

**REPORT TO:** Children & Young People Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People & Economy

**PORTFOLIO:** Children, Young People and Families

**SUBJECT:** Independent Living Skills

**WARD(S)** All

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To continue to review our provision for teaching and enhancing Independent Living Skills for Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in the Borough

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) That Riverside College are offering a varied and comprehensive programme to meet the needs of our SEND cohort of students aged 16-25.
- ii) This supplements the work of Cavendish High and Ashley Sixth Form.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In the last update report in February 2015 we recommended that we continue to research provision for Independent Living Skills through research from Members and Council Officers.

3.2 A request was made through a Council Commissioner to other LAs in the area to ask for examples of good practice. This has not yielded results.

3.3 Members and a Council Officer were invited to Riverside College to Review their provision for teaching independent Living skills.

3.4 The visit started with a presentation from Jane Baker, Head of ALS and Foundation Studies in which she outlined the structure and context of the college.

3.5 There has been a growth in the number of students to 195 from 40. There are sixty one 16-18 year olds and one hundred and one 19+ students. The students have moderate to severe learning difficulties, Autism, Aspergers, Behavioural, Social and Emotional difficulties as

well as Mental Health and Welfare Issues.

- 3.6 The move to CRMZ was to enhance the students learning experiences. All are on the one site, but individual student's access activities and lessons on the main Campus with mainstream peers.
- 3.7 The team comprises 14 teaching staff, 4 trainee teachers, 1 job coach, and 20 support staff.
- 3.8 The Students are taught in small groups
- 3.9 The Qualifications taken by the students were outlined, and included:
- Horticulture Qualification
  - Employability Qualification,
  - an increase in formal qualifications in Maths and English
  - Duke of Edinburgh Award
  - Significant increase in the work experience program
- 3.10 Key partners for work placements are Social Care, Catch 22, Knowsley LA and Halton Borough Council. The College wish to encourage HBC to identify further opportunities for student work experience. It was suggested that perhaps work experience for Horticulture Students in the Council Gardens may be looked into.
- 3.11 One hundred and thirty four students were placed by 34 employers in cafes, receptions, horticulture, retail as support workers, in IT, Enterprise.
- The Employment Partnerships included Acorn Farm, Kirkby, Spike Island, Catch 22, Café- SPARC, Victoria Park – HBC.
- 3,12 Some of the External employers included, Halton View Care Homes, Halton Community Transport, Halton Speak Out, Chestnut Lodge School, Icon Clothes, Cancer Care Charities
- 3.13 The students access the gym, hair and beauty salon and Performing Arts studies.
- 3.14 Community work for the students includes maintaining college grounds, participating in community events, raising money for charities and volunteering for Halton Speak Out, SPARC, Parent Partnership.
- 3.15 Three students have gained paid employment.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Helping to deliver the aims and objectives of Halton's Children and Young People's Plan.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None Identified

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Helping to deliver the aims and objectives of Halton's Children and Young People's Plan.

7.2 Duty to respond to pupil and family voice to ensure that young people are given the opportunity to remain in their community.

7.3 Need to improve outcomes for Children and Young People with SEND.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Ensure that Children and young people with SEND have their needs met locally and providing equal opportunities having regard to the Equality Act 2010.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.