

16-19 AND POST 19 EDUCATION AND SKILLS REFORMS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set the scene for a review by this committee of the transfer of responsibility for commissioning of learning for 16-19 year olds. Lynda Brown, Head of Standards will be at the meeting to provide information on the background and current position of the changes.

2. Background

- 2.1 In the White Paper *Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver*, which was jointly produce by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) there were detailed proposed changes to the machinery of government with regard to skills training for adults and the creation of an effective system to deliver the learning entitlement to 14-19 year olds. These changes include the transfer of £7 billion of annual revenue funding to local authorities from the Learning and Skills Council, which is to be wound up from 2010/2011.
- 2.2 The reforms aim to restore to local authorities a significant relationship with (and accountability for) general further education colleges. They are designed to give councils the strategic lead for 14-19 education and training, enabling integration of provision between schools, colleges and employers as they jointly offer the new range of Diplomas and Apprenticeships alongside GCSEs and other qualifications.
- 2.3 The new system aims to enable local authorities to plan and commission provision to meet the needs of young people, to quality assure provision and to operate a funding model which ensures that money reaches providers appropriately.
- 2.4 At its meeting in July, the Committee agreed to carry out a review of the reforms.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 A sub-regional group has been formed to oversee how the planning and commissioning will be carried out. This will include:
- Developing local understanding of the positive impact of joining up 16-19 education with other services for young people;
 - Overseeing detailed technical issues such as funding and staff transfer.

- Ensuring that the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 education is considered as a cross-council activity;
 - Providing effective communication with elected members and stakeholders about progress and developments;
 - Integrating support for young people aged up to 25 with additional needs;
 - Learner support, including transport and maintenance, particularly for vulnerable young people;
- 3.2 Staff will be transferred from the LSC to the local authority. Three new organisations are being set up:
- 3.3 The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which will set a national framework for 16-19 commissioning; control the overall national budget for 16-19 and ensure that sub-regional plans work; provide strategic data analysis to support commissioning; allocate funds to councils to meet their plans for education and training
- 3.4 The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which will fund colleges and other providers for learners aged 19 and over; and performance manage further education colleges
- 3.5 The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS – part of the SFA) which will procure the right number and type of apprenticeship places to meet the needs of each sub region.
- 3.6 The transfer of responsibilities will help Children's Trusts integrate planning, funding and local accountability for all services provided for young people and their families. The changes will result in:
- Bringing together provision for children and young people up to the age of 19
 - Ensuring that education and training for 16-19 year olds meets the needs of all, including the most vulnerable and those who are at risk of becoming NEET
 - Providing a smoother transition at 16 and at 19 for students with special educational needs
 - Planning education and training that balances learners' choices, employers' needs and responds to economic trends.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 A presentation will be provided at the meeting which will brief the Committee on the 16-19 changes and what they mean for all stakeholders, the council, the learners and the providers.

5. Background Papers

Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver DCSF March 2008

Raising Expectations: Tyne & Wear and Northumberland Sub-Regional
Group Submission February 2009
Cabinet Report Machinery of Government 11 March 2009
Cabinet Report Machinery of Government Changes Regarding 16-19
Learning 3 December 2008

6. Glossary

NEET Not in Education Employment or Training
LSC Learning Skills Council
YPLA Young People's Learning Agency
SFA Skills Funding Agency
NAS National Apprenticeship Service

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