

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee 26th January 2017

Report of the Head of Participation – Chris Millis

Matter for information

Wards Affected: All

Skills and Training Report Card 2016-2017

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the progress of the Skills and Training Unit in Neath Port Talbot.

Background

2. Skills and Training delivers Welsh Government funded specialist programmes of learning and training offering Work-Based Learning opportunities and bespoke commercial training to meet the needs of local residents, employers and their employees.
3. Skills and Training are founding members of, and work in partnership with a diverse range of outstanding and like-minded providers known as Skills Academy Wales (SAW). SAW was established as the first Work-Based Learning Consortium of its kind in Wales in October 2009 and has been operating as a single contract with the Welsh Government since August 2010, led by NPTC Group, offering provision for the delivery of Work-Based Learning programmes throughout North, Mid and South Wales.

4. Partner organisations for Skills Academy Wales are: Pathways Training; Learn-kit Ltd; Gwendraeth Valley Community Enterprise Ltd (Jobforce Wales); Llanelli Rural Council; ACO Training Ltd; NPT County Borough Council (Skills & Training); Swansea ITeC Ltd and Coleg y Cymoedd.
5. In 2016 Skills Academy Wales was the Highest Performing Apprenticeship provider in Wales.
6. Skills & Training is a non-statutory service delivering a range of work tasters, learning programmes, qualifications and employment opportunity programmes for people from the age of 14 - 65. Current delivery services are across the Neath Port Talbot County Borough, Swansea Bay and Bridgend regions, the organisation engages with approximately 250-300 learners and job seekers at any one time.
7. Staffing levels have reduced by half in the last three years; the organisation currently has 21 posts, 7 of which are part-time.
8. Skills & Training have been a Prince's Trust franchise holder since 1990. In 2015 The Princes Trust awarded Skills & Training the prestigious title of the 'Best Delivery Partner in Wales'. To date 157 Team Programmes have been delivered, supporting more than 2100 participants aged 16-25 to develop the self-confidence, employability skills and qualifications to reach their potential.
9. Welsh Government specialist 'employability' programmes are designed to engage people, address learning barriers and offer basic qualifications and work experience. The programmes cater for different client groups both under and over the age of 18, who are not in full-time education or employment (NEET).

Welsh Government Work Based Learning Programmes deliver a variety of courses for Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Traineeship Engagement, (such as the Prince's Trust Team Programme). In addition, Work Tasters are available in most occupational areas for Traineeship Engagement Learners. The Unit also delivers specialised Occupational Areas for Level 1, 2 & 3:

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts in relation to this report but Members should note that the Unit is primarily funded through a

contract with Skills Academy Wales/Welsh Government with a contract value of £760,269 and an additional £271,295 through commercial delivery.

Equality Impact Assessment

10. 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

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

Legal Impacts

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

Risk Management

13. There is no identified risk to this report.

Consultation

14. Not applicable.

Recommendations

15. The report be noted.

Implementation of Decision

16. Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Skills and Training Unit Service Report Card 2016-2017

Officer Contact

17. Chris Millis Head of Participation, Telephone 01639 763226 e-mail c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk

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Appendix 1 - Skills and Training Unit Report Card 2016-2017