



**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)**

- Title of meeting:** September HWB - Health & Wellbeing Board
- Subject:** Raising and improving outcomes for young people in Portsmouth
- Date of meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Report by:** Amanda Percy, Post-16 Skills and Campaign Manager
- Cabinet Member:** Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
- Wards affected:** All

**Purpose:**

To provide an update on how Portsmouth City Council and partners are supporting our young people to succeed and information on how partners can support this work.

**1. Raising aspirations and improving outcomes - Celebrating Success**

- 1.1. On 25<sup>th</sup> June the first 6 Supported Interns from this innovative project celebrated their graduation at Portsmouth City Council. The programme has been a partnership between Portsmouth City Council, The City of Portsmouth College and Minstead Trust. It is designed for young people with EHCPs (Education, Health & Care Plan) to support their progression to meaningful employment.
- 1.2. The interns attended their study days at PCC who coordinated the project and work trials with a range of employers and partners. Minstead Trust and PCC provided the professional job coaching.
- 1.3. We are delighted with the outcomes of the programme; 4 of the Interns have employment with their work trial providers and two of these young people will be starting an apprenticeship. We expect the other 2 interns to have progressed to employment in the next few weeks and we will keep supporting these young people as they progress.
- 1.4. Feedback from the young people and their families has been overwhelmingly positive. One parent described how her son has grown in confidence, can travel independently and is now really positive about his future.



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- 1.5. Employers engaged in the project were delighted to attend the graduation and also talked about how the project has been of real benefit to their staff and have confirmed their involvement for 2024/25.

### **2. Employability Academy**

- 2.1. Portsmouth City Council has set up an Employability Academy specifically designed to support our care experienced young people to progress to employment and training. As corporate parents we want the absolute best for our young people.
- 2.2. The Academy is based in the Careers and Employability Hub on the ground floor of the civic offices. It offers a wide range of support including training courses, careers guidance, work experience, support with job applications and interviews.
- 2.3. There are a wide range of services and providers contributing to this work and we are starting to see positive outcomes for our young people.
- 2.4. We are working to ensure that our care experienced young people get a range of opportunities within PCC and with our partners. This includes apprenticeships, employment, and work experience.

### **3. Support required.**

- 3.1. To support this, we are asking directorates and employer partners to step forward and become corporate sponsors of the Academy. Sponsors pledge the support they can offer that includes work experience, mentoring, employment, and training. We recognise that we need to support the needs of the business to help match our talent to employers.
- 3.2. Training and support is available to help partners who work with our care experienced young people.

### **4. Supported Internships**

- 4.1. Portsmouth City Council successfully bid to be part of the Supported Internships Work Programme which is designed to increase the number of young people with SEND progressing to meaningful employment.
- 4.2. In September 2023 we successfully launched the Portsmouth City Council Supported Internship Programme.

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- 4.3. The programme has been a partnership between Portsmouth City Council, The City of Portsmouth College and Minstead Trust. It is designed for young people with EHCPs to support their progression to meaningful employment.
- 4.4. This was supported within PCC and many of our directorates offered placements. Although we could not use all the offers, we were able to offer a range of options to our interns and we will continue to need an increase the placement options.
- 4.5. The interns attended their study days at PCC, who coordinated the project, and took part in work trials with a range of employers and partners. Minstead Trust and PCC provided the professional job coaching.
- 4.6. We are delighted with the outcomes of the programme; 4 of the Interns have employment with their work trial providers and two of these young people will be starting an apprenticeship. We expect the other 2 interns to have progressed to employment in the next few weeks and we will keep supporting these young people as they progress. Feedback from the young people and their families has been overwhelmingly positive.
- 4.7. One parent described how her son has grown in confidence, can travel independently and is positive about his future.
- 4.8. Employers engaged in the project were delighted to attend the graduation and talked about how the project has been of real benefit to their staff and have confirmed their involvement for 2024/25.
- 4.9. On 25<sup>th</sup> June the first 6 Supported Interns from this innovative project celebrated their graduation at Portsmouth City Council.
- 4.10. The second year of the programme starts in September 2024 and we hope to 10 interns taking part.

## **5. Support required**

- 5.1. To support this programme, we need more directorates and partners to come forward with offers of work trials for the young people.

## **6. Solent Careers Hub**

- 6.1. From 1<sup>st</sup> September the Solent Careers Hub will be in place to support careers education and link schools and colleges to employers. This is a partnership of Portsmouth, Southampton, and the IOW local authorities.



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- 6.2. The Solent Careers Hub works with schools to help them develop their careers strategy, support delivery and ensure that all young people have access to high quality careers education with links to the world of work.

**7. Support Required**

- 7.1. To support this work, we need staff and partners to volunteer time to become Enterprise Advisers. Staff can work with one secondary school or becoming part of the team working with all our secondary, special schools and colleges in the city.
- 7.2. This can include engaging with senior leaders to discuss skills and employability and acting as a critical friend to schools' careers leads; helping them to develop their programme and engage with partners.
- 7.3. Other options include attending careers events, supporting employer visits, mentoring, sharing professional expertise and knowledge in lessons, and taking part in mock interview sessions.
- 7.4. We know that young people really value these interactions which supports them understand the world of work, local opportunities and raise their aspirations.

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Signed by (Director)

**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