

APPENDIX 1

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2014

8	HELP TO WORK SCHEME
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Help to Work Scheme.

The Board was advised that the Government Scheme 'Help to Work' commenced on 28 April 2014. This affected any person that had been on the Work Programme but who had not found employment after two years. The report outlined the conditions required where a person wished to continue to claim Job Seeker's Allowance. It was noted that participation in one of the following options was now mandatory under the new Scheme:

1. To accept a community work placement;
2. To visit a job centre every day; and
3. To take part in further training.

Appendix 1 provided more details on how the scheme would be delivered via Job Centre Plus.

Members were asked to consider the implications for the Council of Option 1 – "to accept a community placement", in the light of the adoption of its Volunteer Policy in 2010. The policy considerations were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) note the report;
- 2) considered the potential implications outlined in section 4 of the report;
- 3) drew a distinction between Mandatory and Voluntary Work Placements; and
- 4) did not support mandatory work placements, but would continue to support voluntary work placements which aimed to add value and provide individuals with the skills and experience necessary to obtain employment.