

**SKILLS UPDATE**

Tracey Aldworth

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To update members on the current progress of work being carried out to address the skills issues relating to young people's access to information and opportunity to a wider range of career paths.

**2 Recommendations**

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| 2.1 | To note the progress of opportunities for Apprenticeships and Traineeships  |
| 2.2 | To support the project by marketing it through the AVDC media channels and encouraging our partners to do the same. |

**3 Supporting information**

- 3.1 In 2013, the scrutiny committee undertook a review of skills and employment issues. During that review Members raised concerns about the lack of Information and support to young people to be able to make real choices for alternative career paths and asked that we look to do more to highlight the options.
- 3.2 Similar concerns have been raised across Buckinghamshire in 2013 about the opportunities for young people to get into work, Buckinghamshire County Council put forward nine recommendations designed to better prepare young people for the world of work. Among the recommendations was suggested the development of a 'ready for work passport', which would be offered to young people in schools and colleges. The aim of the measure was to help young people develop the skills and confidence needed to find employment. The report also recommended that school governing bodies appoint a lead member for careers advice and hold head teachers to account over their statutory duty to provide high quality careers guidance to all pupils. In addition it was considered that schools should develop more partnerships with local businesses and for primary school teachers to raise awareness of employment as part of pupils' preparation for secondary school.
- 3.3 This follows the statutory guidance published by the Department for Education earlier this year which extended schools' careers advice duties. From September, schools will be held more accountable for their careers advice programs and for preparing young people for employment.
- 3.4 A project named Going for Gold has been set up and is being led by Buckinghamshire CC and AVDC is a member of this project group. (Information on this project is attached as an appendix)
- 3.5 The project will encourage and support people of all ages to take up apprenticeships and traineeships in a range of different careers.
- 3.6 A project officer has been seconded from BTVLEP to lead the initiative.
- 3.7 As explained in the project update attached to this report, the project has commenced and will be formally launched in Sep 14.

- 3.8 All partners are encouraged to support this project by adding this to all their marketing channels.

#### **4 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 It is important to ensure Aylesbury Vale DC and other partners contribute to the successful take up of the offer of apprenticeships for both the apprentice and the businesses engaging the apprentices. It is therefore recommended that the council officers are directed to assist the partners in delivering the project by maximise marketing on all its media channels and making similar requests of partner organisations not currently involved in the project.

#### **5 Resource implications**

- 5.1 A contribution of £5k has been made to support this project from the ED budget and staff resources will be allocated to help promote the scheme.

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Background Documents: None