drop out rates as well as re-entry into learning	B Scanlon Connexions (Hub)	July 2011 and ongoing but monitored and reported on a monthly basis.	

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(l)	That the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee look to disseminate the findings and recommendations of this review to as wide an audience of key stakeholders as possible including Elected Members, Headteachers, the Chamber of Commerce and members of the relevant partnerships referred to in these recommendations	The Scrutiny Committee, through the established working group, will look to circulate the report to a wide variety of stakeholders and provide those stakeholders with the opportunity to invite members of the Committee to present the report findings at an appropriate meeting of their respective groups	N Cummings	December 2011	
(m)	That the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee write to the Secretary of State for Education and then Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills relating to those concerns identified in this report where a review of government policy at a national level may impact upon life choices for young people identified as NEET	The Scrutiny Committee, through the established working group, will draft a letter to the respective Secretary's of State. The letter will be afforded final approval at a formal meeting of the Committee. Any correspondence and subsequent actions will be communicated through the Committee and established working group	N Cummings	July 2011	
(n)	That a working group be established by the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee to receive regular information on the progress of the recommendations identified within this report	The CYPL Scrutiny Committee will provide the membership of this committee at its formal meeting in June 2011. Following this the Committee will meet on an ad-hoc basis to progress recommendations L and M as well as receiving progress reports on other aspects of the review. This will be in addition to the regular six-monthly progress report provided to the committee	N Cummings	April 2012	