

REVIEW OF 14 - 19 EDUCATION & TRAINING

A REVIEW BY THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Cabinet Member	Councillor David Simmonds
Cabinet Portfolio	Education & Children's Services
Officer Contact	Gill Brice, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Education & Children's Services POC – Review of 14- 19 Education & Training - Final Report

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	Cabinet are asked to receive the Education & Children's Services Policy Overview Committee's report on 14-19 education and training which has made a number of recommendations to improve the services provided to students.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Council Plan Children and Young People's Plan 14-19 Strategy
Financial Cost	There are no additional financial commitments arising from this report that are not already contained within the Departments overall budget.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Education & Children's Services
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet:

- 1. Welcome the attached report from the Education & Children's Services Policy Overview Committee aimed at improving the service currently provided to students who undertake 14-19 education and training in Hillingdon;**
- 2. Note that the Government commissioned an independent review of vocational education and that it will report its findings in the Spring 2011;**
- 3. Endorse the following recommendations from the Committee as set out below;-**
 - (i) That officers provide an update to Members on the National Review that is currently being undertaken on vocational training when the review has been completed.**

- (ii) That the GCSE equivalent for diplomas is not used as the only tool for students in making their choices in the course of their compulsory Education and that all pathways were explained to them.**
- (iii) That officers look at ways to ensure that impartial advice is provided to students to enable them to make an informed decision on their education path.**
- (iv) To ensure that sufficient impartial information, advice and guidance is available to enable students to prepare adequately for progressing to the next stage of education/training after they have reached post compulsory school age.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To consider the Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee's review and recommendations on 14-19 education and training.

Alternative options considered / risk management

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

Background

In June 2010, the Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee agreed to undertake a review of 14 – 19 Education & Training, in particular to look at the uptake and success of the Diploma which had been implemented nationally in 2009. The review also looked at other options that were available to students that sat alongside the diplomas.

The Committee reviewed the provision in Hillingdon Secondary schools, Uxbridge College and work based learning providers to ensure that there were learning possibilities for young people that met not only local needs and the requirements of young people, but for those young people from other boroughs that choose to travel to learn in Hillingdon. Cabinet should note that Hillingdon is a net importer of students, and as funding currently follows the learner, this can be beneficial for both our learning providers and our young people learning in Hillingdon.

In addition, the Committee examined the mix of provision in the borough to see whether young people were more likely to remain participating in education or training and therefore less likely to become Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Lastly, the Committee looked at actions to enhance the skills of Hillingdon residents to provide the level 3 skills and knowledge that is required by local employers.

National Review

The Committee learnt that in September 2010, the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education.

Professor Wolf has been asked to look at the organisation of vocational education and its responsiveness to a changing labour market and to consider ways to increase incentives for young people to participate. The review will examine:

- institutional arrangements
- funding mechanisms including arrangements for who bears the cost of qualifications
- progression from vocational education to work, higher education and higher-level training
- the role of the third sector, private providers, employers and awarding bodies.

The final report is due in spring 2011, which will include recommendations on how vocational education can be improved. Given the importance of this review, the Committee has recommended that Cabinet and Members generally receive an update (possibly via a Cabinet report, briefing or a seminar) on this at the appropriate time.

The Committee's review

The Committee's review took place between June 2010 and January 2011 and heard evidence from Council Officers. It also heard from a range of external stakeholders, including the Head Teacher of Rosedale (lead school for the Hospitality and Engineering Diplomas), Laraine Smith from Uxbridge College and Peter Sale from Hillingdon Training Ltd.

Importantly, the Committee heard from 6 Young People that had undertaken Diplomas to get their experience and opinion on the qualifications.

Following the review, the Committee met and agreed four recommendations to submit to Cabinet for endorsement. These are set out below with relevant comments from officers in the Council's Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services Department.

Committee recommendations:

- 1. That officers provide an update to Members on the National Review that is currently being undertaken on vocational training when the review has been completed.**

The Wolf Report was published on 3rd March. An update will be provided to Education POC members and Cabinet members as soon as the Government response is published.

- 2. That the GCSE equivalent for diplomas is not used as the only tool for students in making their choices in the course of their compulsory Education and that all pathways were explained to them.**

Officers will ensure that whenever working with young people in schools, full and fair Information, Advice and Guidance will be given to young people choosing educational pathways.

- 3. That officers look at ways to ensure that impartial advice is provided to students to enable them to make an informed decision on their education path.**
- 4. To ensure that sufficient impartial information, advice and guidance is available to enable students to prepare adequately for progressing to the next stage of education/training after they have reached post compulsory school age.**

Recent national policy announcements issued on 4th November has advised that an all-age Careers Service will be established by April 2012. The Education Bill, published on 26th January 2011, changes the duties on schools and local authorities. As far as local

authorities are concerned, the general duty to provide services to encourage, enable or assist young people to remain in education and training (section 68 Education and Skills Act 2008) remains but the Secretary of State will no longer have the power to direct local authorities to provide particular services or to provide the services to particular individuals. The Bill amends the 1997 Education Act and requires schools to provide independent careers guidance to all pupils. Local authorities will continue to have a duty to ensure support is provided to the most vulnerable groups and to support them into education, employment or training. Officers will work with schools to facilitate an effect transfer of duty with a view to supporting schools to secure the required quantity and quality of impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance.

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial commitments arising from this report that are not already contained within the Departments overall budget.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendations?

The recommendations would improve the service provided to all students who chose to undertake their 14-19 education and training in the Borough.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The committee took evidence from a range of witnesses and also young people as described on pages 8 – 18 of the review report.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and is satisfied that there are no additional costs associated with the recommendations of this report.

Legal

Under the Council's Constitution the Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendations proposed at the outset of this report. There are no other significant legal implications arising out of this report to bring to Cabinet's attention.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL