**Written evidence submitted by City of Wolverhampton Youth Council (BYC012)**

**1.0Work Experience Mini Scrutiny Review**

The Wolverhampton Youth Council Scrutiny review on work experience took place on the afternoon of 23 February 2018 chaired by Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal and Youth Council Members. The Panel received evidence from Tony O’Callaghan - Skills and Employability Manager (Young People) and Graham Brown – Education and Enterprise Manager. The Director of Education, Meredith Teasdale also gave valuable contributions throughout the review. Oliver Hermann – Skills and Enterprise Manager gave a case study on Wolverhampton Homes working with work experience students. The Youth Council came up with the following recommendations for both Local and National implementation:

**2.0 Recommendations**

.1.That Youth Councils and Young People are kept updated on plans of their local authority or Combined Authority for career hubs and any associated developments.

2.To improve communication with schools, including promoting websites such as the City of Wolverhampton Council Workbox.

3.That local authorities the use of ‘Super Career type’ events, involving a large number of prospective employers, and to ensure all senior schools in the area are aware of these events

4.To provide more work experience support to schools including more information on specialist fields

5.To ensure that all work experience placements have a clear guide on expectations to avoid disappointment and there should be strong quality assurance

6.That the British Youth Council and Department for Education challenge the negative stereotypes of apprenticeships and work experience

7.To promote the link between work experience and apprenticeship events

8.To work with the schools in a local authority to encourage flexibility in the timing of work experience dates to ensure a wider breadth of opportunities for young people across their area

**3.0 Evidence/Data**

As part of the research before the Mini Scrutiny Review on Work Experience the Youth Council undertook a short piece of consultation with young people from across the city in which 136 young people took part.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3.1 Completed work experience** |  |
| No | 70 |
| Yes | 63 |
| Blanks | 2 |
| I will be | 1 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3.2 Types of Work Experience- Highest numbers only** |  |
| Professional | 32 |
| Business and Admin | 19 |
| Manual and Skilled | 17 |
| Leisure and Tourism | 5 |
| Retail | 8 |
| Teaching/Education | 16 |
| Medical | 10 |
| Law | 3 |
| Animal/Vet | 2 |
| Photography | 2 |
| City Council Completed | 2 |

3.3

**3.4Young people were asked what types of support they need to complete work experience? They answered:**

1. Schools/ companies to say if they provide
2. School assistance / support
3. Help to organise it
4. Access to transport e.g. help with costs / financial support
5. Help with where it is offered e.g. examples of places
6. Help students find people who provide work experience
7. Research into the work experience you would like to do
8. Information in right place, how you travel there
9. Instructions, independencies etc
10. Daily visits to someone for advice and help
11. Direct communication with work places
12. Help on where to get placements for my future aspirations and how to apply
13. Time management for a balance of school and work
14. Support from parents
15. Working hours and the type of work I would be doing
16. How a business works
17. I didn’t receive any
18. Medical
19. How to apply
20. Available options easier to find
21. Support advice from career advisor. How to use this lone experience in cv etc
22. Give more opportunities
23. Someone in school should organize work experience opportunities
24. To meet other businesses or opportunities to be present
25. Support was offered to those who couldn’t find a placement (10 times response from the Royal School)
26. Training in PSHE lessons (4)
27. Feed back on how I did and encouragement
28. Confidence
29. Access to places which offer work experience and a wider range of work experience opportunities
30. None just push yourself
31. Whos going to help to find work experience. Make it easier
32. Research
33. A telephone must be provided to call my work experience
34. School, Family and friends, professional workers
35. The ability to have access to services to get work experience in the area I want
36. Access to have a go at each part of the sector within that type of work
37. Knowledge of placement availability
38. Person to manage my tasks
39. Memory
40. Paper
41. Practical, I want to be a teacher so a consultant would help
42. Safety checks from school
43. Professional, animal help
44. How to do the job
45. I would like support from my employer and people that I would work for example students.
46. The drive to compare the work experience. Ability to get it school out.
47. Through school and use of a booklet of advice was useful
48. Support and advice from the place of work experience
49. Times that I work during the week
50. Given schools to go and work in. Given the time off school to do it
51. Making sure I know the location
52. Learn how to work
53. Help from teachers to learn how to create a CV and help us be independent
54. Positive and self-confidence support.

3.5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3.6 Do you know and use the Councils Workbox? |  |
| Yes | 4 |
| No | 118 |
| Blank | 14 |

**3.7 What would you say to employers to encourage access to Work Experience?**

1. If you want employees to have experience then offer it
2. Tell us if you do it
3. Work experience is beneficial for youths
4. Have quicker response times / call back quicker
5. Don’t say we will get back to you and then never respond again.
6. Allow more than 2 people to attend work experience
7. Choose Wisely
8. Allow more career options
9. You could be supporting possible employees
10. Places that are available
11. To help students get to know the workplace
12. Advertise opportunities e.g. support and benefits
13. Companies
14. Encourage employees to visit schools / have more contact with schools
15. placements
16. check emails and
17. prepare activities
18. To send emails to schools, to advertise on websites and make people aware.
19. Experience is what we need to prepare for a generation of successful workers.
20. It helps prepare students for the world of work.
21. It gives an insight to how work is.
22. That it was very educational and it helped me to decide what I wanted to do long term
23. The Youth is the future!
24. That these potential employees can be an asset to your business.
25. The Royal Is providing excellent support for those who did find and struggled to find a placement. (10 responses)
26. Great way for people to see their possible future employers and if they suit a field.
27. If you allow work experience then you give young people an idea of what it’s like to work
28. It helps students decide what they want to do
29. Everybody deserves to learn new skills at some point in there life
30. It benefits employers and students and gives a really beneficial insight into working life.
31. You would tell them about the pay, grades, qualifications and what you do.
32. That it helps them to gain experience for real life situations
33. Most teenagers would like to experience a real working environment.
34. Don’t do it tomorrow, do it now
35. Look at the WEX database. There are loads of opportunities there.
36. I am professional when I’m working and I make sure I am reliable when giving a certain job.
37. Remember your manners and stay focused.
38. Start training the workforce of the future by giving them experience.
39. It helps indicated what youngsters may want to do in the future and gives them a taster of the work life.
40. Make themselves known within school and college establishments
41. Make themselves recognizable in schools and colleges so students have a wide range of companies to choose from
42. It allows use to rule out choices
43. It means that young people will be more experienced and future employees would be better
44. Publicise their work experience placements
45. I feel like employers need to be offered incentive, so something along those lines
46. Its good because then you get experience of your own.
47. It might encourage more people to go into that area of work when they grow up.
48. Make it interesting.

June 2018