

# Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011**

Agenda item: 10

Wards: All

**Subject: Children and Young People Panel Task Group – Post 16 Career Pathways terms of reference**

Lead officer: Jan Martin, Head of Education

Lead members: Cllr Agatha Akyigyina and Cllr James Holmes

Forward Plan reference number:

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## **Recommendations:**

A. That Members consider and approve the proposed Terms of Reference, title, timescales, sources of evidence and witnesses for the review to enable the 'Post 16 Career Pathways' task group to proceed with this review.

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To make proposals to Members for their forthcoming review of 'Post 16 Career Pathways' and to seek agreement on the proposed Terms of Reference, timescales, sources of evidence and witnesses for the review.

### **2. DETAILS**

At the meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011, members considered and agreed their work programme for the 2011/2012 municipal year.

Having considered the improvement priorities of the Authority, particularly with respect to the new sixth forms, Members agreed to review 'Post 16 Career Pathways' and appointed a Task Group to undertake this.

The following Members were nominated to sit on the Post 16 Career Pathways Task Group: Cllr Agatha Akyigyina (co-chair), Cllr James Holmes (co-chair), Cllr Dennis Pearce, Cllr Karin Forbes, Cllr Iain Dysart. Cllr Shears also became a member of this task group following an invitation to all councilors, as recommended in the 2009 scrutiny review.

3. **AIM OF REVIEW** To examine the range of options available to young people in Merton to pursue post-16 education and training.

### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE REVIEW:**

The following terms of reference for the review are proposed:

- To investigate the progress made at the new sixth form provision in secondary schools which opened in September 2010.

- To investigate the vocational opportunities in the borough and links with local employers
- To investigate the advice given to young people on post 16 opportunities in the light of a significant reduction in the Connexions service
- To investigate the implications for Merton arising from the raising of the participation age.

Other questions identified were

- Current practice and how this includes young people with special educational need, disabilities, English as an additional language, or who have come into contact with the youth justice service.
- Statistical evidence of successes and of those not in education, employment or training between ages 16-19.
- What best practice in other boroughs looks like
- To identify what else needs to be done to improve careers outcomes
- The role and activities of partners/local businesses
- The role of the council, schools and parents/carers

## **5. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES FOR THE REVIEW:**

Members can request a range of evidence and comparative information throughout the course of the review and can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of evidences based balanced recommendations to the Executive and where appropriate, to partner organisations.

- Members may wish to consider the following in this review:-
- Detailed officer reports supplemented by verbal evidence
- Best practice from neighbouring Local Authorities
- Government legislation and guidance (national, regional and local policy)
- Reports/presentations from Partner Organisations and stakeholders
- Site visits
- Research reports/Briefing papers and
- Consultation activities

## **6. OFFICER SUPPORT**

Members of the task group will be supported by:

Hilary Gullen, Scrutiny Officer

[Hilary.gullen@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Hilary.gullen@merton.gov.uk), 020 8545 4035

Jan Martin, Head of Education

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## 7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Panel may choose to agree a different scope and terms of reference to those proposed in this scoping report.

## 8. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

Members are asked to give consideration to if and how they would like to engage witnesses in this review.

## 9. TIMETABLE

It is envisaged that the Task Group will undertake and complete its review with a final report and recommendations being presented to the Children and Young People O&S Panel for endorsement at the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 meeting.

The following reporting timescale should be borne in mind when conducting the review to ensure completion by April 2012:-

11 <sup>th</sup> July 2011 12 <sup>th</sup> September	First meeting of the task group Second meeting of the task group
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2011	scoping report to Children and Young People O&S Panel to formally approve
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2011 Further meetings tbc	Future meeting of the task group
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	final task group report to Children and Young People O&S Panel to endorse submission to Cabinet
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2012 (tbc)	Final Task Group report to Cabinet for consideration and to relevant partner organisations, outlining any recommendations to partners which require a response to be submitted to the Children and Young People O&S Panel.
tbc	Executive response and Action Plan submitted to O&S Panel/Commission and task group champion to be appointed to monitor implementation of Action Plan and determine intended outcomes of review are achieved.

## 10. CO-OPTION

Members are asked to give consideration to co-opting representatives onto the Task Group for part or the duration of the review to assist the Task Group.

In accordance with the Constitution any representative co-opted onto the Panel or Task Group will be a non-voting member of the Task Group and will be required to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

## 11. PUBLICITY

Members can exercise the review to encourage and facilitate resident and partner engagement and to promote the outcomes of the review upon completion. The following mechanisms for promotion/publication may be utilised throughout the review:-

- Press release in local press
- My Merton
- Community Forums

- Merton council website
- Ward councillors
- Posters/materials in libraries and Merton Link
- Staff bulletin board and plasma screens in civic centre
- Residents' panel and Centre for Public Scrutiny (outcomes)

## **12. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

There are none specific to this report. Any financial, resource and property implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **13. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

None for the purposes of this report. Any legal and statutory implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **14. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

None specific to this report. Any human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **15. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

None specific to this report. Any crime and disorder implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **16. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None for the purposes of this report. Any risk management and health and safety implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **17. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

None

## **18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None