



To: Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board

On: 11 June 2015

Report By  
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## **REGIONAL INVEST IN YOUNG PEOPLE GROUPS**

### **1 Summary**

The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce recommended for business and industry to work more closely with education, and for this to be facilitated through the establishment of employer led Regional Invest in Youth Groups:

West College Scotland is facilitating consultative meetings with key local employers and stakeholders to discuss the overall operation of the Invest in Young People Group for the West Region and to coordinate the submission of the proposal to Scottish Government in June 2015

### **2 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Community Planning Board notes the report

### **3 Background**

The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce was established in January 2013 with the objective of reviewing Scotland's approach to vocational education and youth employment. Following the publication of the Commission's findings the Scottish Government published *Developing the Young Workforce - Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy*, outlining how the recommendations of the original Commission are to be implemented.

The Commission made a key recommendation for business and industry to work more closely with education, and for this to be facilitated through the establishment of employer led Regional Invest in Youth Groups:

**Recommendation 14:** *The Scottish Government should support the creation of regional industry-led Invest in Youth groups across Scotland to provide leadership and a single point of contact and support to facilitate engagement between employers and education.*



The intention is for Regional Invest in Youth Groups to focus on:

- Encouraging and supporting employers to engage directly with schools and colleges; and
- Encouraging more employers to recruit more young people

The Invest in Youth Groups are intended to 'build a bridge' between employers and education, providing a resource for teachers and practitioners, and encourage and support employers to recruit and train young people. This will allow employers to more easily influence the education system, play an active part in its delivery and remove some of the real barriers to employing young people. The Group's will encourage and support the development of active industry leadership in the overall agenda.

The West Region comprises the local authority areas of Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire. The combined population of the area is 345,510, 6.5% of the overall population of Scotland. The working age population, those aged 16-64, is 224,600, with recent statistics indicating 168,000 of these as economically active.

West College Scotland is coordinating the proposal to the Scottish Government for the establishment of the Invest in Young People Group for the West Region via facilitating consultative meetings with key local employers and stakeholders to discuss the establishing of the group and key aspects of the operation of the group including membership, structure of the group, governance arrangements and roles and responsibilities of the group.

A core principle within the group, aligning with the overall national objectives for Invest in Young People Group's was that the private sector would lead and membership would be principally drawn from private sector employers. Representation from the third sector would also be sought given their important role as employers and delivery of services to disadvantaged groups especially young people. Whilst private sector employers would form the bulk of the group membership there would also be representation from public sector agencies including local authorities, Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Enterprise. These partners represent the wider Community Planning structures that exist across the four local authority areas, they will bring with them a knowledge and understanding of wider structures and initiatives and will support the West Region group in adding value to existing activity.

A proposal for the establishment of the group will be submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2015

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