

14-19 Gateway: Local Authority Statement

The York 14-19 Partnership has completed applications to offer all 5 diploma lines from September 2008. This is a long established, successful partnership, whose commitment to vocational learning is evidenced through its extensive Increased Flexibility programme, high quality Young Apprenticeship programme, innovative 14-19 Pathfinder work and current involvement in the diploma pilot – one of only 11 areas participating in the 2005 national QCA pilot.

York's schools and colleges are high attaining and determined that, through clear, consultative decision-making processes, they will safeguard quality as they develop breadth and access to a city-wide entitlement for 14-19 year olds. In the recent Government Office progress check, York was judged to have made good progress towards preparing for the introduction of specialised diplomas, being the only Local Authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber to be graded green on the RAG scale.

The partnership boasts several other key players, helping to drive the 14-19 strategy:

- York's Education Business Partnership (NYBEP): leads a Business Forum through which significant senior employers understand, influence and support York's 14-19 strategy; hosts the York and North Yorkshire Joint Area-wide prospectus manager; is undertaking a major review of work experience in the city, to ensure that provision meet the needs of a newly emerging curriculum
- Higher Education: close alignment between Higher York and Aimhigher strategies and the 14-19 Strategy; established links between cross-phase curriculum development groups; joint work on progression pathways; well established programmes of working with schools to address low progression cool spots in the city, targeting Y6 – Y11 (York Green Apples); level 4 modules to be piloted with 16-19 year olds in summer 2007
- Connexions: highly regarded nationally for its successful interventions with students at risk of falling out of the system. Its latest contribution to the strategy has been working with learners to publish their own version of the York 14-19 strategy

Learning visits have featured in this partnership over the last 18 months and have included an international study visit to learn about vocational provision in Sweden, a visit to Wolverhampton and to Kingswood 14-19 partnerships to investigate underpinning systems and to identify key features of long term effective collaboration.

The LA and LSC now judge that headteachers, college principals and work-based learning managers are committed to the fact that *city-wide* structures and systems must underpin our 14-19 curriculum offer and be in place for September 2008. In support of this target, the LA and LSC have jointly funding the secondment of a CYLLP 14-19 Development Manager who is charged with developing and introducing an effective infrastructure.

The partnership prepared its submissions through a robust process reflecting the city-wide commitment to 'Learning without Walls', York's 14-19 strategy. All 5 lines will support key employment sectors, with forecasts anticipating significant growth in all these sectors up to 2021. The 14-19 Planning Group (all secondary headteachers,

college principals and WBL provider, LSC and LA representatives) steered the process, ensuring that:

- proposals align with developments within the Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement, for which the partnership is taking a lead on 14-19 developments
- plans reflect a commitment to Science City's developing skills strategy in all key clusters: bio-science (including bio-engineering), creative and digital industries, environmental and health care technologies
- two key issues identified in 2005 StAR are tackled: addressing the needs of learners in pockets of low attainment and progression within York
- a single consortium capital bid was agreed, based on a confident understanding of our current and planned resources and a realistic appraisal of need if we are to offer innovative new opportunities for learning
- as provision is developed, attention will be paid to cross-boundary issues with North Yorkshire LA

Proposals are well informed and self evaluation moderated as the partnership agreed that:

- membership of each diploma development group must appropriately reflect expertise across the city
- draft submissions should be reviewed and amended by the 14-19 Planning Group
- to purchase a day of external consultant's time to secure an impartial perspective on judgements made
- self evaluation judgements would be confirmed through the 14-19 Evaluation Group

Both the LA and LSC judge that each application submitted accurately reflects strengths and areas for development. There was much discussion about the suggested scale of provision within each diploma line and venues. The partnership proposes that four diploma lines start with small numbers in 2008, agreeing that this will ensure quality is more easily managed in the early stages of offering new provision. It also allows the partnership to gradually build up a momentum with employers, so that a strong and mutually beneficial relationship is established.

All partnership members are committed to the ideal of learning together and on behalf of each other. Each provider has given careful thought to its capacity to manage change, to resources already available and its commitment to particular curriculum areas - through school specialism or CoVE status - before agreeing to help develop and deliver a diploma line. Every school will contribute to the introduction of diploma lines in 2008, alongside the colleges and Providers in Partnership. Guided by the EBP and Economic Development Unit, consideration has been given to the economy's needs and its capacity to provide work placements and employer support.

The partnership judges it is appropriate to offer the Society, Health and Development diploma to a much wider group of learners in September 2008, for reasons which emerge in the submission. From an LA and LSC perspective, we endorse their decision that foundations have been well laid through national and local investment in the pathfinder area of Health and Social Care. Partners are aware of the current framework document and understand that this covers a much broader curriculum than was originally envisaged. Had this not been so, numbers would have been even higher.

The partnership recognises the broader significance of these first 5 diplomas. They must be of high quality, attract a wide ability range, avoid stereotyping and lead to successful outcomes because they are the advance guard of further curriculum change. All partners are committed to investing in the success of these diplomas and so preparing the way for future change.

Document prepared by the Local Authority

Patrick

Patrick Scott, Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

endorsed by the Learning and Skills Council

Liz B

Liz Burdett, Executive Director, North Yorkshire LSC

facilitated through the City of York Lifelong Learning Partnership (CYLLP)

Mike G

Chair of CYLLP Board