

Local Members Interest
N/A

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Friday 17 January 2020

Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire

Recommendation

I recommend that:

- a. Members scrutinise the activity of the recently-established Education and Skills Strategic Group and its agreed work programme.

Report of Cllr Philip White, Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability

Background

1. Members met in December 2018 to scrutinise the draft Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire. Members fed their comments into the consultation process and requested that an update on the progress be brought to a future meeting of the Committee

Summary

2. Following overwhelming support from consultees, and with Cabinet approval, the [Education and Skills Strategy: A Partnership Framework for Staffordshire](#) was published in April 2019, with a clear vision:

“That every Staffordshire child receives the best possible education and is equipped with the learning, skills, aspirations and opportunities they need to continue lifelong learning and forge a successful career, with fulfilled healthy lives, as responsible adults.”

3. On 20 June 2019, the inaugural meeting of the [Education and Skills Strategic Group](#) was held, with a [membership](#) reflecting the range of educational partners and providers across Staffordshire and beyond.
4. The [notes from the June 2019 meeting](#) refer to officer presentations on the county council’s new “Raising Aspiration” programme of research with Staffordshire University and on the “Future economy and Local Industrial Strategy” and to the group’s agreement to seven key priorities for its future work programme:
 - a. INCLUSION – including all learners, vulnerable groups
 - b. ASPIRATION – including IAG for all ages, careers education, role of parents/family

- c. OUTCOMES – educational and wider health, social, civic, etc
 - d. CURRICULUM OFFER – eg, consistency between all phases, input from employers and sector leaders
 - e. BEST PRACTICE – eg, sharing successes, what can be done for “free”
 - f. EMOTIONAL WELLBEING – including personal resilience
 - g. CAPACITY – eg, recruitment and retention, strong governance, lobbying of government
5. At its second meeting, on 2 October 2019, the group discussed presentations on “Aspiration and the Local Industrial Strategy” with Alun Rogers (Interim LEP chair) and “Best Practice” with Bernie Pearce (Director of Blackfriars Teaching School). The board also agreed that its work programme for the coming year would focus on Aspiration and Best Practice:
- a. ASPIRATION – convene a workshop to identify how all education providers should use the information and intelligence in the Local Industrial Strategy and also to identify and share existing good practice. The longer term aim is to define a broad “Staffordshire curriculum”, which reflects the educational, career and lifelong learning aspirations for the county.
 - b. BEST PRACTICE - convene a workshop to identify sources of best practice, but with an emphasis on the development of personal characteristics. The longer term aim for this priority is to define a broad “Staffordshire curriculum”, which reflects the values and skills aspirations for the county.
6. In addition, the group agreed to adopt the Framework for Ethical Leadership in Education of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership (refer to page 10 of the [Final Report of the Ethical Leadership Commission, January 2019](#)). Finally, the group agreed to:
- a. establish a task and finish group to develop proposals for the first STAFFORDSHIRE EDUCATION and SKILLS CONFERENCE, in summer 2020, to draw together the diverse range of providers and partners to showcase good practice and the work of the strategic group.

Link to Strategic Plan

- 7. Strategic priority to “Improve Education and Skills provision in our schools, colleges and universities so that more people gain the training and qualifications they need to succeed”.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

None.

Contact Details

Report Commissioner: Tim Moss
Job Title: Head of School Improvement and Strategy
Telephone No.: (01785) 277963
E-Mail Address: tim.moss@staffordshire.gov.uk