**Written evidence submitted by Rotherham Youth Cabinet (BYC004)**

1. Rotherham Youth Cabinet created a Manifesto Aim for their 2018 Manifesto which read:

*‘We want to increase opportunities for young people to take part in positive work experience and highlight where they can find existing work experience and volunteering opportunities.’*

1. To support this aim, the young people organised a Takeover of Rotherham Overview Management Scrutiny Board with the full agenda being around Work Experience.
2. Members of the group worked with Scrutiny Officers to formulate questions to address the issue within their town and also to ensure appropriate witnesses were invited.
3. The event took place in April 2018 and was Co-Chaired by a Youth Cabinet Member, support by the OSMB Chair. Witnesses included; Rotherham Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive, RMBC Officers, Elected Members, Voluntary Sector, Chamber of Commerce, Business Owners and Head Teachers including Special School Heads.
4. The questions which were asked are as follows:
   1. Have you had work experience? Was it useful?
   2. Why is work experience so patchy in Rotherham?
   3. Where are young people meant to access work experience if schools do not offer it?
   4. In the 2018 statutory guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff around Careers guidance benchmark 6 states that by the age of 16 every pupil should have had at least one experience of a workplace additional to any part-time jobs plus another experience by the age of 18. How are schools going to meet these benchmarks?
   5. Have there been any previous attempts to have consistent work experience across all Rotherham Secondary Schools?
   6. Do you agree work experience should be a valuable opportunity? How should we manage this?
   7. Without work experience how are young people meant to implement their academic skills into the workplace?
   8. What is in place to ensure that young people with SEND requirements have work experience that is accessible for them?
   9. How do you ensure that no young person is put off work experience for external factors Eg financial implications?
5. Upon completion of the meeting, three further questions were submitted by Youth Cabinet members as they felt these had not been fully discussed and answered. They were:
6. It was mentioned a lot about academic achievements expected from schools but what about the people that aren’t good in academics? Work experience is the only way for them to have an idea of what the ‘real world of work’ is like.
7. It was mentioned that people 16+ might not need work experience or something along the lines when someone said he had a job at McDonalds at that age. However, the amount that is expected from teenagers who are in education, particularly A-Levels, might not have enough time to get a job as well as all the work, volunteering and being an actual teenager. So why would they be missed?
8. On the topic of SEND students the only person to answer the question was from one of our special schools, but what about other schools that aren’t specialised for SEND students, such as people with Dyslexia, dyspraxia, Autism and other conditions. What is in place to make sure they are being supported in their needs in work experience as all of them have different needs that aren’t just about exam access arrangements.
9. A full report of the meeting is currently being written by young people, supported by Scrutiny Officers, and this will be available mid-July and will be available as evidence.

June 2018