

POLICY, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

29TH NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

ME & MY LEARNING SERVICE – END OF YEAR REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek member's comments and approval of the Me and My Learning End of Year report for 2016/17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Members comment on and approve the Me and My Learning End of Year Report attached as Appendix A.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Me & My Learning initiative has been in operation since April 2014 with full operational services implemented since June 2014. Funding was secured from the European Social Fund (ESF) for the financial year 2014/15
- 3.2 The aim of the service is to create social, financial and digital independence for residents who live in the Borough of Melton. We are currently focusing on those who are unemployed, in receipt of Universal Credit (UC), Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Income Support (IS). We will however take referrals from any agency or person who needs support of working age. Those of pension age who do not wish to work but need support will also be supported.
- 3.3 Over the last 3½ years, the Me and My Learning service has gone through significant changes in the way it is structured, financed and developed to adjust to changing demands.

The wider picture of reducing budgets and welfare reforms (e.g. the introduction of Universal Credit, the lowering of the benefit cap, the freeze on benefit uprating) makes the work of MML increasingly important as we equip the citizens of Melton to be more independent, resilient and able to withstand these changes.

The way in which it has risen to its challenges and adapted to the changes is a testament to the foundations that were put in place from the onset around the ethos and approach towards integrated service delivery. It has also established a reputation which has seen us successfully secure external European Social Fund (ESF) Skills Funding Agency (SFA) contracts to deliver Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) services as part of the supply chain for larger contracts.

This year's End of Year report has been internally developed following on from Year 1 and Year 2 reports commissioned from De Montfort University. The content

includes the service journey, key achievements, outcomes, case studies and the tools used to enable effective service delivery and demonstrate value for money. There are still significant developments to be made on this journey of transforming support services delivery to realise long term benefits for Melton Borough Council and its residents but we firmly believe we are heading in the right direction.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Me & My Learning core offer proposal and associated bids helps Melton Borough Council achieve its corporate objective of supporting vulnerable people and improving outcomes for residents of our community. Me & My Learning also contributes heavily to engaging residents in digital services which is a key driver of the Council's Transformation Programme. As residents become more independent and digitally aware over the next few years this will contribute towards lower demand coming into the Council, which in turn will help the Council to deal with future financial challenges

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The overall cost of the MML programme for the 2016-17 year was £381k. This was offset by income of £77k and a recharge from the HRA £50k leaving a net cost to the General Fund of £255k. The Council has received grant funding for delivering the service in previous years but each year there has been an overall net cost to the council of £232k in 2014-15 and £103k in 2015-16.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no direct legal implications from the recommendation in this report

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 Me & My Learning contributes to community safety outcomes in a number of ways by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour, reduce re-offending and works with young people aged 16-25 at risk of entering the criminal justice system


8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment already exists for the service and is published on the Council's website.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

Very High A					Risk No.	Description
High B					1	Outcomes do not meet payment by results agreements
Significant C						
Low D						
Very Low E			1			
Almost Impossible F						
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic		


Impact

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 As part of the financial assessments undertaken with clients a focus is put upon reducing energy costs and encouraging residents to use less energy were possible. This is also aimed at leading to a reduced carbon footprint from our residents

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The report has been considered by the Council's Senior management Team.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All Wards may be affected.

Contact Officer: Aysha Rahman/H Rai
Date: 18th October 2017

Appendices : Appendix A- MML End of |Year report

Background Papers:

Reference : X : Committees\CSA\2017\18\HR\AT\MMLt