

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 21 July 2015

Electoral Division affected: All

Young Peoples perspective on the routes to 14 -19 Education & Training provision

(Appendices A and B refer)

Contact for further information:

Kirsty Houghton, 07887830943, Children's Services,

Kirsty.houghton@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Lancashire Youth Council has been invited by the Education Scrutiny Committee to carry out a piece of research to find out young people's perspective on the routes to 14-19 education and training provision and to report their findings.

The Youth Council have conducted their research through group discussion and by distributing a questionnaire to young people across Lancashire and have consulted 220 young people. A copy of the questionnaire is at Appendix A and the results of the consultation are at Appendix B.

Recommendation

The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the findings and recommendations of the Lancashire Youth Council.

Background and Advice

In April 2015 Lancashire Youth Council were asked to develop and deliver a consultation that would outline young people's perspective of routes to 14-19 Education and Training provision across Lancashire.

Members of the Youth Council Executive and Members of Youth Parliament developed a questionnaire that would enable them to gather the opinions and thoughts of young people on this matter as well as conducting discussions within their district youth councils. A copy of the questionnaire is at Appendix A.

To ensure that a diverse range of young people's opinions have been reached, Lancashire Youth Council distributed the questionnaire to District Youth Councils, Lancashire Participation Network, POWAR (SEND youth forum) and LINKS (Children in Care Council).

From the research and consultation process the youth council have identified a number of points:

- Out of the 220 young people who took part in the questionnaire, 153 were aware of how to access 14-19 education and training provision with colleges and apprenticeships being the most identified provision. Even though this is just a sample of the young people who live in Lancashire it signifies that young people are being made aware of the routes available to them.
- 31% of the young people consulted felt that they did not know what provision was available to them with the most attributed reason for this being lack of careers guidance in school.
- However over 50% of the young people said that they would go to their school tutors, mentors and pastoral managers for advice and guidance about further education and training provision.
- It has been identified that there is a large selection of resources where young people can obtain support when accessing routes to education and training provisions for example through Youth Zones; Targeted Youth Support workers, Teachers and Family members.
- Some of the Lancashire Youth Council executive members identified that young people may see a vast improvement in education and training provision guidance if they had dedicated workers providing full time support in schools. This information therefore suggests that there may be a gap in the provision for students in secondary school regarding further education and training.
- The Youth Council have found through this consultation that a large proportion of the young people who took part in the consultation and identified that they were aware of routes to 14-19 education and training provision and what support would be available to them if they found themselves on the wrong path were aged between 14 and 16.

From these points and the findings from the research discussions and questionnaire it is apparent that many young people are aware of how to access routes to 14-19 Education and Training provision, however this seems to be mainly those young people who already attend school and college.

If the Youth Council were to carry out this piece of work again it would be recommended that the questionnaire be distributed more widely to young people including sharing on social media, on the internet and onto School's Moodle/students portal.

Lancashire Youth Council Recommendations:

- i. That provision for advice and guidance of 14-19 Education and Training should be of a high quality throughout the county. It was felt that, at present there did not appear to be a consistent approach.
- ii. In light of the findings from the questionnaire it may be beneficial to carry out a further piece of work focusing on the 31% of young people who were not aware of what routes were available to them and identifying how this could be resolved.

- iii. That the findings of the consultation be shared with the Lancashire Association of Secondary School Headteachers (LASSH) and Lancashire County Council Cabinet Members with whom the Lancashire Youth Council currently meet on a quarterly basis.

Consultations

Lancashire Youth Council consulted with 220 young people aged between 11 and 21 years old and from a variety of youth forums including targeted groups. The results from the consultation are set out at Appendix B.

Implications: N/A

Risk management: There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
-------	------	-------------------------