

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	6 th November 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Development of a Youth Employment Strategy
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/12/238

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been produced in response to a motion raised by Councillor Townson on the 13th June 2012 to develop a Youth Employment Strategy.

The report outlines the activities already taking place in relation to the production of a youth employment strategy and action plan based on the Scottish Government Opportunities for All Programme. It aims to reassure elected members that this work is already being progressed as a priority for the community planning partners and the council. It clarifies who is currently leading this work in the city and seeks approval for this work to be progressed through the Integrated Children's services Successful Transitions Outcomes Group.

This report will also highlight the number of individuals within the 16 – 19 segment that are not currently in Education, Employment or Training.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The work to date in mapping the current activities available for those in the target segment which are not currently engaged, is being undertaken by an officer in Education, Culture and Sport and does not require additional financial input.

All identified services to date are funded by external funders and should require no additional financial input from Aberdeen City Council.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There may be an additional resource requirement to ensure that partners maintain updated records on the system. This would be sought from within Education, Culture and Sport and Skills Development Scotland.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Rising unemployment within the 16 – 19 year old age group is of key concern nationally and a number of initiatives have been launched by both the Scottish and UK governments to address this issue.

The unemployment rates for the 16 – 19 year olds within the city whilst not giving reason to be complacent are significantly lower than other areas of the country.

Skills Development Scotland's data for September 2012 highlight that there are currently **270** Job seeker allowance claimants within the 16 – 19 year category. This represents **0.17%** of the working age population of Aberdeen, which has an average unemployment rate of **2.2%**

Of those 270, there are **155** that have been claiming for 13 weeks or less.

In comparison the city of Dundee with an average unemployment rate of **6.5 %** and a population of 144,300 has **645** Job seeker allowance claimants within the 16 – 19 year category, representing **0.68%** of the working age population, of which **320** have been claiming for 13 weeks or less.

On a UK wide basis with a slightly different measuring mechanism there are **1.02 million** individuals within the 16 – 24 year old segment claiming Job seeker allowance.

Current situation - Internal

Officers within Education, Culture and Sport currently co-ordinate and take a lead role in supporting the multi agency Successful Transitions to Adulthood Outcome Group. The key objectives of this multi agency group are to ensure appropriate provision is available to minimise the number of school leavers not in employment education or training, and to ensure all partners are fully informed on all local and national initiatives to ensure individuals within this target segment can access all appropriate support. This group leads the implementation of the national Opportunities for All and the Youth Employment Strategy in the city.

The lead officer for this group has also mapped out all the appropriate local provision, updates regularly and shares with partners, ensuring that all partners that engage with this client group have an overview of current provision and can refer appropriately.

Additionally officers within Education, Culture and Sport manage the delivery of the Activity Agreements, which provide a package of tailored activity and learning to re-engage those young people furthest from the labour market

External

There are a number of external initiatives that are managed by Skills Development Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Opportunities for All

The Scottish Government has made a commitment to offer every 16 – 19 year old a place in education or training through the "Opportunities for All" initiative.

Training for Work

Training for Work provides vocational training support to people aged 18 or over who have been continuously unemployed for at least 13 weeks and are actively looking for work.

Get Ready for Work

Get ready for Work arranges skills training and work placements for people aged 16 – 19 who are finding it difficult to access training, learning and employment.

Additionally Skills Development Scotland maintain a database of all School leavers, which highlights those that are not currently in employment, education or training. This information is used to ensure all individuals are contacted and made aware of the services available through Skills Development Scotland and its delivery partners to reduce the time that School leavers are disengaged. They also provide support in the form of “My world of Work” coaches who will give one to one support to those furthest from the labour market.

My world of work

My world of work is an online toolkit that offers support and information in relation to job seeking, local employment opportunities, sector specific information and skill development tools within the employability arena.

Going Forward

The Scottish Government launched Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy in 2012 and also appointed Angela Constance MSP, as Minister for Youth Employment. This strategy has been widely adopted and sets out delivery expectations for Local authorities to address the issues of Youth Unemployment on a local level, and has made commitment to additional funding to deliver new and increase the delivery on existing initiatives e.g. Modern Apprenticeships.

The Scottish Government has requested Skills Development Scotland through local community planning to develop a “Local Youth Employment Plan”

“Youth Employment Plans should bring together key Community Planning partners with a contribution to make to this agenda, and encourage service alignment locally.

Skills Development Scotland takes a lead role in developing Youth Employment Plans with each local authority area as the basis for agreeing the nature and size of the priority cohort locally and to develop a shared pipeline approach to manage the process. The development of records of the type of each offer made will also be considered”

The initial meeting in early October with Skills Development Scotland highlighted that officers within Education, Culture and Sport through the Successful Transitions to Adulthood Outcome Group, had already made significant progress through their mapping activity to meeting the needs of the minister, and were commended on their work. Further work will be initiated over the coming weeks to ensure a process is in place to allow this information to be regularly updated, and currency maintained, this will highlight which initiatives have been most

successful and any areas of duplication or over provision. A fully populated map of activity will assist support workers, guidance staff and advisors to direct clients appropriately to a programme that is most suited to their needs and therefore most likely to be successful.

In addition to this Aberdeen City Council and its Community Planning partners are committed to delivering activities and developing appropriate initiatives as per the Scottish Government, Youth Employment Strategy through the Successful Transitions Outcome group.

6. IMPACT

Single Outcome agreement (SOA) National Outcomes:

1. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
2. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful
3. People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve full potential. Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner's needs

Aberdeen - the Smarter City

We will ensure all citizens are encouraged and supported appropriately to make their full contribution.

We will help every citizen to improve their knowledge and skills, together contributing to our success as a learning city

We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.

We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.

We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training.

Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.

Again, working with partners, we will create a City of Learning which will empower individuals to fulfill their potential and contribute to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our communities.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Government's Youth Employment Strategy

Skills Development Scotland's Youth employment Action Plan guidance

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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