

REPORT TO:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny 15 March 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	7
SUBJECT:	Cabinet Reponses to recommendations of the Local Action mini-review on Youth Employability
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CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning

This briefing provides an update to Cabinet responses made on 20th October 2015 in relation to Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee (17 March 2015) recommendations pertaining to the mini review on youth employability conducted in 2015.

All the recommendations which were accepted/partially accepted are dependent on the submission of a successful European Social Fund (ESF) bid to fund the proposed activities, specifically under the anticipated London 'Careers Cluster' bid opportunity. This is being proposed by the London LEP for inclusion in the ESF programme and is match-funded/managed by the Skills Funding Agency national ESF programme for 2014-2020.

Calls for applications/bids for the ESF 2014-2020 youth programme were originally anticipated to be made in the early summer 2015 for projects covering a 3-year period (2015-2018). At the time of writing, calls for this round of ESF funding have still not been released. On the 11th November 2015 the following communication was received:

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has written to Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) today to propose a changed timetable for managing the £650m of European Social Fund (ESF) that the SFA will manage and match fund in England. The proposal is to run a "sequence of procurement" that would begin almost immediately and which must finish by the end of September 2016 at the very latest to allow a minimum delivery period of 18 months.

This proposed revised timetable means that the ESF call for bids has now been delayed (to any time between now and September 2016), with all project completions by March 2018. This means project durations are now likely to be limited to 18-24 months.

It remains the intention to submit a Croydon 'Careers cluster' bid when the opportunity arises and, subject to success of this bid and funding received, partially address the recommendations in the Scrutiny report. A partnership has already been formed and an outline proposal drafted in anticipation of the call for bids being released.