

Bolsover District Council

Council

8th November 2017

Ambition, Local Integration Board and Sheffield City Region Early Intervention Pilot

Report of the Leader and Portfolio Holder - Strategic Planning and Regeneration

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To provide Council with an overview of the outcomes achieved through the Ambition Sheffield City Region (SCR) Programme.
- To endorse the formation of a Local Integration Board (LIB) to support the SCR Early Intervention Employment Pilot, in conjunction with the other local authorities party to the LIB.
- To endorse collaborative working with Sheffield City Council, in their role as prospective bidder for delivery of SCR Early Employment Project, on effective local delivery opportunities and options across North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Chesterfield.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 In September 2014 NEDDC's Cabinet agreed to be the accountable body for five authorities including Bolsover in the Ambition SCR pilot employment support programme for 18 – 24 year old Job Seekers Allowance claimants who are 6 month + unemployed. The programme was funded via monies obtained through the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership from the Youth Contract underspend.
- 1.2 NEDDC hosted up to six staff to deliver the targets set by Sheffield City Council. There was only one other authority within SCR which directly delivered the programme, all other authorities used a commissioning model. The programme, which included North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, Derbyshire Dales, Bassetlaw and Chesterfield, has been remarkably successful with overall performance delivering above and beyond the targets set. An inter-authority agreement was developed to ensure that any risk was shared and NEDDC held the contract with SCR.
- 1.3 The project which is now drawing to a close, had the following targets to meet; the outputs achieved are set out below:

SCR	Original Target	Actual To Date (30/08/17)
Starts	279	409
Placements	130	134
4 weeks	112	141
Sustained 26w	70	80
Progressions	57	61

Figures for the individual authorities up to 30th August 17

Bassetlaw	Original Target	Actual To Date (30/08/17)
Starts	74	104
Placements	30	24
4 weeks	26	32
Sustained 26w	13	21
Progressions	14	9

Bolsover	Original Target	Actual To Date (30/08/17)
Starts	52	78
Placements	15	13
4 weeks	21	23
Sustained 26w	11	10
Progressions	8	9

Chesterfield	Original Target	Actual To Date (30/08/17)
Starts	93	117
Placements	46	49
4 weeks	37	47
Sustained 26w	20	28
Progressions	20	19

Derbyshire Dales	Original Target	Actual To Date (30/08/17)
Starts	10	11
Placements	5	2
4 weeks	3	5
Sustained 26w	3	2
Progressions	2	5

North East Derbyshire	Original Target	Actual To Date (30/08/17)
Starts	50	99
Placements	23	46
4 weeks	19	34
Sustained 26w	11	19
Progressions	8	11

- 1.4 An opportunity also arose to bid for funding under the DCLG's current Help for Single Homeless fund which encourages an integrated approach to homeless prevention through working with partner agencies such as health, job centre plus and debt advice agencies to ensure that those at risk of homelessness are able to access support to gain health, independence and stability to enable them to sustain a home of their own. A dedicated project totalling £150,000 in the north of the County to work in partnership with the Ambition Project and Talent Match was negotiated to ensure the housing needs of young people are met. The project covered Bolsover, North East Derbyshire, Chesterfield and Derbyshire Dales and established a pathways approach to housing for young people. The project was showcased at the House of Commons in 2016 through the Parliamentary Group of Coalfield MP's. This project has now completed
- 1.5 In March 2017, Cabinet were informed that SCR Region is to get up to £5million from the Department of Work and Pensions under a pilot scheme which involves six areas of England, as part of the devolution deal. For SCR, thousands of disadvantaged people and those at risk of becoming long-term jobseekers across the region are set to receive a combination of specialist advice and support to get into work under an 'early intervention scheme'. It will start in January and run for five years. The project will be supported by the setting up of Local Integration Boards to help reduce and manage any blockages from local delivery services that might impede the journey into work.
- 1.6 Both Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils have been involved with SCR in the development of a SCR employment support programme - designed to complement the existing support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 1.7 The SCR proposal is to provide support for 4,500 people across the city region. Job outcomes are the main measure against which contract payments will be made. Based on a pro-rata allocation, this will mean that approximately 1193 people will be targeted across the overlap areas in Derbyshire, (BDC 369 and NEDDC 341, CBC 483). These figures are provisional and are to be confirmed. Ministerial approval for the SCR Programme has been given.

Delivery

- 1.8 The Employment Pilot will be delivered over 5 years through an independent support service working across local areas and it is anticipated that the service will commence delivery in January 2018. The Invite to Tender is expected to be open for Expressions of Interest in September/October 2017. Initial discussions are around there being two contract areas across the SCR: one covering Sheffield and Derbyshire local authority areas and the other covering Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster areas.
- 1.9 Sheffield City Council are considering bidding to deliver the employment pilot. If the SCC bid is successful, it is anticipated that local authorities within the region may support SCC around the local delivery options.

- 1.10 It is proposed therefore that Bolsover District Council works collaboratively and explores with Sheffield City Council possible local delivery options, to support the delivery of the employment programme across the Derbyshire local authority areas.

Support

- 1.11 The pilot will also have two different elements to differentiate it to the existing support which is available. One being an early intervention tool which is being developed to identify people who are likely to become long term unemployed: those with multi barriers and complex needs and to include people over 50 years of age. These people will be supported with the aim of preventing them becoming long term unemployed by helping them find and sustain employment.
- 1.12 The second differentiating element is that the Employment Pilot aims to ensure services that are already provided work better together to meet individuals' needs in a co-ordinated way by the development of Local Integration Boards (LIBs). It is anticipated that this approach will improve the journey back into work, and possibly save money in the long term to local and national services through a more effective delivery of support. LIBs therefore are an associated part of the pilot, and will need to be set up locally to support the employment pilot.
- 1.13 The LIB will bring together all of the key organisations which are providing support to residents with complex barriers – for example, debt advice, housing support, health and transport. The primary purpose will be to receive information on 'live' cases that are 'blocked' and to apply a multi-agency approach to unblocking/resolving them.
- 1.14 The LIB will be a strategic board which will make decisions around system change and/or budgetary issues and referrals to this strategic group will be via an operational group who will aim to unblock cases at an operational level. A Local Integration Plan will be used to inform the Employment Pilot Contractor on the labour market information and local provision that is available in the district and will set out the governance arrangements of the LIB.
- 1.15 The SCR Combined Authority will provide a small, central, resource to help areas develop and manage their LIBs. One or two Integration Board Officers are expected to be recruited to support local authorities - depending on the financial allocation approved by government.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 BDC is involved in the Ambition Programme which delivers across the four overlap areas in Derbyshire plus Bassetlaw and supports 18 – 24 year old JSA claimants into employment. This Programme is approaching the end of its contract and has been highly successful, demonstrating that jointly we are able to deliver an employment support programme across a wide geographic area and is a good example of collaborative working across the SCR region.
- 2.2 Discussions have recently taken place at officer level with Bolsover District Council, Derbyshire County Council and Chesterfield Borough Council with regards to the different options for a LIB. There is general consensus that, in the best interests of reducing duplication and gaining added value, one LIB covering the three local authority areas of Bolsover, NED and Chesterfield would be appropriate. This is subject to approval of the respective local authorities.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Both Ambition projects targeted highly vulnerable young people who were either at risk of becoming long term unemployed at a very young age and/or were at risk of being homeless, with neither group having access to a pathway to training and employment or securing a home.
- 3.2 As part of the recognition for the need for inclusive growth; young people were targeted to ensure that they did not become further marginalised from economic activity or housing.
- 3.3 A consultation workshop was organised by the Sheffield City Region Executive Team which took place on 10 August 2017 where providers learnt about the Pilot and input into the proposals to date. A consultation event with key stakeholders will take place after approval has been received in going forward with the proposals outlined in this report.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Do nothing. The employment support programme would be delivered by another contractor. The delivery of the Ambition Programme has demonstrated that local knowledge and intervention yields better results therefore it would be more successful if delivered by a local authority partnership approach. The LIB is an integral part of the SCR Early Intervention Employment Pilot. Without the LIB, the programme would not go ahead locally.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1. SCR Ambition and Ambition Housing were externally funded by different government departments and both have been externally audited on the budgetary performance and financial management of the funds. The audit was good and the SCR Ambition project has since received underspend from other areas of SCR which were not able to deliver at the same level of performance.
- 5.1.1 There is the risk of the Sheffield City Region Employment Pilot not delivering in Derbyshire, if a Local Integration Board is not established.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 Data protection protocols will need to be developed to share residents data between the local authorities, on a similar basis as what has been set up for the Ambition Project.
- 5.2.2 Data sharing protocols will have to be developed between the Employment Pilot and the LIB.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 5.3.1 Staff time will be required to help mobilise the LIB. A strategic lead and operational lead within the Council will require input into the process.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Council notes the success to date of Ambition SCR.

6.2 That Council note Bolsover District Council's position as potential subcontractor to deliver the SCR Early Intervention Employment Pilot across north east Derbyshire, Bolsover, and Chesterfield.

6.2 That one LIB covering the three local authority areas and governance arrangements are developed for the newly formed LIB. This will be in conjunction with partner local authorities.

6.3 That Council notes that Executive will receive the LIB framework for approval in due course which will provide full details about the Local Integration Plan.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC:</i> <i>Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	All
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Create jobs, build skills and attract investment.

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1 Ambition 2	SCR Original Indicators and Outputs Link to Ambition Video
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
Report Author	Contact Number
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Original SCR Key Performance Indicators and Outputs

ALL	JSA Claimants Aged 18-24 as of Dec 2013	% of LEP 18-24 JSA's	LA Contract value	Back to Work Bonus (retained by SCC)	Number Assessed	Number Beneficiaries	Minimum Number Jobs (4 weeks)	Minimum Number of progressions (26 weeks)	Minimum Number of sustained in the workplace (26 weeks)
						67% of column A	40% of column B	55% of column C	80% of column C
Barnsley	1,545	13.4%	£ 567,755.01	£ 67,203.13	324	218	87	48	70
Bassetlaw	600	5.2%	£ 220,487.38	£ 26,098.30	126	85	34	19	27
Bolsover	385	3.3%	£ 141,479.40	£ 16,746.41	81	54	22	12	17
Chesterfield	640	5.6%	£ 235,186.54	£ 27,838.19	134	90	36	20	29
Derbyshire Dales	110	1.0%	£ 40,422.69	£ 4,784.69	23	16	6	3	5
Doncaster	2,205	19.2%	£ 810,291.14	£ 95,911.27	463	311	124	68	99
North East Derbyshire	360	3.1%	£ 132,292.43	£ 15,658.98	76	51	20	11	16
Rotherham	1,920	16.7%	£ 705,559.63	£ 83,514.57	403	271	108	60	87
Sheffield	3,730	32.4%	£ 1,370,696.57	£ 162,244.45	783	526	210	116	168
City Region Total	11,495	100.0%	£ 4,224,170.80	£ 500,000.00	2414	1620	648	356	518

Number of young people:

- A. Referred by JCP and assessed by a Key Worker
- B. Started on the programme – minimum number assessed by a Key Worker and started the programme
Numbers undertaking 12 and 18 week programmes split out in the tables below
- C. Starting a job (a minimum of 16 hours per week for 4 weeks – last date for job start is 31 April 2016)
- D. Progressing within the workplace; training/qualification, increased hours, increased salary, second job (to increase hours), career progression, achieving next step on career ladder (within 26 weeks of starting the job)
- E. Remaining within work after the programme (a minimum of 16 hours per week for 26 weeks)

Appendix 2

Video on Ambition Project

<http://www.oxomedia.co.uk/ambition-film/>