

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the establishment of two level two apprenticeship opportunities specifically for looked after children and/or care leavers.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council is committed to its role as a corporate parent. Corporate Parenting is the name for the collective responsibility that we (the council, council services and partners) have to safeguard and promote the life chances of children who are looked after by us. This extends to those who have left care.
- 2.2 The Places directorate has supported looked after children and care leavers through a number of schemes in recent years.
- 2.3 The council has successfully put in place an apprenticeship programme. We propose continuing the programme during 2013. Creating some specific opportunities for looked after children etc will provide a positive contribution toward our corporate parenting commitments.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The suggested options are as follows:
- 3.1.1 Option One – To establish two specific apprenticeship opportunities for looked after children/care leavers.
- 3.1.2 Option Two – Do Nothing.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option one is recommended as the best option. It will allow the Places directorate to continue its commitment to corporate parenting. The development of these opportunities will give valuable training and work experience to this specific group.

4.2 Officers within the Planning and Regeneration division will consult with the People directorate towards delivering these apprenticeship opportunities.

4.3 Option Two is not the recommended. It would not contribute to the delivering of the council's corporate parenting commitments.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

The cost of the two apprenticeship posts will be £13,205. The Apprenticeship Programme budget will meet these costs.

5.2 Staffing

The apprentices will be established in conjunction with current HR policies.

5.3 IT

IT Services will provide IT Equipment to the Apprenticeship posts at no cost to the programme.

5.4 Property

Property Services will provide accommodation and desks from stock.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACTASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Officers have completed an integrated impact assessment for the apprenticeship project. Additional support will be provided where appropriate.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The looked after children apprenticeship programme will be developed in consultation with the People directorate.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. That Cabinet approves the establishment of two apprenticeship posts specifically for looked after children and/or care leavers.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - Nil