

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

DELETED DECISION REPORT

20th July 2017

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander
Portfolio Holder for Education**

SUBJECT: Careers Festival – 7TH March 2018

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Introduction

Some 2,500 young people visited the Careers Festival on 8th March 2017 which was held at the Royal Welsh Showground. The event was organised by the multi-agency Positive Pathways Powys Group which is made up of all Powys High Schools, Powys County Council, Careers Wales, and the NPTC Group of Colleges, Cambrian Training and the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations. The group has been set up to ensure that all young people in the county are informed of the opportunities available to them after they finish compulsory education.

The aim of the day was to raise awareness amongst young people of the range of career options that are available to them when they leave school compulsory education. The day was part of the Work Related Experience programme delivered in schools, in which Careers Wales plays a pivotal role. It was also an opportunity for employers to champion their industries to young people who may not yet have a firm idea of which career path they'd like to take.

More than 120 exhibitors – including Powys County Council - were present to give advice and information to the young people on the careers that are available within their organisations. A wide range of sectors attended, with large and small organisations present from the public, private and voluntary sectors as well as the armed forces, police and fire services and top universities and training providers.

The event was open to all Year 10 and 12 pupils from schools across Powys as well as Powys-based students from the NPTC Group of Colleges. The feedback from the students has been instantly positive and anecdotal evidence suggests they have not stopped talking about the new career opportunities they explored during the day with the various exhibitors.

The exhibitors provided practical, interactive and hands on experiences, to fully engage the pupils. The Cabinet Secretary, along with the young people, tried out some of the hands-on equipment. For 2018 it is proposed that the event be open to NPTC students and years 9,10, and 12 secondary school pupils .

The event provided positive coverage in the media with and a number of exhibitors, including the NFU and Welsh Government, have commended the partnership for organising the event.

2. Background and Purpose

The Transforming Learning and Skills Programme within the Powys One Plan states that 'more young people in Powys will be in full time education, gainful employment or employment related training within the County' and that 'each child shall be supported to achieve their full potential'.

Positive Pathways Powys work collaboratively to more effectively share the expertise, knowledge and experience of all partners and to:-

- Provide closer links between partners to inform young people of the opportunities and learning pathways which are available
- supporting the young people at all stages of their formal education and their future career progression
- Allow young people to make informed decisions about their future
- Work with the Powys Young Persons Forum to ensure that Positive Pathways Powys is targeting the levels of support required for the young people

3. Funding

The event used £30,000 of the Education Improvement Grant and it is proposed that this be arranged for March 2018 and £30,000 be used from the EIG grant.

In addition, the Positive Pathways Powys team will ask businesses if they would wish to sponsor this event. It is further proposed that £1,000 from the corporate funding be used to sponsor the secondary schools in Powys.

4. Options Considered/Available

1. Do nothing
2. Hold a Careers Festival for 2018 and use £30,000 from the EIG Grant
3. Sponsor the secondary schools from corporate funding for £1,000

5. Preferred Choice

The preferred choice is to hold a Careers Festival on 7th March 2018. This will encourage more young people to stay in Powys by advising them of the opportunities which are available. It shows collaborative working and not just

between the partners of the Positive Pathways Powys Group but also with all providers and employers.

In addition, the secondary schools will be sponsored £1,000 for the careers festival from the council's corporate funding.

6.0 Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc.

6.1 The proposal does not impact on Equalities, Welsh Language and other policies.

7.0 Children and Young People's Impact Statement – Safeguarding and Wellbeing

7.1 This proposal aligns with the aspiration to improve safeguarding and well-being for children and young people.

8.0 Local Members

9 Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

Finance – The Finance Business Partner confirms that the £30,000 is within the grant funding for 2017/18, along with the £1000 funded corporately. However, if this was to be organised for future years consideration will need to be given as to identifying further funding as the current grant is only committed up to 31st March 2018.

Legal - The Professional Lead Legal has no comment to make on this proposal save that the Legal Services will support the service if and when required”

10 Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders, etc.

n/a

11. Communications

Communications comment ‘

Communications Comment: the report is of public interest and requires use of proactive news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision’.

13.0 Statutory Officers

13.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “

13.2 The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.”

14.0 Members Interests

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest they should declare it, complete the relevant notification form and refer the matter to Cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
Option 2: To fund a careers festival on an annual basis and to use £30,000 from the EIG grant for 2018.	Demonstrate that we are working together to more effectively share the expertise, knowledge and experience of all partners and to source new and greater opportunities for the Young People of Powys

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y /
Within Budget:	Y /

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Jayne Bevan Strategic Programme Manager - Resources
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	31/7/2017

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