

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

15th July 2016

Report of the Head of Participation – Chris Millis

Matter for information

Wards Affected: All

NPT Works Report Card 2015-16

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the progress of the NPT Works programme.

Background

2. NPT Works is a non-statutory service that was created in 2009 as a specialised unit delivering welfare-to-work programmes on behalf of the UK Government's Department for Work & Pensions (DWP). Initially delivering the flexible New Deal Programme but, since 2011, The Work Programme in Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend County Boroughs.
3. The Work Programme is one of the UK Government's flagship programmes. Participants are referred to the programme by Jobcentre Plus when they reach a specific milestone by type of participant group (there's 8 different types of groups in use in Wales) for length of unemployment or have been assessed by the Work Capability Assessment as being in the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) Work Ready Activity Group (WRAG). Participants are on programme for 2 years and income to the

service is by “Payments by Results”, so the majority of participant groups have to enter sustained employment for at least 6 months before any income is generated.

4. At its peak, NPT Works was dealing with 2,500 participants, more recently the numbers on programme has decreased to around 920 and in turn the number of staff delivering the programme has reduced significantly to 13.6 FTE and the likelihood is that number will decrease this financial year as participant numbers continue to fall.

NPT Works income is derived from a commercial contract with Rehab JobFit who are one of two Prime Contractor for the Work Programme delivery in Wales.

Financial Impact

5. The work delivered is funded by a contract with Rehab JobFit until 31st March 2017.

Equality Impact Assessment

6. Having considered the Council's screening assessment guidance produced to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 it has been determined that the proposal within this report does not require an equalities impact assessment.

Workforce Impacts

7. There are no direct workforce or staffing issues in relation to this report.

Legal Impacts

8. There is no legal impact in relation to this report.

Risk Management

9. There is no identified risk to this report.

Consultation

10. Not applicable.

Recommendations

11. The report be noted.

Implementation of Decision

12. Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - NPT Works Report Card 2015/16

Officer Contact

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Appendix 1 - NPT Works Report Card 2015/16