
SCRUTINY PANEL B
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2013

Present: Councillors Dr Paffey (Chair), Baillie, Furnell, Hammond, Turner and Whitbread

Apologies: Councillor Harris

8. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor Furnell be elected as Vice-Chair of the Panel

9. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd May, 2013 and 27th June 2013 be approved and signed as correct records.

10. **APPRENTICESHIPS INQUIRY MEETING 4: LEARNERS PERSPECTIVE**

The Panel considered the report of the Head of Communities, Change and Partnerships reviewing apprenticeship and the experiences of individual learners, careers advice and local support organisations.

Ian Smith, National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) outlined work undertaken locally by the organisation:-

- Events within the City including sessions during Apprenticeship Week, held at St Mary's Stadium.
- Work with ALPHI.
- Speed "dating" event at the Civic Centre. Aimed at young people not engaged. Workshops on completing application forms, CVs and dealing with employers.
- Their website was very comprehensive and they were also linked to Twitter, Facebook and other social media sites.
- Access to a bus that has been equipped with lots of information for use as a drop-in centre. Would like to utilise this more and were currently bidding for more funding. Would need the local authority to agree to allow the bus free space when it was in the city.
- Webinars – web based workshops for stakeholders to dial in and learn "all they need to know" about apprenticeships. Members were encouraged to take part in one of these sessions and provide feedback to a future meeting.
- Schools Festival on the 16th October.
- World Schools Competition at the NEC – 14th -16th November
- Next National Apprenticeship Week – 3rd to 7th March, 2014.
- Statistics were showing an increase in the number of 19-24 year old apprentices and also higher and advance apprenticeships. The numbers of placements continue to increase.

Steve Grove, Lead Adviser, National Careers Hampshire and IOW, explained the service that they provided:-

- Free service available for every adult
- Provide online support for young people. Only face to face if 19+ or 18 if in receipt of benefits. One session per year unless in priority group whom were entitled to three sessions.
- Co-located in every JobCentre Plus. Also in some libraries. No location of their own.
- Provision in schools was patchy. They do not have any involvement.
- Work with City College and Eastleigh College.
- Need to consider what was “good careers advice”.
- No particular direction to promote apprenticeships.

Seven apprentices from a range of levels and ages gave information on their experiences of careers advice and of apprenticeships:-

- Careers advice from schools varied. Some students were given positive information about apprenticeships; other received no information at all and were only encouraged to continue studying.
- Ability to continue studies whilst on the apprenticeship, rather than being in full time education.
- Ability to start studies at higher levels if already have sufficient qualification.
- Careers events at school need to ensure that they have apprenticeship training providers in attendance in order to be able to give students advice and direction.
- Aspirations of some to go onto University with the opportunity of the employer paying for this once an advanced apprenticeship has been completed.
- Ability to gain qualifications to the highest level within a chosen career.
- Decision to undertake apprenticeship rather than continue full time studies was often based on financial situation.
- Problem in some areas when trying to be taken on as an older apprentice.
- View that schools only suggest apprenticeships to those students not achieving academically.
- Being involved in the recruitment of future apprentices.
- Many apprenticeships expect a high academic level before young people would even be considered.
- Support given by the Rainbow Project to give pre-apprenticeship opportunities to young people within priority groups. Linked with a basic literacy and numeracy course.
- Young people feeling as though they have achieved. Gaining confidence.
- Pre-apprenticeship scheme linked with the Council and Wheatsheaf Trust.
- Pre-apprenticeship schemes were very supportive and all had hopes of continuing onto a full apprenticeship.
- Would be good for current apprentices and those on pre-apprentice schemes to be involved in promotional events. Better for young people to talk to them about their experiences rather than the older people involved.
- Importance of schools also promoting apprenticeships to parents.