

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

2 October 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

INTO WORK ADVICE SERVICE (BRIGHT FUTURES & BRIGHT START) UPDATE

Reasons for the Report

1. This report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Into Work Advice Service (Bright Futures & Bright Start) Update- **Appendix A and Appendix B.**
2. The report will discuss how the Into Work Advice Service is working to further Principle 4 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy: Educational achievement and Training.

Background

3. The Bright Futures Project sits within the Into Work Advice Service as part of a wide team of employability and training projects. The Service provides employment, training, volunteering and digital support to Cardiff citizens who are actively seeking work or looking to upskill.
4. The Bright Futures Project provides support for Care Experienced young people (16-24) who are identified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so and needing intensive help to access training and the workplace.
5. A team of five Youth Mentors liaise with partners in Children's Services and Youth Services to ensure that all Care Experienced young people are given the opportunity to reach their potential and be supported into education and work.

Issues

How the Service works

6. Bright Futures mentors run weekly drop-in sessions in Hubs, Children's Residential Homes, Youth Temporary and Supported Accommodation Projects in an attempt to engage with young people where they are living.

7. Youth Mentors provide bespoke one to one employment and training support to NEET young people:
 - Based across the city and can meet wherever the young person feels most comfortable
 - Financial Support to help young people to get into work – including covering transport costs, interview and work specific clothing as well as specialist training courses
 - Access to a Transport Fund to buy a bike and safety equipment to safely travel across the city, widening access to employment, training and education.
 - Intensive help to create a CV and complete application forms
 - Interview preparation and real-life advice direct from employers
 - In-work support to help sustain employment
8. In addition to Bright Future mentor support, Care Experienced young people can access the Bright Start Scheme. Bright Start is a Traineeship Scheme for Cardiff Council's Care Experienced young people aged 16-24. It helps young people find traineeships within an area of interest and be supported through the placement process by a Bright Start Support Worker.
9. Young people receive a Trainee allowance of up to £75 per week, funded via the St David's Day Fund, which does not affect their Universal Credit claim.
10. The Bright Start Traineeship Scheme is currently limited to offering placements for up to 6 months. We are working with Into Work's Cardiff Works team to offer positive progression for those Trainees who aren't ready to or able to secure employment after their placement. Cardiff Works will be able to offer up to 6 months of a paid work placement, paid at National Living Wage

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications relating to the Bright Futures and Bright Start project provision. Bright Futures is funded through the Welsh Government & Central Government via C4W+, committed until March 2024, with indicative grant provided from April 2024 via the Shared Prosperity Fund, which has been committed until March 2025. The Bright Start Traineeship scheme is part funded through the St Davids Day Grant. Where costs exceed resources available then action will be taken in order to ensure that costs are contained with the budgetary resources available.

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

13. To note the update on the Into Work Advice Service and to make any observations or comments.
14. To consider how the Into Work Advice Service meets the needs of our care leavers and how it fits within the Capital Ambition. The Committee is

recommended to consider how, together, both the Into Work Advice Service and the Capital Ambition offer opportunities for all care leavers and how the Committee will hold them to account in relation to the numbers.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
13 September 2023

Appendix A – Into Work Advice Service Update

Appendix B- Into Work Presentation CPAC