

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

TITLE OF PAPER: Machinery of Government / 14-19 Update

DATE OF MEETING: Monday 17th May 2010

ORGANISATION/SUB GROUP:

Children and Young People's Service, NYCC

RELATED CYPP IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY:

5.1: Strategy to Deliver 14-19 Improvements

RELATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S):

- Increased take up of entry level, apprenticeships, diplomas, post 16 and HE opportunities
- Reduction in NEET
- Reduction in inequality gap at L3

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAPER:

The Trust Board is asked to note recent progress and developments in relation to 14-19 and, in particular, to note the proposals for future engagement of the Trust Board in the following

- The refresh / review of the current 14/19 Plan;
- The elements of the CYPP that relate to 14/19 Developments (most notably, but not exclusively, in relation to Achieving Economic Well-Being);
- Progress Checks in relation to the CYPP and the 14/19 Plan;
- The principles that are developed to inform commissioning decisions for 2011/12 and beyond.

IMPACT ON RESOURCES:

Recommendation	Resource Type	Cost	Benefit
All	Officer time		Ensure appropriate governance and accountability of 14-19

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NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

17 MAY 2010

Machinery of Government / 14-19 Update**1.0 Purpose of Report**

This report provides a summary of progress made since the last report to the Trust Board in relation to this issue. It also describes some of the work in hand, some still to do and highlights some of the matters that the Trust Board will need to be actively engaged in over the course of the next year as a key strategic and / or decision-making body.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Trust Board notes progress to date, work still to do and the timetable for future engagement.

3.0 Background and Update

3.1 Previous reports to the Board have described some of the major changes underway nationally and locally to improve learning, training and skills for 14 / 19 year olds. In summary:

- The Statutory Framework has been changed so that by 2013 all young people will continue learning or training when they are 17, and the options available to them will have to include all the 17 diplomas proposed. The objective is to have good quality provision which meets learners' and economic needs. The recognised challenge is to achieve that in an affordable, sustainable way.
- The Government has made changes to the arrangements for planning, funding and monitoring provision for learning and training for 16-19 year olds. The changes have been referred to as the Machinery of Government (MOG).
- The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (ASCL) received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009, enacting proposals initially set out in the White Paper, Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver. In summary, the Act:
 - Dissolved the Learning and Skills Council
 - Transferred to local authorities the responsibility for funding education and training for young people aged 16-19 and up to 25 with learning difficulties, and those young people in youth custody aged 10 to 18
 - Created the Young People's Learning Agency, which will:
 - support local authorities and ensure local commissioning decisions are made within a consistent national framework;

- secure national budgetary control;
- provide a strategic analysis service to local authorities; and
- support the local, sub-regional and regional infrastructure
- Provided for a statutory framework for apprenticeships and created a right to an apprenticeship for suitably qualified 16-18 year olds.

Most changes needed to be completed by 1 April 2010 - full implementation is expected by September 2010.

3.2 Transfer of Staff from the LSC

Arrangements for the formal (TUPE) transfer of six staff from the LSC York Office to form the core of the Strategy and Commissioning Team within the Children and Young People's Directorate (Learning, Youth and Skills Service Group) were concluded successfully on 1 April 2010. The full establishment of the Strategy and Commissioning team is:

- *Head of 14-19 Strategy and Commissioning*
- *Principal Officer, 14-19 Strategy and Commissioning (North and East)*
- *Principal Officer, 14-19 Strategy and Commissioning (South and West)*
- *14-19 Strategy and Commissioning Senior Manager*
- *14-19 Strategy and Commissioning Senior Manager*
- *14-19 Strategy and Commissioning Senior Manager*
- *14-19 Strategy and Commissioning Manager*
- *Administrative Officer*

Two further posts transferred to NYCC from the LSC's Regional Office

- Health and Safety post – Discussions led to agreement that the member of staff should join the CYPS Directorate team of H&S staff (as a H&S Adviser) initially concentrating on the H&S responsibilities that are transferring from the LSC.
- Audit post – Discussions lead to agreement that the member of staff should join Veritau (as an Auditor). Veritau provide the internal audit function for City of York and so there is a possibility that a service could be provided for that authority and some income could be recouped.

The establishment (and funding) scheduled to transfer from the LSC to NYCC was 11.0 FTE. As indicated above a total of 8.0 FTE named staff transferred so 3.0 FTE remained as vacancies. However, there was no absolute requirement for appointments to be made to 3.0 FTE posts and therefore discussions with Assistant Directors and other colleagues have concentrated on identifying capacity, skills and experience issues across the Directorate which might be met, in a variety of ways, using the resource available from

the LSC transfer and elsewhere. The discussions have been clear about the need for a “whole-Directorate” approach to 14-19 developments.

3.3 Regional / Sub-regional Issues

Much of the activity relating to MOG has happened at a regional and / or sub-regional level and members of the Board will recall that a decision was taken early in the process for North Yorkshire to be part of the North and East Yorkshire Sub-Regional Group (along with York, East Riding and Hull). The SRG comprises all four Directors of Children’s Services but it is supported by an Operational Group of officers leading on MOG and / or 14/19 more generally. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (drafted by NYCC) now exists and describes the over-arching aim of the SRG as “to improve the delivery of education and training to young people, and ensure that local authorities’ strategic commissioning plans for education and training for this age group within the Sub-Region are well aligned with one another, and with regional priorities and national priorities”. In reality, there is agreement that virtually all the detailed work that needs to be done to pursue the 14/19 agenda will be done at an individual local authority level and via bilateral discussions (as appropriate within and outside SRG boundaries) with the SRG having a more minimalist role in ultimately checking out the impact of any proposals and (perhaps most importantly) arguing the case for a fair share of national and regional resources for North and East Yorkshire. A formal disputes procedure exists if matters cannot be resolved more informally. GO has a role in monitoring the work of the SRG and requires regular (albeit increasingly limited) progress check reports.

The Directors of Children’s Services from each Local Authority in Yorkshire and Humber also sit on the Regional Planning Group and in consultation with the (Regional Arm of the) Young People’s Learning Agency “ensure the co-ordination and final determination of commissioning plans and measures needed to align available resources with the level of commitment requested in the strategic commissioning plans”. The Regional Planning Group also assesses alignment with regional skills and economic needs. The RPG has recently authorised the Regional Statement of Need and agreed the methodology for the distribution of growth money for 2010./11 (via NEET percentages). Providers have one non-voting place on the RPG. Cynthia Welbourn chairs a Regional Providers’ Group which feeds into the RPG.

3.4 National / Regional Guidance

There is no shortage of guidance and / or frameworks. These include:

- A National Commissioning Framework – providing guidance on the process for planning and commissioning learning provision for young people and identifying the respective responsibilities and roles of the YPLA, the Regional and Sub-Regional Groups and individual local authorities.

- A National Statement of Priorities and Grant Letter – issued annually by the DCFS
- A Regional Commissioning Statement – produced by the Regional Planning Group with the assistance of the YPLA
- A Local Area Statement of Need – for each local authority (produced for 2010/11 by the LSC)
- The National Apprenticeship Service Prospectus and Priorities – because local authorities will need to consider apprenticeships as part of the provision on offer in their area
- A High Level Guide for Local Authorities (and regular bulletins from REACT) – outlining the new duties and responsibilities for local authorities

3.5 Moving Forward in North Yorkshire

3.5.1 This is a massive change in responsibilities for local authorities but one that provides a great opportunity for them to exercise real leadership and ensure that this aspect of provision is planned coherently as part of the continuum of opportunities available for young people and truly integrated into the work of each Children's Services Authority. It provides opportunities to develop new and productive relationships with a range of providers and agencies at a local, sub-regional and regional level (and indeed into adjacent areas). But of course, there will be challenges in developing the right mix of provision within finite (reducing?) budgets and tensions to resolve around institutional needs and preserving stability in the system versus the stated intention of "putting the learner first". We have made a good start in North Yorkshire building upon some solid relationships. This seeks to identify some of the key issues and crucially the role the Trust Board will need to take on.

3.5.2 The 14-19 Strategic Advisory Group is arguably the key player in taking forward this agenda. It is a sub-group of the Trust Board and its key functions are to review and advise the Board and the local authority about the strategy and delivery of the 14-19 agenda. This includes the preparation of the 14-19 plan, our strategy for Raising the Participation Age, delivery of the four entitlement pathways ('A' level/GCSEs, Diplomas, Apprenticeships and Foundation Learning), plans for commissioning provision to meet the entitlement and delivery of the entitlement via consortia.

The membership of the group includes chairs of the local consortia, provider representatives, a range of other stakeholders and internal local authority colleagues. The recent involvement of the Chairs of local consortia has been significant in enabling a more formal, structured dialogue between the strategic developments at a county wide level and the local delivery via consortia.

3.5.3 The six Area Consortia are critical partners in planning and key consultees in the formation and delivery of the 14-19 strategy. The core of their membership is local Head teachers, College Principals and training providers. They are not commissioning partnerships but have a strong developmental function in curriculum development and new approaches.

With the local authority's new responsibilities comes the need for a new relationship with consortia and getting the balance right between local autonomy and direction from the local authority will be a challenge. At the end of the day we have a joint agenda and we will want to develop approaches which achieve our collective aims. The approach and model for each locality which need to reflect particular issues for the locality but this must be set within the wider North Yorkshire framework.

The new Strategy and Commissioning Team will be key in managing the relationship with consortia – they will lead for the authority and be members of each consortia, facilitating involvement from other colleagues in CYPS as and when appropriate.

Each consortia has a number of sub groups to support their work including Local Implementation Groups, who support the planning and manage the delivery of collaborative provision and Vulnerable Learners groups looking at the provision needed to support those most at risk. We will want to review over the coming months whether the consortia structures are robust, efficient and coherent to manage the agenda going forward.

3.5.4 Engagement of the Children's Trust Board in the 14/19 Planning and Commissioning Process

As indicated in 3.5.2, the Trust Board has an important role in relation to the delivery of the 14/19 agenda. Its responsibilities are set out in the terms of reference for the Strategic Advisory Group as being to:

- maintain a broad strategic overview;
- quality assure the impact and implications of developments, and,
- make key recommendations to decision-making partners

In practice, this means that the Board will, over the course of the year, receive reports in relation to:

- The refresh / review of the current 14/19 Plan;
- The elements of the CYPP that relate to 14/19 Developments (most notably, but not exclusively, in relation to Achieving Economic Well-Being);
- Progress Checks in relation to the CYPP and the 14/19 Plan;
- The principles that are developed to inform commissioning decisions for 2011/12 and beyond.

This, of course, will be in addition to any more specific matters which have a bearing on 14/19 developments, eg in relation to progress in reducing those youngsters who are NEET, aspects which relate to young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. In this way, it is anticipated that Board Members will be able to become fully engaged in this important and exciting agenda.

Report prepared by:
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