

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

16 – 19 PROVISION PROGRESS REPORT

FOR INFORMATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the formal partnership arrangements that are now in place in the Coalfield Area and to update Members on the plans for a 'Headways Sixth Form Centre' located in the Hetton-Houghton area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Between 2002 and 2006 there has been an ongoing dialogue with the headteachers and governors of Hetton School and Houghton Kepier School regarding educational provision in the area for youngsters aged 16-19.
- 2.2 In 2007 the Governing Body of Hetton School agreed to work in partnership with City of Sunderland College and committed to putting in place a formal model of governance similar to that which operates in Sunderland North, Sunderland South and Washington, between the College and partner schools in the respective areas. Seaham School from County Durham indicated at this time that they wished to be part of the formal partnership for the Coalfield area. All partners agreed that a single site solution, accessible to youngsters from the Coalfield area and Seaham, should be sought.
- 2.3 The Governing Body of Hetton School, the Governing Body of Seaham School and the Board of Corporation of City of Sunderland College approved proposals for a joint committee of the three institutions in the Summer Term 2007. Named Officers from Sunderland and Durham local authorities were invited to attend meetings. Agreement was reached on the broad approach to the structure of the Joint Committee and to the appointment of the Headteachers of Hetton and Seaham Schools as Associate Principals of City of Sunderland College.
- 2.2 The provision was named 'Headways Sixth Form' early in 2008 and from September 2008, and as a short term measure; the centre has operated from the Humbleton Building, Bede Campus, Durham Road, Sunderland.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Headways Sixth Form Centre currently operates with 88 youngsters on roll from the Humbleton building, Bede Campus.

- 3.2 City of Sunderland College has reconfigured the management arrangements for its sixth form provision and the Headways Sixth Form Centre is now jointly managed with Sunderland South (Bede Academy). Similarly, the provision for Sunderland North (St Peter's Sixth Form) and Washington (Usworth Sixth Form) has a shared management structure.
- 3.2 The Headways Partnership has identified a site in the Coalfield area as the preferred option for the sixth form. Alternative options are also being considered. City of Sunderland College is keen to establish an adult and H.E. Centre adjacent to the Headways Sixth Form Centre and this is part of the proposal being progressed.
- 3.3 The Headways Partnership is actively working toward opening a centre in the Coalfield area by 2010. An open evening held 2 weeks ago was well attended.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.