
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	25th NOVEMBER 2021	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	CATEGORY: OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	FRANK MCARDLE (01283 595702) frank.mcardle@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SOCIAL MOBILITY - SUPPORTING ASPIRATIONS ACTION PLAN	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To develop a Supporting Aspirations Action Plan for South Derbyshire.

2.0 Purpose of the Report;

2.1 To propose the development of an Action Plan, which aims to support disadvantaged young people in the District to realise their aspirations. This would focus on progressing activities that the District Council can take forward, and that will directly contribute to the South Derbyshire Partnership's proposed aims to enhance Social Mobility in the District.

3.0 Detail

Introduction

3.1 A report to this Committee on 22 July 2021, set out the emerging factors impacting upon Social Mobility in South Derbyshire, including:

- Issues affect those aged under 18 years; The area's rapid population growth may be a factor in this;
- A relatively small group of children and young people face a high level of disadvantage compared to others in the area; This is likely to include issues of school readiness;
- A focus on households with children eligible for Free School Meals due to low incomes; Issues of complex lifestyles amongst household members;
- Geographic concentration, with a focus on the Swadlincote urban core;
- Challenges in school performance – attendance, attainment and progression;
- Issues are more prevalent amongst boys than girls; and,
- COVID-19 may have exacerbated existing issues (eg. due to household debt, digital exclusion).

3.2 The report also set out the challenges that are faced in developing a Social Mobility response, including:

- A lack of up-to-date data on Social Mobility factors restricts the ability of partner organisations to respond in a timely and effective manner. This also delays the assessment and evaluation of outcomes of interventions. OFSTED inspections, for example, were undertaken some years ago and the Social Mobility Commission's State of the Nation index has not been updated since 2017;
- Headline data is likely to mask a more complex picture;
- The recent activities of schools and other organisations have been restricted by social distancing;
- Resources of partner organisations have been diverted to Covid response activities; and,
- Early indications are that as we emerge from the pandemic the impact on young people will become increasingly apparent, due to disruptions to their education, fewer careers or social activities having been provided either through school or by parents, and those most vulnerable needing greater support financially and/or academically.

South Derbyshire Partnership

3.3 The South Derbyshire Partnership is currently consulting on Social Mobility objectives on behalf of the Partnership. A copy of the consultation document can be found as Appendix A. For the reasons cited in Section 3.2, this is an ongoing piece of work.

Way Forward

3.4 It is proposed that the District Council develops a cross-departmental action plan that aims to support the realisation of the aspirations of disadvantaged young people in South Derbyshire. This would focus on progressing activities that the District Council can take forward, and that will directly contribute to the South Derbyshire Partnership's proposed aims to enhance Social Mobility in the District.

3.5 Areas in which the District Council could seek to support disadvantaged young people could include:

- Acting as a best practice employer, with respect to employment practices and provision of employment themed opportunities for young people, such as school visits, work experience, careers advice and apprenticeships.
- Working with partner organisations to strengthen the links between schools and other academic centres to develop a shared understanding of the careers opportunities for young people and in particular, opportunities for vocationally based careers.
- Promoting career options such as apprenticeships and industrial placements, plus initiatives such as the Kickstart Scheme.
- Supporting the provision of careers activities and labour market information, working with schools to engage employers in broadening the outlook and raising awareness of opportunities amongst young people.
- Promoting healthy, active lifestyles amongst young people, through involvement in physical and cultural activities in their local communities that will be engaging and inspirational.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

5.1 Not applicable.

Legal Implications

5.2 Not applicable.

Corporate Plan Implications

5.3 The Corporate Plan 'Our People' theme includes the objective to 'support and safeguard the most vulnerable' and the aim to:

- Support Social Mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education.

Risk Impact

5.4 There is a risk that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are unable to fulfill their potential, and that their talents are not unlocked, to the benefit of their communities and the local economy.

6.0 Community Impact

Consultation

6.1 Consultations have been undertaken by the South Derbyshire Partnership with stakeholders, including young people, disadvantaged households, schools and partner organisations.

Equality and Diversity Impact

6.2 Social Mobility is about ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to build a good life for themselves regardless of their family background. In a Socially Mobile society, every individual has a fair chance of reaching their potential.

Social Value Impact

6.3 Through its activities the District Council can directly and indirectly support disadvantaged young people in the area in realising their aspirations.

Environmental Sustainability

6.4 Not applicable.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Whilst adults in South Derbyshire experience high levels of Social Mobility, there are greater challenges for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The District Council can contribute to helping individuals from this group to realise their aspirations.

8.0 Background Papers

Appendix A

South Derbyshire Partnership consultation document.