

REVIEW OF APPRENTICESHIPS AND YOUTH TRAINING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The Minister for Employment and Learning has commissioned a review of apprenticeships and youth training, to ensure that they:

- support the growth and rebalancing of the Northern Ireland economy;
- meet the future needs of business by developing a highly skilled workforce;
- provide consistently high quality training leading to qualifications which are valued by both young people and employers;
- ensure those young people are provided with opportunities to develop the skills and gain the relevant experience;
- provide alternative pathways with parity of esteem; and
- take account of best practice in other jurisdictions.

Scope

The review will consider the different issues and factors pertaining to apprenticeships and post-school youth training.

In terms of youth training the review will consider:

- how to best ensure that in practice every young person, post 16, has the opportunity to participate in a training programme;
- the essential components for one or more effective programmes, which provides a plausible non-academic pathway to prepare young people for progression to an apprenticeship or into sustainable employment ;

- other elements of flexible content which may be required in addition to the core offer of employability and Essential Skills;
- how to improve young people's employability skills, including the importance of work experience and how it can be integrated into any new offer;
- how to clarify the offer to enable young people to make the correct choices in terms of entry routes and progression opportunities;
- the age range and duration for future programmes;
- how to engage employers in terms of the content of the training programmes and the employers' support in providing work experience opportunities; and
- the delivery arrangements to enable a flexible and personalised offer appropriate to the young person's needs.