
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

1st March, 2006

Report of
Cabinet Member (Children's Services)

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Connexions Strategic Partnership Board

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10th May 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of The Connexions Strategic Partnership Board over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Connexions service for Coventry and Warwickshire is an excellent service. It provides information and advice to young people as they leave compulsory education and go on to further education, training or employment.
- 2.2 I recommend that Coventry Council should continue to send 2 representatives to the Connexions Board. I note that currently it is the cabinet member and the Chair of the appropriate Scrutiny Board. I consider that it would be more appropriate for the Council not to be so prescriptive and make 2 appointments from members, one of which shall be the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

Context

- 3.1 The Connexions Service in Coventry & Warwickshire was established by Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council in 2001. It was one of the first 12 to be developed. Both Local Authorities held the view that it should be located within the sub regional economic development company, CSWP Ltd. The service was funded via Government grant received via Government Office West Midlands. The purpose of the Connexions Service is to ensure all 13 to 19 year olds receive the information, advice, guidance and support they need to continue in education, training and employment post-16.

Governance

- 3.2 The Connexions Strategic Partnership Board is a formal sub-committee of the CSWP Board. It reports progress to the CSWP Board quarterly and feeds back to partners and stakeholders regularly. With the development of the Children's Trust arrangements in both the city and the county, the service will be commissioned by both Local Authorities via the Local Area Agreements process from April 2007 or April 2008 at the latest.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

Achievements and Benefits to the Council

- 4.1 The main measure for each Connexions Service is the reduction of young people aged 16, 17 and 18 who are not engaged in employment, education or training (known as NEET). Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions achieved the greatest reduction in England in the national NEET count in November 2004. It has just been announced that Coventry and Warwickshire is the highest performing sub region in terms of the percentage of year 11 students who continue in learning (at school, college, or with an employer). The figure stands at 92.1%. Coventry is the 6th highest Local Authority in the country – only surpassed by Isles of Scilly, Rutland, North Somerset, Warwickshire and Barnet.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 Councillors Blundell and Field are the City Council's representatives on the Connexions Strategic Partnership Board and both also sit on the Executive Committee. In the last twelve months there have been 2 meetings of the Partnership Board which were attended by both City Council representatives; there have been 2 meetings of the Executive Committee of which Councillor Blundell attended 2 and Councillor Field 1.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment..

List of background papers

Proper officer: Councillor Blundell

Author: Telephone
Councillor Blundell, 024 7683 1004
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:
Steve Stewart, Connexions
Alison Townsend, Senior Committee Officer

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61