

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC

REPORT TO CABINET

7 December 2021

Northumberland Strategic Skills Plan 2021 - 25

The report was presented to the Committee at a meeting on 2 December 2021 by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson. Audrey Kingham, Director of Education and Skills, and Neil Dorward, Senior Manager - Education Development & Collaborative Projects were present to respond to questions from the Committee.

Members were pleased to receive this report which had been identified as an action in the Director of Education's Annual Report in March 21. The Committee received assurances on the ways in which this plan would help prepare young people for the world of work, both academically and practically.

The Committee considered how Northumberland could work with other regional partners in the North East. Members highlighted ways for education leaders to work closely with industry in order to prepare for the jobs of the future as they acknowledged the change in local labour trends over the last several years; especially, in the wake of BREXIT and COVID.

They also explored the ways the skills plan would link with the 13-16 Young People's Strategy, curriculum development and the work being done with Northumberland College.

The Committee held detailed discussions on how the Skills Plan could be part of a wider system change and system improvement. Members agreed the Plan was vital in creating a holistic approach to a mobilised workforce fit for the future.

The Committee, therefore, **agreed** to advise the Cabinet they supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.

**WAYNE DALEY
CHAIRMAN**