

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Relevant Officer:	Carmel McKeogh, Deputy Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Decision/ Meeting	4 th March 2015

PROJECT SEARCH

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To update members of the Board on the progress of the Project Search programme since its implementation in September 2014.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the positive impact of Project Search for the young people who are enrolled on the programme.
- 2.2 To consider future employment opportunities for the Project Search students within their own organisations.
- 2.3 To consider replicating the model in their own organisations to increase the opportunities for young people with learning disabilities.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To provide the Board with an update on the programme and encourage other partners on the Board to implement similar projects.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'tackle child poverty, raise aspirations and improve educational achievement'.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Project Search is a one-year work placement program for students with learning disabilities who are in their last year of high school. The project is currently half way through its first year 2014/15. It is targeted for students whose goal is to gain paid employment of more than 16 hours per week.
- 5.2 Taking place at the heart of Blackpool Council, with a classroom based in the new council offices at Bickerstaffe Square. A group of ten students are now into their second term of workplace teaching and learning through classroom based activities whilst also experiencing total immersion in the workplace as they undertake complimentary work based learning each day through placements across the Council.
- 5.3 The students work with a team that includes their family, a special education teacher provided by Blackpool and the Fylde College and support worker from Mencap to maintain the focus on an employment goal and support the student during this important transition from school to work.
- 5.4 The presentation aims to give a six-month update to the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress of the students during this first year of the project.

- 5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.6 List of Appendices:

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 The project is aimed at reducing barriers by providing access to appropriately tailored

learning and work opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Not applicable

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None