

## **Meeting of the Executive Member for Children's Services and Advisory Panel**

**19 July 2007**

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

### **Department for Education & Skills (DfES) Green Paper: Raising Expectations**

#### **Summary**

1. This report summarises the DfES Green Paper on 'Raising Expectations: Staying in Education and Training Post 16' which was published in April 2007. Although it is for information only, the report provides essential background information for members to advise on decisions about the future pattern of Post 16 provision in the city.

#### **Background**

2. The Green Paper 'Raising Expectations: Staying in Education and Training Post 16' was published in April 2007. It was reported in the press as a proposal to raise the school leaving age to 18 by 2015. Whilst this was not wholly inaccurate, it did not fully do justice to the proposals. The summary attached at Annex A is from the Green Paper itself. It proposes that:
  - All young people should participate in education and training until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday...
  - at school, in a college, in Work Based Learning (WBL) or through accredited training provided by an employer...
  - working towards accredited qualifications...
  - attending full time (at least 16 hrs per week) if not in employment...
  - and part time (about a day per week) if employed for at least 20 hours per week.
3. A timetable for these changes is proposed which looks 8 years ahead, not least because action to achieve the key targets is required sooner rather than later:
  - Foundation Learning Tier introduced from 2010
  - All specialised diplomas available everywhere by 2013

- Participation age raised to 17 by 2013 (current Year 5)
  - Participation age raised to 18 by 2015
4. The Green Paper also recommends that 'Local authorities will need to use their own projections of year groups sizes and modelling of choices young people are likely to make to plan provision in their own area.'

## **Consultation**

5. In order to start the process of modelling the likely pattern of demand and supply in the city, the authority prepared its own consultation document, which is attached at Annex B. This asked a number of key questions, the answers to which would help in forecasting numbers.
6. Responses to the consultation are summarised at Annex C which also makes a number of recommendations as follows:
  - Within the current group of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (termed NEET, this group includes about 5% or roughly 85 young people in any one cohort), there is a significant group of young people who are only likely to be reached by provision of the kind described in the *Stepping Stones* proposal. This should be made available in those areas of the city where the concentration of NEETs is highest (Tang Hall, Westfield and, perhaps, Clifton). The city should learn from the success of provision at Entry level/level 1 in a non-school setting both in York and elsewhere.
  - Of the NEET group, a proportion (between 20% and 50%) may be attracted to more conventional provision (at Level 1 and Level 2) that is provided either in a school or a college setting as at present, though there is a need for the offer to be much more clearly marketed.
  - There is unlikely to be a huge increase in demand for or supply of apprenticeship opportunities, and the city should plan for only a modest increase. However, this is a particularly attractive option for improving retention and efforts should be made to engage employers to make provision for young people who, at 17, might have considerable ability but are unlikely to remain in conventional (classroom-based) education and training.
  - Specialised diplomas at Level 2 and 3 are likely to prove popular for anything up to 40% (between, say, 400 and 800) of those young people currently in Education and Training. However, there is a real danger of creating an over supply of places unless provision for each diploma line is concentrated on a limited number of centres, each of which are able to make high quality provision and establish viable groups. A start should be made by looking at how institutions which already offer Level 3 contribute to the entitlement already.

- Demand for the International Baccalaureate (IB), at least for the foreseeable future, is likely to be relatively modest (say 5% of the cohort or a maximum of 85 young people), not least because there is a real risk of failure for a significant number of young people associated with such a broadly based qualification.
7. These findings were reported to a recent meeting of the 14 – 19 strategy group and it was agreed that the consultation should be seen as the beginning rather than the end of a dialogue about the nature of provision that is needed in the city and, indeed, further responses have been received since this report was compiled.
  8. A summary of further work on the Connexions data is also attached at Annex D.

### **Options**

9. No immediate decisions are required as a consequence of this report.

### **Analysis**

10. An analysis of the implications of the Green Paper for York is included in the body of this report.

### **Corporate Priorities**

11. This report addresses the corporate priority to ‘increase people’s knowledge and skills to improve future employment prospects’.

### **Implications**

12. This report is for information only and there are no implications for the following:
  - **Financial**
  - **Human Resources (HR)**
  - **Equalities**
  - **Legal)**
  - **Crime and Disorder**
  - **Information Technology (IT)**
  - **Property**
  - **Other**

## Risk Management

13. Early action to address the issues in 'Raising Expectations' will allow the authority to ensure that appropriate provision is in place to reduce the NEET population.

## Recommendations

14. Members are recommended to:

1) Note the Green Paper and the response of the Local Authority

Reason: To inform future decisions about the provision of opportunities for 16 – 19 year olds in the city.

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved**  **Date** 2 July 2007

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**  Y

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Annexes

- Annex A: Summary of 'Raising Expectations: staying on in Education and Training Post 16'  
Annex B: Local consultation document on 'Raising Expectations'  
Annex C: Summary of responses to local consultation document.  
Annex D: Data on Post 16 Choices 2006.