

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	15 June 2022
Title of Report:	Kickstart Scheme Update
Lead Member:	Councillor Charlotte Carlyle
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Tina Brinkworth
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To update the Education and Children's Social Care Scrutiny Committee on the Kickstart Scheme prior to an assessment of the impact in December 2022, when the programme has concluded

Recommendations and Reasons

1. *For the Committee to note the update*

Led by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) as part of the Government's Plan for Jobs, the Kickstart Scheme is a £2 billion fund to create thousands of high quality work placements for young people. The programme ran until March 2022, with final placement concluding September 2022.

Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Vision: An outstanding skill system, which drives high aspirations and attainment and meets the needs of employers and individuals across all ages and communities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

N/A

Financial Risks

N/A

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

N/A

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

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Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 25/05/2022

Cabinet Member approval: *approved by Cllr Carlyle verbally*

Date approved: 26/05/2022

The £2 billion has been allocated to fund employers to create 6-month job placements for 16 to 24 year olds at risk of long-term unemployment and young people are paid 25 hours by the Government at minimum wage, numbers are unlimited numbers within budget. Employers from all industries and across the private, public and voluntary sectors have been encouraged to get involved, providing the placements do not replace existing or planned vacancies, or cause existing employees or contractors to lose or reduce their employment.

Each application needed to include how you will help the participants to develop their skills and experience, including support:

1. To look for long-term work, including career advice and setting goals.
2. With CV and interview preparations.
3. For the participant with basic skills, such as attendance, timekeeping and teamwork.

Employers received funding to cover:

- 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week.
- Associated employer National Insurance contributions.
- Employer minimum auto-enrolment pension contributions.

On confirmation of the job start, employers received a payment of £1,500 per placement to support overhead costs, this can be used for things like:

- Setup costs
- Support
- Training
- Onboarding

Due to a delay in mobilising the programme it was extended to March 2021.

In Plymouth there have been 2 key gateway organisations and between them they have supported over 400 young people into placements. While it is still too early to assess the impact of this initiative we are currently seeing approx. 60% of these young people transitioning into full time employment.

Skills Launchpad Plymouth has also supported hundreds of young people and these two initiatives, along with job growth opportunities has resulted in a continued decline in 16 to 24 year-old Universal Credit Claimants. In year we have seen a 20% fall from March 2021 to March 2022 period (approx. 4,900 to 3,900 respectively), resulting in the reduction of 1,000 young people as they have transitioned into work.

We will be able to complete a final assessment on the impact of Kickstarter in December 2022, when the programme has concluded.