

**Decision maker:** Employment Committee 2 December 2010

**Subject:** Position Statement on School Placements

**Report by:** Head of Human Resources

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision (over £250k):** n/a

---

**1. Purpose of report**

**To advise Members of the number of placements across PCC available is young people in the last year.**

**2. Recommendations**

- 1. To recognise the success of the placement scheme and to agree its continuation**
- 2. To support the work with Looked after Children and to approve enhanced publicity to increase the number of placements in future years**

**3. Background**

3.1 During Year 9 at secondary school young people are invited to spend a period of time in a workplace so they can gain an understanding of the working environment in general and the working topic where the placement is located in particular.

EBP are the provider that arranges many of the placements within the Portsmouth area, although schools can elect to work with any partner of their choosing to arrange such placements. In the last academic year placements were accepted by seven young people in Libraries, Licensing, Repairs and Maintenance, IT and Administration.

3.2 Six young people had their placement arranged through family or friends across PCC and they attended placements in IS, Disaster Management, Public Protection, Marketing and Comms and Finance.

Three young people from a Looked after Children background had their placements arranged through the Corporate Parenting Service. These placements were in Libraries, Planning, and Customer First.

3.3 HR staff are currently reviewing the contact and placement support elements of the service to ensure a more streamlined service is utilised and the link with Corporate Parenting will be strengthened to enhance the likelihood of finding placements for Looked After Children.

#### **4.Reasons for recommendations**

All young people can gain from these placements and so an improved process will be beneficial to all young people looking for placements in a large predominantly office based organisation. Additionally focusing some placement activity on Looked After Children will address at least some of the issues surrounding underachievement evident across the Looked after Children within Portsmouth.

#### **5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

No impact assessment required for information only.

#### **6. Head of legal services' comments**

To ensure the health and safety of children placed by following the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the Health and Safety (Training for Employment) Regulations 1990 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific guidance should be sought from the appropriate officers.

#### **7. Head of Finance's comments**

The proposals outlined above should not impact significantly on schools, since they are already involved in arranging placements for pupils. Any enhanced publicity aimed at increasing placements will need to be carried out from within existing resources.

.....  
Signed by:

**Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: