

Report to the Education and Vulnerable Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 January 2016

Progress Report on Implementation: Work Experience for School-Age Children – the role of the City Council

Purpose of the Report

To brief the Committee on progress made since last report dated 21st October 2015.

Recommendations

1. Members note the information contained in this report
2. Members to encourage the provision of work experience placements in discussions with Officers
3. Members to encourage colleagues to participate in the provision of work experience
4. Members to show support for their local schools by attending Careers and other developmental Events

Contact Officer Details

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Background

We have an established programme to develop and support young people in their career choices through the provision of work experience placements and other supportive initiatives. The success of the programme is leading to other opportunities to engage with more disadvantaged groups – see further information below.

The following report tracks progress since the last meeting, 21st October 2015.

Key Issues

Progress on Actions

- ✓ Work experience dashboard with work experience placements undertaken from Q3 2015
 - ✓ Members to provide opportunities for work experience. A template letter for Members to use has been loaded on the Members portal. This outlines how work experience can be supported together with the application form that students are required to complete
 - ✓ A process to ensure any work experience offered by members can be tracked onto the dashboard.
- A. Dashboard: The dashboard reports on work experience placements from the 1st September to 31 December 2015. (The placements for this period are 'light' as most work placements take place between April and August).
- B. Members Letter: Attached at Appendix 1 is the letter for Members to use in discussions/meeting with Schools/College/Universities to help promote the wider work experience opportunities in the Council.
- C. Members Process: Appendix 2 describes the process that Members will need to follow to ensure that all work experience placements can be recorded and reported.

Other Progress

Information on the full range of work experience opportunities together with application process has been developed and uploaded to Birmingham.Gov. This is the same for our apprenticeships.

All participating schools, colleges and universities have been sent a letter to inform them of the launch of this site. Details at www.birmingham.gov.uk/workexperience.

New Activity

Work Placements - SEND: We have been working with the Head of Disabled Children's Social Care (Chris Bush) and his team to offer placements for up to 50

young people (aged 14-25), who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The offer will include placements of 10 days duration and 2 day work taster sessions.

A successful 'meeting was held on 8th December 2015 with invited leads from specialist Schools, Colleges and the NHS. An 'Expression of Interest' form to collate nominations has been circulated to specialist establishments involved in the Pilot with a closing date of 8th January 2016. Placements will be completed in the period 25 January – 31 March 2016, following which a review will be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot.

Tomorrow's Talent Today: We are hosting an event in Partnership with ManpowerGroup and the Local Government Association in the Library of Birmingham on **20th January 2016**. This aims to support the recruitment of young people (aged 16-18). The purpose of the event is to bring students together with hiring managers from BCC to:

- Understand expectations, perceptions and opinions of young people about access to employment
- Develop networking skills and improve interview capability
- Provide one-to-one pre and post interview coaching
- Create an opportunity to stay in touch and build relationships

Invitations to 'network' with the young people during lunch have been sent to Councillors/Members, the Assistant Chief Executive and Service and Assistant Directors.

Conclusions

Early signs are encouraging. We are building a number of different work experience opportunities for our young people across a variety of service areas and professions to help them on their journey to employment and to enable us as an employer to spot talented individuals too. Progress will continue to be tracked and regular updates provided to this committee

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Letter from Members, Promoting Work Experience

Appendix 2 – Member Work Experience Process

Appendix 3 – Work Experience Dashboard, Quarter 3

Appendix 1 – Letter from Members, Promoting Work Experience



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Councillor [Name]

[Title]

The Council House

Victoria Square

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Tel: 0121-xxx xxx

Email: name@birmingham.gov.uk

[Date]

[addressee and address]

Dear [name]

Work Experience Placements – Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council has an established programme in developing and supporting young people in their career choices through the provision of work experience placements.

We are pleased to advise that we have recently launched a new webpage detailing the process and details of the current opportunities available. Please visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/workexperience for further information. We pride ourselves on being 'inclusive' and therefore encourage students with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities, those in Care or students who are those who live in deprived areas of the City to apply.

We will also consider placements for students who are interested in a career in politics and would welcome an opportunity to shadow me or another Councillor at the City Council. Expressions of Interest stating why this placement is of particular interest to be sent to myself by email using the details above.

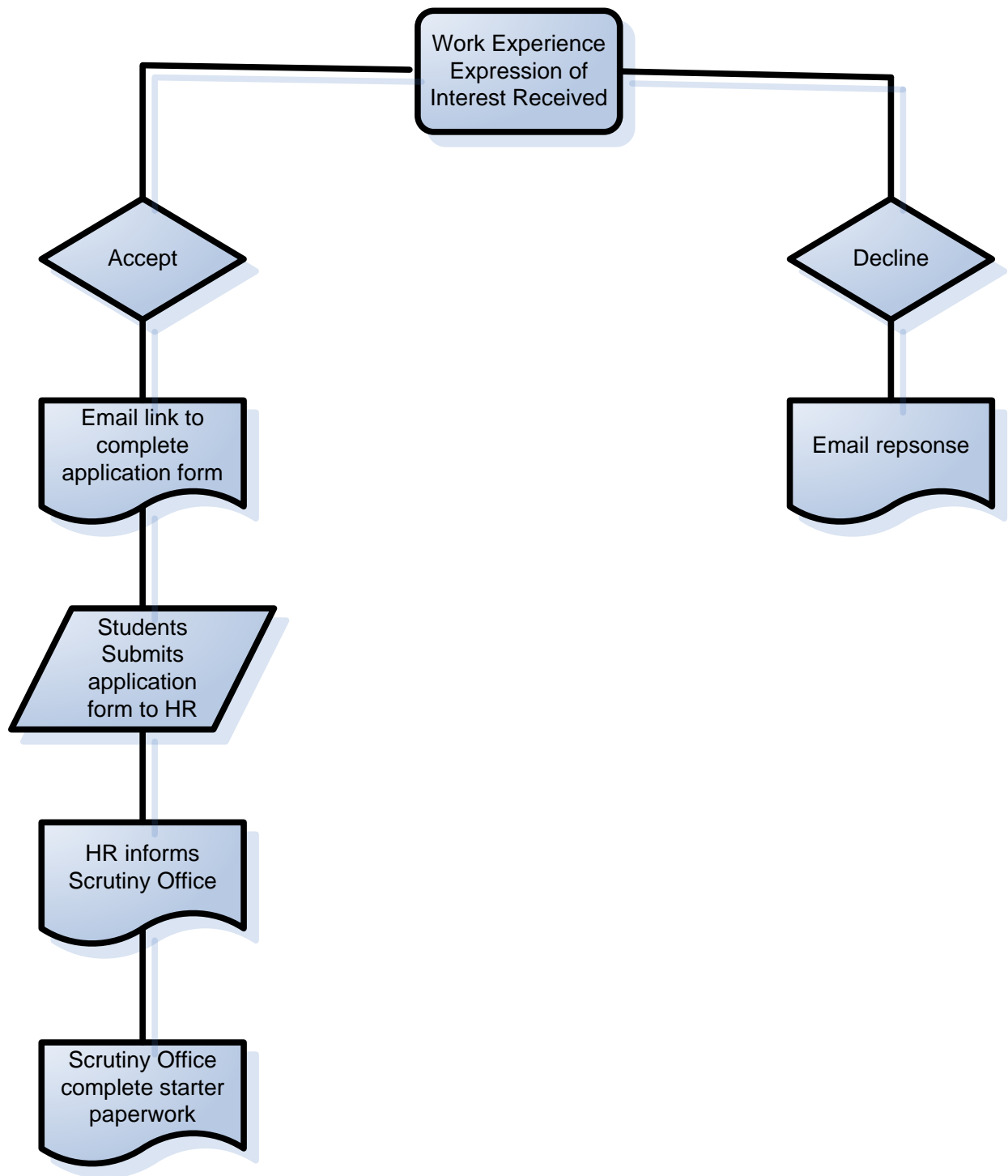
Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Councillor [Name]

[Title]

Appendix 2 – Member Work Experience Process



Appendix 3 - Work Experience Dashboard, Quarter 3

See separate document