



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 2.1

Careers Hub Operational Plan

To: Skills Committee

Meeting Date: 7 November 2022

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills and Chair of the Skills Committee

From: Laura Guymer, Strategic Careers Hub Lead

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Recommendations: The Skills Committee is recommended to:

Note the performance and future plans of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Careers Hub and to provide feedback to shape the provision of the Careers Hub.

Voting arrangements: No vote required.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide members with an update on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Careers Hub and outline the wider ambition of the Combined Authority relating to Careers support within the region. Following the expansion of the Careers Hub in September 2022, this paper will provide members with an update on performance and future planned activities and provide members the opportunity to shape future provision.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Employment and Skills Strategy recognises the need for access to good careers support and education at any age, aligned to local labour market requirements
- 2.2 Currently there are two national programmes that fund Careers provision; National Careers Service (NCS) and Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC)
- 2.3 In the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the Combined Authority hold the contract for the CEC, who fund the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Careers Hub, which offers careers education support to secondary schools and post 16 FE provision. NCS offers impartial careers advice and guidance primarily to adults, though the digital support has recently expanded to include those aged 13+. This service has recently been recommissioned and is delivered by Futures.
- 2.4 The Skills for Jobs White Paper makes reference to an all-age careers system and needing clearer alignment between the two government funded careers services; The National Careers Service (NCS) and the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC).
- 2.5 The Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Strategy sets out the ambition of an All-Age Careers Service, which seeks to go further than aligning the services of CEC and NCS but seeks to lobby for devolved funding allowing for children in primary schools to be exposed to careers, at a time in their lives prior to bias or stereotype being formed. This ambition will ensure a seamless careers service for every resident, regardless of age, allowing for agility within the labour market, tailored to local needs.
- 2.6 The Combined Authority is currently working with Futures to ensure alignment of the NCS contract to the wider regional needs.

3.0 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Careers Hub

- 3.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Careers Hub was established in September 2021 and 30 schools applied for a place within the Hub.
- 3.2 At the end of the 2021/22 academic year, performance in the Hub exceeded contractual KPI's and was one of the highest performing Hubs in the country, with schools averaging six Gatsby Benchmarks
- 3.3 The Hub expanded to include all eligible schools in September 2022. The expansion resulted in additional funding which has funded the post of an Operations Manager and a budget of £400 per school to fund activities that are aligned to regional priorities, driven by

the Employment and Skills Strategy within the careers space.

- 3.4 The Operations Manager started in post in October 2022 and has in excess of 20 years of working within careers education. His expertise will be used to drive the delivery of the Careers Hub plan.
- 3.5 A Careers Steering group has been identified with representation from FE, HEI, schools, industry, careers providers and business representative organisations. The Steering Group will ensure a whole system approach to Careers across the region, reporting into the Employment and Skills Board. The group will be used to be the voice of Careers in the region and to drive continuous improvement as well as forming part of the wider governance structure.
- 3.6 The Careers Hub continues to secure additional funding opportunities through multiple sources to fund additionalities aligned to strategic priorities. During this academic year, to date, £19,600 has been secured via a competitive tender process with the Careers and Enterprise Company, which will fund CPD for subject teachers to understand career pathways and technical education options related to their subject areas
- 3.7 The operating plan for 2022/23 can be viewed in the Appendices and feedback and comments are sought to drive performance of the Careers Hub.

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications that are not already included in the MTFP.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Public Health implications

- 6.1 There are no public health implications.

7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental or climate change implications.

8. Other Significant Implications

- 8.1 There are no other significant implications.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Delivery Plan

10. Background papers

10.1 None.