

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REVIEW: 14 -19 STRATEGY – RAISING EXPECTATIONS, ENABLING THE SYSTEM TO DELIVER

Cabinet Member	Councillor David Simmonds
Cabinet Portfolio	Education & Children's Services
Officer Contact	Charles Francis, Deputy Chief Executive's Office
Papers with report	14 to 19 Strategy - Raising Expectations, Enabling the System to Deliver - Final Report

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To receive the Education & Children's Services Policy Overview Committee's report which seeks to provide an understanding of national developments and how they are being interpreted for the benefit of learners and raising attainment in Hillingdon.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	This report is connected with the Council's Building Schools for 21 st Century programme, the Extended Schools programme, the development of young people's centres, the Integrated Youth Support agenda and Sports and Play Strategies.
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Education & Children's Services Policy Overview Committee
Ward(s) affected	All.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet welcomes the:

1. Report from the Education & Children's Policy Overview Committee and;
2. The recommendations of the Policy Overview Committee report as set out in Appendix A. Furthermore, Cabinet note the steps which are already being taken by the Council to meet their recommendations aimed at improving 14 to 19 provision.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The recommendations are aimed at building upon Hillingdon's implementation of the revised 14 to 19 curriculum. Improved 14 to 19 provision will increase the levels of participation for 14 to 19 learners so that more young people stay in learning to 18 and beyond, thereby improving their life chances.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject or amend the Committee's recommendations.

Supporting Information

1. The Committee chose 14 to 19 Strategy – Raising Expectations, Enabling the System to Deliver as a review topic in 2008/9 to look at ongoing change, Work Based Training, rising NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and how this related to the training element within the 14 to 19 Strategy.
2. The aim of this review was to investigate how far Hillingdon has implemented the new systems of collaborative learning, in particular Diplomas, to consider any effect on attainment, and the changes to the skills agenda including Apprenticeships and Work based placements
3. The review took place between October 2008 and April 2009.
4. The Committee's report (attached) gives full details of the review.
5. Their recommendations and Officer's response are attached as Appendix A

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. The authority will be holding regular meetings with the LSC prior to the transfer of responsibilities. The authority will need to ensure that appropriate and adequate resources are transferred to enable the authority to meet the additional responsibilities arising from the transfer.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The Committee's recommendations will provide a springboard for the Council to take those steps necessary to improve 14 to 19 provision in Hillingdon.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The Committee took evidence from Partner organisations, officers and experts as described in the attached report (see page 6).

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

A corporate finance officer has reviewed the report and its financial implications and is satisfied that there are no resource implications for the Council as a consequence of this report. However, as mentioned in the financial implications, the authority will need to ensure that appropriate and adequate resources are transferred to enable the authority to meet the additional responsibilities arising from the transfer.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Policy Overview Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That Cabinet ensure that the Authority is fully equipped to take on the responsibilities of the LSC in 2010 in relation to both funding and commissioning of services for the post 16 age group.

Officer Response

Work is being undertaken by the Director of Children's Services and the 14-19 Coordinator to create a structure to provide clear lines of responsibilities encompassing the new responsibilities of the Council following the termination of the Learning Skills Council (LSC) in April 2010 and using the resource that has been indicated will be transferred to the Borough.

Regular meetings have been planned with the LSC over the coming months. The DCS and the 14-19 Coordinator attend Pan London meetings where London Boroughs are being prepared for this transfer of responsibilities.

Hillingdon was one of the London Boroughs that took part in the London 'Dry Run' process of shadowing the work of the LSC this academic year and submitted a full commissioning statement and commissioning plan as part of this process. (Plan approved and noted as well done by the LSC members of the 14-19 Strategic Group.)

It is intended to continue this shadowing process in the coming year.

Recommendation 2: To ensure that there is effective presentation by all schools of the new options available to students. The 2009/10 take up of Diplomas including how many students chose an option outside of their host school by students to be monitored by officers and the cabinet member.

Officer Response

This year there has been a programme of effective presentation of the new options by the Council, supported by the Diploma Steering Group offered to all schools. This has included a Road Show (hosted by Queensmead) attended by 200 students from 14 schools, option evening presentations at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 at 14 schools, support in presenting the Hillingdon Diploma offer by the LA at 4 schools, an interactive show for year 9 students in 9 schools (Impact) and a publicity campaign to include media, posters and leaflets.

This programme has resulted in 81 applications for Diploma places at KS4 and 46 places which will be filled at Key Stage 5. Of these applicants, 15 have been for Diplomas delivered away from the students home institution.

Although applicant numbers were disappointing, this situation is not unique amongst other boroughs. This year the 14-19 team will build on the limited successes of the Gateway 2 recruitment process by:

- 1. Monitoring the achievement of these students*
- 2. Developing existing relationships to build trust and collaboration between the schools and between schools and the College. A Headteacher has been seconded into the 14-19 team and it is hoped that his input, through the development of the 3 consortia, will further contribute to this process*

Recommendation 3: Schools and the Connexions service to undertake further work to identify those students likely to underachieve and /or become NEETS and by early intervention provide appropriate programmes of study and advice to enable them to succeed.

Officer Response

All relevant partners including schools, training providers, Connexions and other information, advice and guidance services and youth support agencies to continue to develop and implement a Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Reduction Strategy which pays due reference to the need for early identification of underachievement and the securing of appropriate any timely interventions to address presenting risks. Activity will include the provision of the highest quality support information, advice and guidance coupled with personalised learning opportunities which enable individuals, including those who may experience particular barriers to progression to achieve

Recommendation 4: The collaborative links between schools and also Uxbridge College need to be strengthened to ensure that all students can access personalised learning appropriate to them.

Officer Response

Uxbridge College is a supportive member of the 14-19 Strategic Group and is a part of all 14-19 initiatives, including Consortia and Diploma development. Further work needs to be done to encourage collaboration between schools and the College.

The Building Schools for the Twenty First Century team is to further incorporate the potential of Uxbridge College in its plans concerning school development.

School timetables and that of the College need to be aligned to allow young people to personalise their curricula to maximise opportunities for vocational learning.

It is essential that training providers such as Hillingdon Training should be part of the above plans to enlarge the offer to young people.

Recommendation 5: All available means of communication including school option evenings, written information and web based information need to be pursued to ensure that all parents and students can make informed choices.

Officer Response

The 14-19 team have undertaken a publicity campaign this year incorporating posters, leaflets, representations at options evenings, a Road Show, training for Governors, Governors' news articles and an active event prior to options evening. (Impact).

A 14-19 web page providing information for teachers and students is being developed. Further work needs to focus on providing information for parents. The support of the School Improvement Service is now adding support through the 14-19 Strategic Group to the work of the 14-19 team.

This process needs to be continued into the coming year to maintain momentum and recognition for the new 14-19 learning choices.

Recommendation 6: Apprenticeships, including the Hillingdon Construction Apprenticeship Programme (see appendix 2 of the POC report), need to be promoted at all levels in order that those who would benefit from them have access to them.

Officer Response

The first Council apprentices started on 1st June 2009. The Council has signed a pan-London agreement to recruit a minimum of 45 apprentices over the next three years. It is anticipated that the actual figure will be significantly higher. Hillingdon Training is managing the Hillingdon Construction Apprenticeship Programme. There is a lot of interest from employers and Hillingdon Training is to seek apprentice recruits to the scheme.

Recommendation 7: The Education POC to revisit in 12 months to ascertain what progress is being made with the practical implementation of the new courses both vocational and applied.

Officer Response

The interest and focus of the Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee is welcomed at this time of change

Recommendation 8: Schools to be encouraged to forge links with industry as a means of underpinning the vocational content and context of the diploma in terms of application and appreciation of the specific skills needed within employer sector of that diploma.

Officer Response

The recognition of the importance of industry links has been reflected in Hillingdon's Employer Engagement Plan (submitted to the LSC in May this year). Here, vocational learning and especially Diplomas, have been given extra focus. Additional resource has been allocated via the Education Business Partnership which will concentrate on the following industry areas where Hillingdon has Diploma Gateway approval and where there are likely to be economic opportunities, i.e. IT, Engineering, Hospitality, Society Health and Development and Business, Administration and Finance

Recommendation 9: Officers to continue to take all means available to market the applied and vocational courses to teachers and students. Methods could include school collaborative events, joint school / industry events, liaison with other successful authorities and use of The Education Business Partnership.

Officer Response

Officers will continue to ensure awareness of applied and vocational courses to teachers and students. Some continuing professional development for teachers has been arranged through the Education Business Partnership to ensure that those teachers involved with the delivery of the new options have the necessary vocational recency.

A timetable of events and courses will be drawn up to include input from significant stakeholders in the 14-19 agenda in Hillingdon, (e.g. the recent Job Opportunities Fair at the Pavilions) to include Brunel, Buckingham New University, Connexions, training providers and other agencies.