
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

18th February 2009

Report of
Councillor John Blundell

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 Coventry City Council should continue to send 2 representatives to the Connexions Strategic Partnership Board one of whom should be the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Connexions Strategic Partnership Board provides governance for the Connexions Service. This service provides information, advice, guidance and support to all 13-19 year olds (and up to 24 year olds for those with special and additional needs). It is the lead agency for the delivery of the City's Local Area Agreement (LAA) target to reduce the number of 16-18 year olds who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 3.2 As of 1st April 2007, the funding to deliver the Connexions' service was redirected to Coventry City Council who now commissions the service. The Partnership Board oversees the performance management of the service against the agreed specification with Coventry City Council.
- 3.3 Key achievements during the past year have been the delivery of the September Guarantee of a place in learning for every Year 11 student. Percentage of students progressing into structured learning increased in 2008 to 95.1% and those progressing into employment, training or learning increased to 96.1%, a record high.
- 3.4 When the count takes place in February 2009, Coventry will be one of the very few authorities to have achieved our NEET target of 6.9%. Positive destinations for Year 11 at 96.2% is the highest in the West Midlands.
- 3.5 The challenge will be to reduce the NEET figure at a time of economic downturn. Connexions will work closely with partners to achieve the Government target of 6.2%.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The appointment contributes significantly to the Connexions Strategic Partnership Board and to greater partnership working between City Council services, Connexions, and other partners towards the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters. This is evidenced by the findings of the Coventry Joint Area Review and Annual Performance Assessment. The appointment also assists with the development of even more effective collaboration as evidenced by the pooling of Connexions grant funding into the Local Area Agreement from 1st April 2007.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillor Blundell with Councillor Crookes from June, 2008 and Councillor Lee up to May, 2008. In the period from January, 2008 to December, 2008 inclusive a total of 3 meetings were held, with Councillor Blundell attending 1 of the 3 meetings and Councillor Crookes attending 1 of the 2 meetings he was entitled to attend. Councillor Lee did not attend the meeting he was entitled to attend.
- 5.2 Members receive no remuneration for the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location CH 59