

Subject:	Reform of Education for Young People Aged 14-19 Years		
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2009		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Linda Ellis	Tel: 29-3686
	E-mail:	Linda.ellis@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No	Forward Plan No. N/A	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 There has been concern over a number of years as to whether the structure of education, training and qualifications for young people post -14 is the right one. Too many young people are disengaged from education and show this by poor attendance or an unwillingness to extend their education beyond 16 (only 78% stay on in education post-16). The Leitch Report on skills indicated that the UK needs to increase skill level of the workforce to compete in the global economy. This has resulted in a cascade of reforming legislation and guidance. There are two pieces of recent legislation that affect the 14-19 age group: the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill which at the time of writing is on its third reading in the House of Lords. Royal Assent is currently anticipated for November 2009.
- 1.2 The result of the legislation and curriculum reform will mean significant changes to the education of young people aged 14-19. These changes will present increased opportunities for young people and will require schools, colleges and private training providers to work together in a co-ordinated way to deliver the new curriculum. This report and its appendices describe the work that is in progress to create a strong partnership of all those involved in 14-19 education, the plans for introducing the new curriculum and the outcome of the dissolution of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the new duties for Brighton & Hove Children's and Young People's Trust.
- 1.3 Key features of The Education and Skills Act 2008 that relate to this report:
- Raising of the participation age. By 2015 all young people will participate in education until they are aged 18 (these pupils are currently in Year 6 in the primary school). There is an interim stage in that by 2013 all young people must participate in education until age 17 (these young people are in secondary school at the time of writing);

- Sets out duties on employers to release young people for the equivalent of one day a week to undertake training elsewhere (where the employer does not provide their own training)
 - Requires local authorities to assess the education and training needs of young people aged 16-19 with special educational needs
 - Requires the Learning and Skills Council to secure the proper provision of courses for learners over the age of 19.
- 1.4 Key features of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2008-9 that relate to this report:
- Provides for a statutory framework for apprenticeships and creates a right to an apprenticeship for suitably qualified 16-18 year olds
 - Dissolves the Learning and Skills Council
 - Transfers the responsibility for funding education and training for 16-18-year-olds to local authorities
 - Creates the Young Person's Learning Agency and the Skills Funding Agency

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Brighton & Hove 14-19 Partnership Board and Strategy

- 3.1.1 The Education and Skills Act 2008 requires local authorities to put arrangements in place to promote cooperation between the local authority, 'relevant partners' and 14-19 providers as part of the Children's Trust. 14-19 Partnerships, as a sub-set of the Children's Trust, is the recommended model for this. The Partnership Board is the key body for delivering the Entitlement curriculum ensuring diversity in that provision and increasing opportunities for young people to exercise choice.
- 3.1.2 As an area-wide offer that needs to be accessed by all young people, the Entitlement will require:
- capitalising on the expertise of a broad mix of providers with the ability to deliver practical and applied learning;
 - working across borders to reflect travel to learn areas and to plug gaps in the offer;
 - high quality and impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG) and support; and
 - clear focus on creating access by catering for the needs of all young people, including in relation to gender, faith and age.

More detail about the Brighton & Hove 14-19 Partnership activities are provided in Appendix A

3.1.3 In March 2008 the Children and Young People's Trust Board approved a 14-19 Strategy which set out the vision, the objectives to be achieved by 2013 and a set of strategic actions. Subsequent to that Strategy there have been two new pieces of legislation that resulted in a need to refresh the Strategy.

3.1.4 The revised vision for the 14-19 Strategic plan now reads:

“To provide high quality education and training for all young people aged 14-18, and to age 25 for some young people with additional needs, who are resident in Brighton & Hove or who choose to study with providers in the city. The young people will be given opportunities, guidance and support which enable them to achieve their potential and, as young adults, take their full place in society as contributing, confident citizens.”

3.1.5 The refreshed strategic objectives are:

- An effective 14-19 Partnership with defined collaborative and productive arrangements in place
- Learner centred, quality driven, impartial, Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) processes are available, which support young people in the city to achieve progression and economic wellbeing through effective learning and career choices
- A broad 14-19 curriculum, including practical and applied options, is accessible across the City to meet the needs of all young people
- There is effective support for young people with special educational needs and those at risk of disengagement
- Sufficient, appropriate and accessible facilities exist across the city to deliver a broad range of high quality provision
- Effective employer links which involve employers in the delivery of high quality work-related and work based learning in the city
- The Brighton & Hove 14-19 Workforce is trained and prepared to deliver and support a broad range of high quality provision

3.2 The New 14-19 Curriculum Entitlement - a wider more diverse offer

3.2.1 From 2013, 14-19 year olds will have a statutory Entitlement to study Diplomas. Diplomas provide an important pathway as part of the broader 14-19 Entitlement; this includes four overarching learning and progression pathways, underpinned by functional skills in English, maths and ICT and personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS):

3.2.2 The four pathways will be:

Apprenticeships – for those who have a clear idea about the type of employment they want to pursue and prefer to learn in a work environment – all suitably qualified young people will have an Entitlement to an Apprenticeship place from 2013;

Diplomas – combine theory and practice and will appeal to young people who like to learn in an applied way – young people will have a statutory Entitlement to a Diploma place from 2013;

Foundation Learning Tier – provides personalised pathways at entry level and level 1 to support progression to destinations such as Diplomas and Apprenticeships – available in every area from 2010, with all schools and other providers coming on board thereafter to align with the wider 14–19 milestones in 2013; and

GCSE/A level – A levels will be reviewed in 2013 when the other qualifications are in place.

- 3.2.3 There will be flexibility between the routes, ensuring young people can move between them as they progress. The passing of legislation to raise the participation age to 17 by 2013 and to 18 by 2015 places a premium on us to make sure the right opportunities and support are in place in order to achieve this historic commitment. The children who start Year 8 in September 2009 will be the first to all stay in education and training post-16

A more detailed account of these reforms are provided in Appendix B

3.3 The transfer of the responsibility of 16-18 education (16-25 for some learners with learning difficulties and disabilities) from the LSC to the LA.

- 3.3.1 A new duty for Brighton & Hove City Council is the responsibility for commissioning the education provision for young people aged 16-18. This responsibility will pass from the LSC to local authorities in April 2010. From this point the councils in each of Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex will be directly accountable to their electorate for the quality of the post-16 education in the same way as for GCSEs and primary education.
- 3.3.2 The Learning and Skills Council has had responsibility for commissioning post-16 education. Locally this means the LSC has provided funding for the four Brighton & Hove school sixth forms, the two sixth form colleges and 16-18 education at City College. Post-16 education has been non-compulsory with 78% of young people (2007) deciding to continue with their studies at age 16.
- 3.3.3 The government has legislated to raise the participation age so that by 2015 all young people will participate in education until they are aged 18 (these pupils are currently in Year 6 in the primary school). There is an interim stage in that by 2013 all young people must participate in education until age 17. There are new qualifications and a reformed curriculum for 14-19 which brings with it a duty to co-operate between schools and between schools and colleges. Splitting the responsibility for funding the 14-19 offer between LA and LSC was seen as a barrier to these new developments.
- 3.3.4 The transfer of responsibility brings with it a transfer of staff from the LSC to Brighton & Hove City Council. We will have 7 people transferring to work on the commissioning of post -16 education and other contract management. These

people will join the Learning, Schools and Skills branch of the CYPT and will initially be part of the advisory service for 11-adults.

More detail of this transfer is provided in Appendix C

4. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 4.1 The funding framework around the transfer back to Local Authorities for 16-19 funding as a result of the changes with the LSC are at this stage uncertain. Paragraph 1.1 says Royal Assent is anticipated for November 2009, so further details will become clearer around that time, however at this time for 2010/11 we understand that the LA will be a post box for the 16-19 funding for schools. Paragraph 3.3.4 says Brighton & Hove City Council will be receiving 7 staff from the local LSC and we await confirmation on exactly how the funding will be passed to us; however we understand this is linked to the transfer arrangements and again we wait for confirmation of this.

Finance Officer consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 03/08/2009

Legal Implications:

- 4.2 This report sets out the key features of both recent and forthcoming legislation, namely the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, and the duties which will be placed on the Council arising from these new pieces of law.

There are no human rights implications arising from the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 04/08/2009

Equalities Implications:

- 4.3 The 14-19 reforms have many positive implications for equalities. The duty to provide a curriculum offer that is suitable for all young people so that they can participate in education until age 18 will mean a focus on the barriers that prevent participation of vulnerable groups.

Sustainability Implications:

- 4.4 It will be important to consider sustainability issues when considering transport for young people moving between institutions

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 4.5 The reforms will have a tendency to reduce crime and disorder among young people as they will have a better experience of education

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 4.6 The reforms provide opportunities to develop better progression routes and education opportunities for all young people especially the most vulnerable. There are risks at present associated with the speed of transfer of responsibilities with significant levels of detail which are not yet clear.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The additional accountability for post-16 education will require scrutiny

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Additional data

Appendix A : Strong Collaboration

Appendix B: The New 14-19 Curriculum Reforms

Appendix C: The transfer of responsibilities for commissioning 16-18 education from LSC to LA

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None