

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment,
Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

**EXB45 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR PEOPLE
WITH LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES OR MENTAL HEALTH
ISSUES**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the outcome of the scrutiny review of employment practices for people with learning or physical disabilities or mental health issues. Councillor Sue Edge, Chairman of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board attended to present the report.

Members were advised that, as part of a Care Quality Commission performance assessment in 2008, it had been noted that although Halton supported more people with learning or physical disability or mental health issues into employment than had been predicted, performance was lower than comparators. The Commission also noted that targets set in relation to supported employment were relatively low.

Despite a number of interventions through employment and social care programmes in Halton, the number of people with learning disabilities progressing into employment remained low and was significantly lower than north west averages. As a result, of this assessment, a scrutiny review of current practice was commissioned.

The report outlined the methodology used and Appendix 1 contained the Scrutiny report, together with a series of recommendations discussed and agreed by the Members of the Employment Topic Group.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Edge for her presentation.

RESOLVED :That

1. the contents of the report be noted; and
2. where resources allowed, the recommendations made by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board and the Health Policy and Performance Board, as set out in the scrutiny report and action plan (Annex 5), be supported.

EXB47 BARRIERS TO WORK SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the findings and recommendations of the Barriers to Work Scrutiny Topic Group, as submitted to the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board in June 2010. Councillor Sue Edge, Chairman of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board attended the meeting to present the report

The Scrutiny Topic Group was established to analyse the results of research undertaken by Merseyside Information Service which was detailed in Appendix 1. The Group met on seven occasions between October 2008 and March 2010 to develop appropriate recommendations for local employment initiatives, training and skills programmes and business start-up services could be re-focussed to address the perceived barriers to employment, identified by residents in the neighbourhood management areas.

The report contained a list of key recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Edge for her attendance.

RESOLVED: That where resources allow, the key recommendations proposed by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, as detailed in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.14 of the report be approved.