



Subject:	Request to present to Committee - employability outreach projects
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Ruth Rea, Economic Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that Council has been supporting a number of employability outreach and engagement pilot projects. Two of these are based on using sport as a mechanism to engage young people, namely Active Communities Network (ACN) and Sport Changes Life (SCL).
1.2	It is requested that both organisations be invited to attend a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to update members on the pilot initiatives being delivered on behalf of Council and to highlight some of the wider innovative work in which they are involved.

2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to receive a presentation from ACN and SCL on work being undertaken across the city to support the positive engagement and employability of young people at a future meeting of the Committee.
3.0	Main Report
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Employability and skills is a key priority for Belfast City Council, recognising the challenges faced by the city including high levels of economic inactivity, unemployment and the resulting impact of this upon poverty and deprivation across the city. As Members will be aware the Council has developed a 10 year Employability & Skills framework which sets a vision of “Realising the potential of Belfast’s people and its economy by transforming skills, employability and aspiration, resulting in higher levels of business growth, employment and income”. One of the most significant factors to help achieve this vision will be addressing unemployment levels, including youth unemployment. It is recognised for some young people who are distant from the labour market, early stage intervention and personal development is required to support them into and through an employment pathway.</p> <p>Members will be aware that, at the June 2016 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, funding was approved for the delivery of early engagement pilot projects to be delivered under the City Employability & Skills Framework. One of the projects supported was an ACN pilot project aimed at engaging 200 young people across Belfast who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or are at risk of becoming so. The pilot project aimed to utilise sport based activities as a means of engagement with the target market. Through this pilot young people are being supported to address personal and employment challenges, gain new skills, participate in work placements and/or secure employment. The key elements of the programme include sport based diversionary activities, workshops and accredited training, employer matching and one to one mentoring.</p> <p>The second project was delivered by SCL, this pilot project aimed to reach 160 of the hardest to reach young people through schools outreach and eHoops programme. Activities targeting local schools aimed to engage with 10 schools across the Council area supporting 100 young people aged 14-16 year olds who are at risk of leaving education or in need of</p>

3.4	<p>additional support, motivation or guidance. The aim of the programme will be to positively engage with young people, support their personal development and improve their attitude to education. The eHoops programme is a multi-disciplinary, sport-based engagement programme targeting 60 young people aged 16-24 year olds in disadvantaged areas, providing skills development opportunities and mentoring support.</p> <p>The presentation will be an opportunity to update Members on progress to date of the pilot project supported by the Council and the wider range of activities being undertaken by ACN and SCL to support young people across the city.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Active Communities Network</u> In 2009 ACN commenced their operations within Belfast, initially within West Belfast before expanding activities across the city and wider region. The activities delivered by the organisation in Belfast have centred on employability, skills development and supporting young people's mental health outcomes. The approach invests in young people regardless of their background; an ethos that focuses on economic growth and holistic youth development as a vehicle which also promotes peace and cohesion.</p>
3.6	<p>ACN works in a multi-agency setting with a range of partners on a local and regional level to support their programmes of activity. ACN has a diverse funding base including the ASDA Foundation, Big Lottery, St James Place etc. The organisation has also developed strong working relationships with the private sector including BT, Asda etc providing a vital link to national employers.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Sport Changes Life</u> Sport Changes Life is a registered UK charity and US non-profit organisation. The primary goal of the Sport Changes Life foundation is to provide an opportunity for raising the aspirations of young people on both sides of the Atlantic so that they can live out their dreams and guide them as sport changes their lives. Sport Changes Life operates a number of programmes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victory Scholar Programme enabling international student-athletes to continue their education at post graduate level. Scholars engage with local communities to work with young people to inspire and build relationships through sport. - School engagement activities targeting young people finding it difficult to engage with education. - eHoops programme supporting young people who are disengaged from traditional interventions, helping them to address their barriers and raise their levels of aspirations

<p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no resource implications.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>