

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	1 OCTOBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	ISSUES RAISED FROM ECONOMIC WELLBEING SEMINAR ON 5 JULY 2010
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the content of the all Member seminar on 5 July 2010 held to consider the activity to support and enable children and young people's economic well being in Herefordshire.

Recommendation

THAT: the Committee notes the content of the session, the feedback from members and the areas of work that the directorate is taking forward.

Key Points Summary

- Members received an open invitation to attend a Member's seminar on the 5 July 2010 to discuss and debate activity to support and enable children and young people's economic well being in Herefordshire.
- The seminar was part of the ongoing opportunities for Members to engage with the work of the children and young people's directorate and Herefordshire Children's Trust. The seminar on the 5 July was an opportunity to hear a variety of presentations from a number of officers from the children and young people's directorate, a housing officer, as well as partner agencies such as Job Centre Plus and SHYPP covering:
 - An overview and update on the 14-19 agenda, including service challenges and the work carried out to bring Connexions and Learning and Skills Council work within the local authority. The seminar also discussed the current activity to support young people not in education, employment or training including work to offer apprenticeships
 - Child Poverty including Job Centre Plus working with Children's Centres; the approach to housing and homelessness and what is available for young people and families with children
- Members present were able to discuss and debate the issues presented. Feedback from

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Baird, Assistant Director – Planning, Performance and Development 01432 260264

attendees was positive:

Rating	Excellent	Satisfactory	Marginal	Unsatisfactory
Total	6	4	0	0

Alternative Options

- 1 No alternative options are presented

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The report is requested for scrutiny as feedback from the Member's seminar

Introduction and Background

- 3 The seminar was part of the ongoing opportunities for all Member's to become more informed about the work taking place in Herefordshire to support children, young people and their families, not solely by the children and young people's directorate but by all partners, including schools, working within the Herefordshire Children's Trust arrangements. Themed workshops have been held on the five every child matters areas. The latest workshop centred on Economic Wellbeing.

Key Considerations

- 4 The agenda for children and young people in terms of economic wellbeing is to ensure that they are able to enter into further education, employment or training, make good progress and able to move successfully into adulthood. The Herefordshire Children's Trust Economic Wellbeing Outcome Group is a multi agency group, that enables partners to contribute to this agenda and coordinate their activities.
- 5 Members heard presentations from the Head of the 11-19 Integrated Service and team covering the developments of the connexions service, work that has been taken on from the Learning and Skills Council, apprenticeships, work to prevent young people becoming not in education, training or employment, alternative learning programmes. Members also debated the work of Job Centre Plus and Children's Centres, the expectations regarding child poverty, and the service and working relationship between SHYPP, the Council's housing service and services for vulnerable young people including care leavers. The presentations were circulated to Members and are available if members require further copies.
- 6 Comments provided by the Member's who attended are summarised below:

Comments on quality of presenters, delivery, length, timing and style of session:

- Down to earth & diverse presentation
- Very informative, clear information given, good timing and an excellent session provided.
- A lot of information delivered with clarity and conviction. Well organised.
- Very interesting and helpful. Raises questions as to how we will fund these services in future.
- Timing right, presenters slots idea.
- Informative a whistle stop tour of a very complex area.
- Good engagement from presenters with their subject presentation to time and to point

Comments on how will the seminar help you to be a more effective Councillor?

- I knew much of what was included in seminar, but job centre, SHYPP added some value to seminar.
- It provides basic facts for me to use in assessing need in my own ward.
- Good information is always vital.
- Yes better understanding of opportunities for young people.
- Provided better insight into provisions for young people's education and training and the integration of the partnerships concerned.
- Very informative and thank you

Suggested improvements:

- No numbered pages on the documents/ power point notes. Why is so much space wasted on the handouts, especially Council produced handouts, in such small print? Compare Council handouts to Job Centre handouts.
- Budget cuts & changes make an uncertain future. I appreciate the difficulties you all face.
- Make these seminars more attractive to the majority of Councillors. These very good presentations should be seen/heard by many more Councillors.

7 Members were interested in the progress that has been made in relation to access to housing for vulnerable young people/adults. The head of SHYPP and the representative from the Council's housing team assured members that the situation was much improved

8 Members commented that it was a wide agenda and overall the session had been a very useful one in terms of raising general awareness and providing a multi agency team of people to discuss issues and answer Members questions.

Community Impact

9 The work discussed impacts directly upon children, young people and their families in Herefordshire and where successful enables them to fulfil the objectives set out in paragraph 4.

Appendices

10 None.

Background Papers

- None identified.