

28 January, 2016.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 367 – 372

At a Meeting of the **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 28 January, 2016 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. M. Donoghue (Chairman)

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer S. L. Davies
M. V. Davies J. S. Phillips
C. A. Rees

367. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. J. Jones and A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. L. Davies deputising)

368. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

369. THE PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME

The Chairman welcomed Mr Richard Saunders, the Prince's Trust to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr Saunders introduced himself as the Team Programme Manager for the Prince's Trust and had worked for the company for only six months although previously to that had worked for Worked Based Learning.

The Prince's Trust worked hard to develop lasting partnerships with employers, education providers and training providers in local communities. The Prince's Trust was UK wide with approximately 10,000 young people taking part every year over 300 locations.

The Prince's Trust programme was a 12 week personal development programme for unemployed 16 – 25 year olds which consisted of 7 key stages. It was a chance for a person to gain a new skill, take a qualification and meet new people. Between 13 and 15 individuals would undertake a team project and achieve a qualification upon completion of the 12 weeks.

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The Prince's Trust qualification was recognised within the credit and qualification framework in Wales. Recognising that many young people lack formal qualification, the Prince's Trust actively promote the qualification to those who need them most.

The benefits of participating in the programme were:

- Build a sense of achievement.
- Increased confidence and motivation
- A wide range of skills developed
- A nationally recognised qualification
- Improve prospects – 80% completing go into jobs, education/training or volunteering.

When the person undertook the 12 week development programme, they would be challenged to different skills, these could be:

- Communication
- Confidence
- Working with others
- Setting and achieving goals
- Job search skills
- Reliability
- Leadership

As part of the course, the individual would be encouraged to spend time developing the above skills and in order to do this lifeskill workshops would be provided by Key Stakeholders such as Barclays Bank. The Key Stakeholders provide workshop and advice on curriculum vitae building, community project skills and financial skills, this gives encouragement and confidence to the individual.

When the person undertakes the personal development programme they take on their own group community project, making a positive difference to the place where they live. It allows them to take part in an action packed residential trip and learn new skills and obtain two weeks' work experience in something that the individual was interested in by actually attending at a real life business.

The Prince's Trust also had celebrity Ambassadors who were committed to helping raise awareness of the work they do with young people. The celebrity Ambassadors get involved in a variety of ways, visiting young people on the programme, take part in fundraising events and support the campaigns. The celebrity Ambassadors serve as positive role models through their dedication and achievements.

Following a series of questions put by Members about the operational requirements to run the programme, the Chairman thanked Mr Saunders for attending, and it was

RESOLVED that the presentation information be noted and the opportunity afforded to the Training Department to working in partnership with The Prince's Trust to deliver the programme across Carmarthenshire be supported.

Cllr. C. A. Rees withdrew from the meeting.

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370. EXTERNAL VERIFICATION REPORTS

Members were circulated with External Verification Reports from Pearson, The Driving Standards Agency and The Road Industry Training Board.

The Training Manager summarised the reports for Members and stated the report authors all found and recorded that the Training Department was delivering work programmes to a very good standard.

Members having congratulated the Training Department on the reports, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

371. PERFORMANCE DATA 2015/16

Members considered the Training Department's performance statistics for 2015/2016. The Training Department was congratulated on its hard work in obtaining very favourable results and following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

372. PROGRAMMES UPDATE

Members considered the report from the Training Manager in respect of current contracts.

The Work Based Learning contract held by Skills Academy Wales (SAW) with Welsh Government was currently under review. Subsequently, the Training Department had undertaken a review of its contracts based on the current performance against the original profile for the period April 2015 – July 2016, and a projection of activity up until the end of the academic year (July 2016).

On the basis of the re-profiling exercise and the overall SAW contract review, the Training Department's contract would be amended.

As at 31 December, 2015, the traineeships in Carmarthenshire contract was just under profile by £1,776.45 (0.3%). It was anticipated that there would be an increase in learner numbers due to a small expansion in Carmarthen and the commencement of the Prince's Trust Team programme in Llanelli. A request had been made to SAW to increase the contract programme by £30,000 and indications were the request would be supported.

The traineeships undertaken on behalf of the Training Department by the subcontractor, Pembrokeshire County Council reported it had nearly exhausted all of its contract value on existing learners and had requested an additional £188,000 for delivery. It was likely that SAW would also be able to support this increase.

As at 31 December, 2015, the Work Ready Adult Programme was £8440.50 under profile. The profile for the programme was until 31 March, 2016 and there had been no allocation as yet for the remaining four months of the academic year. Details for the new programme commencing April 2016 were not yet known.

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As at 31 December, 2015, the apprenticeship programme was under profile by £26,861. This was due to difficulties recruiting apprentices. The Training Department planned heavy recruitment in 2016 to reverse this situation. Recruitment involved expanding the partnership working with delivery partners who would account for half of these new apprenticeships.

Members were informed maintaining contract values was of utmost importance to the Training Department because if contracts were not met then funding would fall in subsequent years.

The continued growth of traineeship delivery in Carmarthenshire and the commencement of the Prince's Trust programme would require a review of staffing levels on the programme in order to ensure the activities were sustainable.

The strengthening relationship with Pembrokeshire County Council as a subcontractor was proving to be a good strategic relationship and could lead to collaboration on future projects.

Delivery of the apprenticeship programme was becoming increasingly reliant on delivery partners. Managing these partnerships into the future was a key aspect of the department's work moving forward.

Following discussion of each of the specific areas of the training contract, it was

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.40 p.m.

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The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 9 February, 2016, adopted by the Council.