

REPORT TO: Children Young People and Families
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 5 September 2011

REPORT AUTHOR: Strategic Director Children and
Enterprise

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Topic Report

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Members on existing and future scrutiny topic group titles.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

Members support a joint scrutiny topic group on Apprenticeships

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the beginning of April 2011, the Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business Development department moved to the Children and Young People directorate and the Children and Enterprise directorate was established.

3.2 By bringing together Children and Enterprise within one directorate it is recognised that for most young people it is the transferable skills that are developed at school and in further education that will determine their success in a range of jobs throughout their lives. It is, therefore, proposed that a topic title on apprenticeships would further cement these principles. It is proposed that the topic would be jointly overseen by members of both the ELS and Community PPB and the Children's PPB.

3.3 Councillor Sue Edge has offered to chair the topic group

3.4 The scope of this topic is set out below:

To review the provision of apprenticeships in the borough

Context

Britain has a long history of apprenticeships but the level of state intervention and the types of programme have varied over recent decades. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS) was launched in 2009 and has end to end responsibility for the delivery of Apprenticeships. In the past, apprenticeships in the borough have been supported by a number of funding pots, in particular

WNF. With reductions in funding, Local Authorities and partners will need to work even more closely with NAS to ensure that resources are deployed to create apprenticeships that are relevant to both the needs of employers and young people.

The topic will consider the following: -

- 1. The implementation of an apprenticeship programme for Halton;**
- 2. Monitoring and Review of the programme i.e. the effectiveness of the programme;**
- 3. Engagement with the Private Sector;**
- 4. Roles and Responsibilities of respective agencies to drive forward the apprenticeships agenda in Halton.**

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate policy implications for the organisation. However, the proposed and existing topic groups will support the Council in: -

Presenting key facts, figures and other key evidence that define a problem and establish a baseline for service improvement;
Identifying any developments and relevant future issues or trends that are expected to impact significantly on the services we provide;
Mapping out any relevant current key policies, initiatives, facilities and patterns of service;
Identifying relevant best practice and develop a 'model' response to the issues previously identified.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Halton Borough Council, as a key partner within the Halton Employment Partnership, is committed to securing 100 new apprenticeship opportunities across the borough by the end of 2011 and is looking for local businesses to consider any new job vacancies being advertised as an apprenticeship job opportunity for local people. We have been working in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service Employer Services Manager for Halton. More than 300 young people and adults across Halton have already registered their details with the National Apprenticeship Service and Halton People into Jobs to help secure future employment and training.

The National Apprenticeship Service is supporting the Big 100 campaign, working alongside the other campaign partners to ensure that more Halton organisations, across all sectors and industries, can have the opportunity to enjoy the business benefits that employing apprentices can bring.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

Children & Young People in Halton

Apprenticeships present another approach to enabling young employees to secure the skills they need to succeed in their working lives. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (November 2009) includes the requirement for all young people to be in education or training until the age of 18 by 2015, and an entitlement to an Apprenticeship place for each suitably qualified young person who wants one from 2013.

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The creation of new job opportunities for previously unemployed people, together with a package of qualifications offered through the Apprenticeship Framework will have positive implications for employment, learning and skills.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks anticipated in developing the proposed Scrutiny Topic Titles

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The choice of Scrutiny Topic Titles reflects a commitment to ensure that our young people have

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None under the meaning the Act.