

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>30 April 2015</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>E+R/15/04/06/SJ/SL</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stuart Jamieson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>Ext. 2402</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce (DSYW)</b>		

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the implementation of DSYW – Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce, chaired by Sir Ian Wood, was established in January 2013 and published its final report, (Education, Working for All) in June 2014.
- 2.2 In December 2014 and as a response to the key findings of the Wood Commission, the Scottish Government published its “Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy”.
- 2.3 The Youth Employment Strategy includes recommendations for change around the following themes:-
- 1) Schools – School curriculum that is industry focussed
  - 2) School/College – Vocational pathways to industry recognised qualifications
  - 3) College – College system focussed on employability and industry led
  - 4) Apprenticeships – Additional apprenticeship opportunities for young people
  - 5) Employers – Establish regional employer hubs to support learning and training
- 2.4 Work to roll out initiatives across all 5 themes have commenced, with ongoing discussions involving Scottish Government, COSLA, Local Authorities, Jobcentre Plus, West College Scotland, Skills Development Scotland and other relevant agencies. Appendix 1 outlines the roles and responsibilities of those organisations and lead officers within Scottish Government.
- 2.5 Appendix 2 demonstrates the current level and trend of youth unemployment in Inverclyde. The Job Seekers Allowance claimant count is the general indicator of the unemployment rate, at January 2015 there were 440 young people receiving JSA and various partners will be working with these individuals to deliver employability support.
- 2.6 Additional resources from Scottish Government have been allocated for the implementation of the Youth Employment Strategy as notified to the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Inverclyde Council have been allocated an initial £86,000.00 and it is anticipated the same amount will be provided in the remaining years of the programme. Initial discussions have been held and resources will subsequently be disbursed as appropriate within the Council between Education and Economic Development or externally with the relevant Partners.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. Note the content of the report and that it will be kept updated on future implementation.

**Aubrey Fawcett**

**Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration & Resources**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce was set up in January 2013 to consider:-
- How a quality vocational education and training system can be developed to enhance economic growth and skills development.
  - How to improve connectivity between education and the world of work.
  - How to develop an enhanced partnership between employers and education.
- 4.2 The Labour Force Survey of 2014 has identified that Youth Unemployment rates across Scotland are running at 18% - higher than the average of the working age population.
- 4.3 More than 50% of young people across Scotland do not go to University and of these very few leave school with vocational skills and qualifications that match the needs of employers.
- 4.4 The Employer Perspectives Survey (2012) identified that employers do not target the employment of young people with only 29% of employers recruiting young people from school and around 13% recruiting apprentices.
- 4.5 Against this backdrop, the recommendations of the Wood Commission were positively received and Scottish Government in June 2014 published Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy.
- 4.6 The Strategy takes the form of a 7 year work programme to develop the young workforce with a headline aim of reducing youth unemployment by 40% by 2021.
- 4.7 The Youth Employment Strategy includes recommendations for change around the following themes:-
- 1) Schools – School curriculum that is industry focussed
  - 2) School/College – Vocational pathways to industry recognised qualifications
  - 3) College – College system focussed on employability and industry led
  - 4) Apprenticeships – Additional apprenticeship opportunities for young people
  - 5) Employers – Establish regional employer hubs to support learning and training
- 4.8 As full partners in this activity, Local Authorities are essential to the implementation of the programme and additional resources will be provided. A weighted formula for distribution has been agreed between Scottish Government and COSLA based around the eligible population and figures on Youth Unemployment.
- 4.9 The implementation of the strategy provides opportunities for Organisations and Departments to develop an improved offer for young people. Equally, the strategy recognises that Local Authorities, through existing funding, are delivering a range of support to the clients, in Inverclyde this would include Opportunities For All, Activity Agreements, Future Jobs, Wage Incentives, Graduate Opportunities and general employability support.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Legal: Appropriate legal advice will be obtained before entering any agreements.  
Finance: Appropriate financial advice will be obtained before entering any agreements.  
Personnel: There are no HR implications in this activity.  
Equality and Diversity: Programme delivery will target equality and diversity issues.

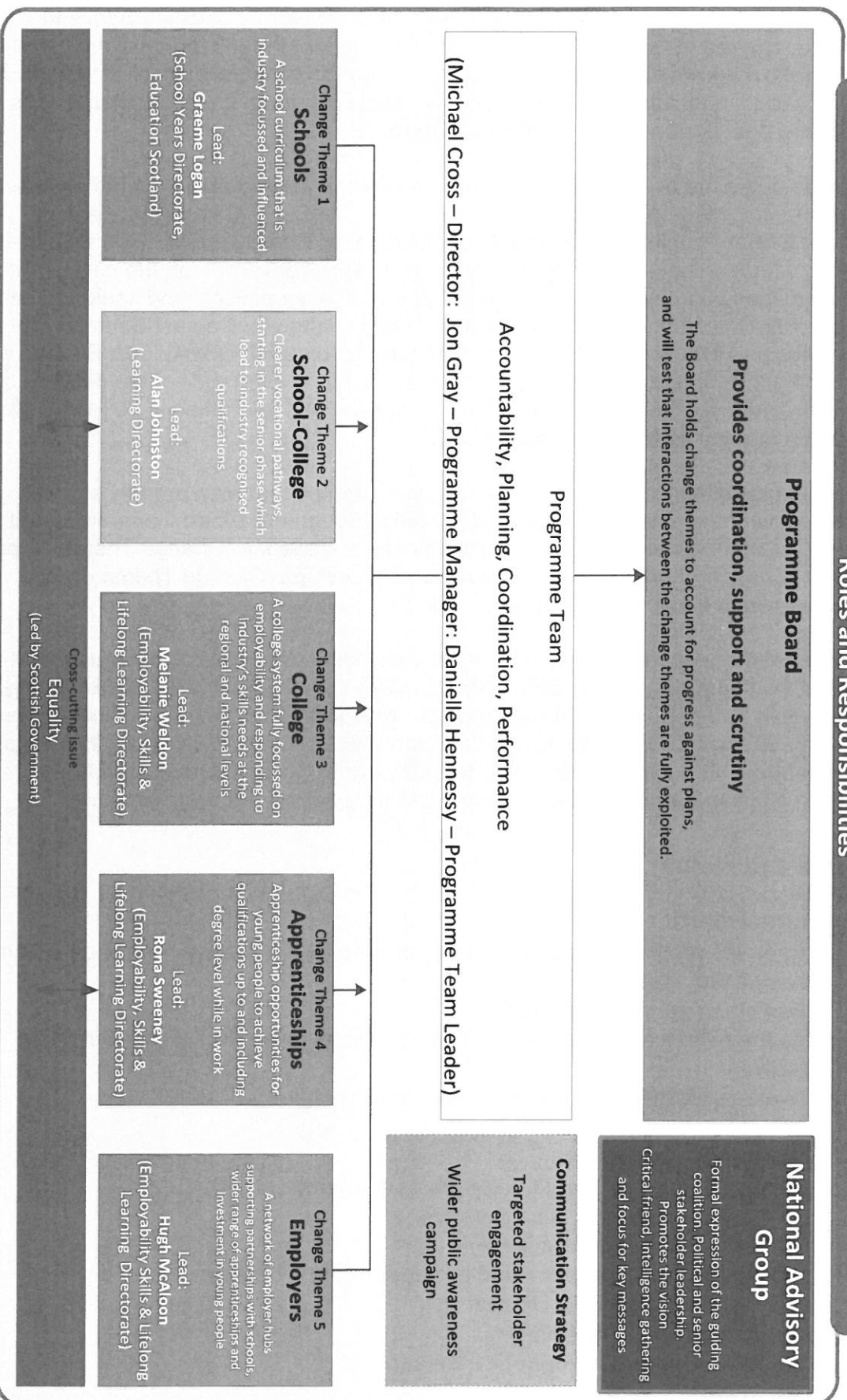
## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 Subject to notifications either of finance or performance, further consultations will take place within and outwith the Council.

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Roles and Responsibilities  
Appendix 2 – Measuring Youth Unemployment

Roles and Responsibilities



Appendix 2 Rates of JSA All Ages (November of each Year)

