
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services and Advisory Panel

17 July 2008

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

14–19 Curriculum Reform Update

Summary

1. This report presents an update on progress within the city in taking forward the 14–19 Curriculum Reforms, including increasing the range of provision available and raising the participation rates and attainment of young people. It also updates members on developments at Archbishop Holgate's School, as a result of the school's "presumption" to develop post-16 provision. The vehicle for progressing all of this work is the City of York 14–19 Partnership which falls under the umbrella of Learning City York (the City of York's Lifelong Learning Partnership). Members are asked to note the progress made, the ambitious agenda which is being carried forward and the nature of the opportunities and challenges this work presents.

Background

2. The 14–19 Curriculum Reforms set out a national learner entitlement to be in place for September 2013 comprising four pathways:
 - Academic (GCSE/A Level)
 - Apprenticeships
 - 14–19 Diplomas
 - Foundation Learning Tier
3. Alongside this is a requirement, for all young people to remain in education or training to age 17 (from 2013) and ultimately age 18 (from 2015). The Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) strategy has 3 elements:
 - Raising attainment
 - New qualifications and curriculum models
 - Collaborative models of delivery to learners
4. Since the summer of 2007, the pace of reform has quickened with proposals for machinery of government changes including the transfer of funding for post-16 education to local authorities. In the current term two national consultations on funding ("Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver) and

qualifications (“Promoting achievement, valuing success: a strategy for 14–19 qualifications”) have taken place. This means that the local authority, although continuing to promote and engage with partners, will have the key role in driving 14–19 forwards.

3. A summary of activity and progress since November 2007 (when the previous EMAP paper involving 14–19 issues and devoted to the proposals for post-16 provision at Archbishop Holgate’s School was presented) is provided below:

Response to Government Policy announcements

5. We are working closely with Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on machinery of government changes, including the proposed transfer of post-16 funding to LA and revised commissioning processes.
6. We are also engaged with developments at regional and sub-regional level.
7. Revised structures, roles and remits within the City of York 14 – 19 Partnership were agreed for introduction in September 2008.
8. Our 14–19 plan for provision in 2013 is at an advanced stage, following extensive modelling and work with Post 16 provider and locality groups.
9. The York Partnership was case studied in DCSF guidance on partnership structures (available to download from www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19 by following the links to “Implementing the 14–19 Reforms” and then “Planning, Leading and Collaborating”. A pdf file “14–19 Partnerships and Plans” is available from the bottom of the page).

Partnership Handbook for Collaborative Working

10. A comprehensive package of supporting documentation and systems has been developed and, following consultation with partners, will be used from September 2008. This is necessary to ensure that collaborative provision smoothly with common systems used by all partners covering areas such as monitoring attendance, assessment and reporting, disciplinary procedures and safeguarding.
11. Compilation of this was led by seconded Deputy Headteachers from Archbishop Holgate’s and Huntington Schools.

Common Timetabling

12. Common timetabling in Key Stage 4 is necessary because no school can offer the full range of Diplomas by itself. If learners wish to study a Diploma as part of their programme of study they will, in many cases, have to attend another school (for one day a week) to do so. The common timetable ensures that they will not miss any elements of the rest of their programme which will include English, Maths, Science and other national curriculum entitlements.
13. Following a Headteacher-led seminar (Jan 2008) and extensive work by subgroups, an enhanced Key Stage 4 model has been agreed for 2009/10.

14. 14–19 Diploma Principal Learning will take place on a “common day” in delivery centres.
15. Project and Skills delivery will be by learners’ home centres within their own timetables.

Gateway 2 submissions and Gateway 1 progress checks (Results April 2008)

16. Six more 14–19 Diploma lines were cleared for delivery in 2009 through the Gateway submission process to DCSF (Land-based and Environment, Hair & Beauty, Business Administration & Finance, Manufacturing & Product Design, Creative & Media and IT. Engineering and Society, Health & Development will be delivered from September 2008 as a result of the earlier Gateway 1 process.
17. Hospitality & Catering was cleared for 2010.
18. Capital projects to support these lines include an addition to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project at Joseph Rowntree for Hair & Beauty, and Hospitality & Catering facilities in the new Manor School building, Burnholme and Huntington. (See Annex 1)

“Pre-Diploma” provision for 2008/09 to support Gateway 3 submission

19. A BTEC First Diploma in Construction will run at York College for Year 10 learners from city schools from September.

Young Apprenticeships (York College lead)

20. There were 57 places accessed by schools this year and there are currently 80 applications from schools for 2008/09, despite withdrawal of significant external funding.

Successful recruitment to first 14–19 Diploma Provision in 2008/09

22. Approximately 40 Key Stage 4 and 30 post-16 learners will start the Engineering Diploma and approximately 90 Key Stage 4 and 30 post-16 learners will start the Society, Health & Development Diploma. These figures will enable the authority to exceed its target for this first year of diploma provision
24. The licence to deliver these diplomas was accompanied by a supporting allocation of capital from DCSF. The details of this expenditure are given in Annex 2.
25. York College led an Information, Advice and Guidance event covering the new choices available for Year 9 learners at York Racecourse in December.

Archbishop Holgate's Post-16 Applied Learning Centre

26. The partnership team of LA and LSC staff has been working with the school to develop complementary provision in new lines of learning and following up issues raised in the EMAP paper of December 2007.
27. In September 2008, it has been agreed that the school will provide the Engineering Diploma at Level 3 and a work related learning strand for vulnerable learners. Indications are that the Engineering provision will be well subscribed. Recruitment to the vulnerable learners strand has proved to be more difficult and the school is working with other schools and Connexions to identify candidates.
28. Key issues still being discussed are the school's plans to introduce the 14–19 Diplomas in Creative & Media, IT and Business, Administration & Finance, Manufacturing, Science, Retail, Sports Science and other lines of learning, and an "International Diploma" (likely to be the Cambridge Pre-U). This is within the 14–19 city-wide strategy discussions.

International Baccalaureate

29. York College and Huntington School are working towards accreditation for 2009/10. The future funding of IB provision has been called into question by the recent national consultations and the proposed introduction of an Extended 14–19 Diploma.

Huntington School – new Training School Status

30. The school's second specialism is providing 2 posts (open to colleagues across the partnership) for expert teachers to support curriculum and pedagogical development for 14–19 Diplomas.
31. With the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the 14-19 Partnership manages the **LSC Flexible Fighting Fund (£210k) to tackle post-16 NEET** (not in employment, education or training) including in 2007/08:
 - a. Joint Burnholme / York College "Stepping Stones" project offering locality based provision for vulnerable learners.
 - b. Applefields / York College LDD (learning difficulties / disabilities) curriculum programme.
 - c. Horticulture development at Applefields.
 - d. A pre-E2E (entry to employment) 16 week programme at York Training Centre.
 - e. Accreditation of Youth Volunteering Opportunities – co-ordinator post supported at York CVS (Council for Voluntary Service) as part of the V Involved Team.
 - f. Two holistic Connexions Personal Adviser posts that support retention at 17.

14–16 Schools Engagement Project

32. a. £80k in 2007/08 supporting 91 learners at the Pupil Support Centre, York High, Canon Lee, All Saints', Burnholme and Joseph Rowntree.
- b. Approval for £127k in 2008/09 (140 learners).
- c. This funding is from DCSF and is accessed via a bidding process organised by the LSC.

New Groups

33. a. The Partnership has established Workforce Development, Employer Engagement and Information Advice and Guidance & Raising Aspirations Groups.
- b. The Partnership team is now contributing to the Higher Education Admissions Forum, NEET Strategy Group and Moving Into Adult Life Group.

Employer Engagement (NYBEP Lead):

34. a. A successful Creative & Media / IT event was held (Dec 2007) with Science City York.
- b. North Yorkshire Education Business Partnership (NYBEP) have completed a large scale employer survey and are now working with Diploma Practitioner Groups and Trident to enlist employers to support curriculum delivery and identify work experience placements.
- c. The Work Readiness pilot project with Y7 and Y8 at two schools (Burnholme & Archbishop Holgate's) has successfully engaged members of the Business Forum in providing mentoring support to learners.

Support for other areas:

35. a. The York provision mapping model (LSC lead) is being rolled out across the Yorkshire & Humber Region.
- b. We were invited to give a presentation to a national DCSF Independent Schools Seminar.
- c. The partnership was invited to provide a DCSF Employer Engagement Learning Visit.

Consultation

36. Whilst there are no specific consultation requirements arising from this report the whole development of new 14-19 provision has been on a partnership basis with direct involvement of key stakeholders.

Options

37. This is not a report where specific options are applicable.

Analysis

38. The City of York Partnership continues to be highly regarded both regionally and nationally and is making good progress in implementing the 14–19 reforms. However, Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber Progress Checks (October 2008) have Red or Red/Amber scores on some quantitative indicators:
 - NEET (not in education, employment or training) (our exceptionally low figure is decreasing below target trend)
 - Achievement of Level 2 at age 19 (there is little improvement from the high rate of achievement at age 16)
 - Achievement of Level 3 at age 19 (whilst remaining well above national and regional averages this fell last year)
39. Key issues to be addressed in the short term include employer engagement (for the Diplomas and Apprenticeships), developing a vision for the facilities required for the 2013 entitlement (to ensure effective use of a Diploma capital grant (this has already been drawn on, see Annex 1) and inform the City's Building Schools for the Future Strategy) and workforce development (to ensure that staff across the Partnership are properly equipped to deliver the reform programme).
40. There is potential for the Council to play a key role in the first of these and, in doing so, to enhance the quality of its future employees and help meet its own recruitment needs. It should be noted that the next tranche of 14–19 Diplomas (for introduction in 2010) includes Public Services.
41. A one-day seminar for Headteachers and College Principals in September 2008 will consider facilities issues.

Corporate Priorities

42. The 14–19 Strategy is central to success of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Council's strategies around economic development, and in particular to Corporate Priorities 7 (skills and knowledge) and 9 (life chances of disadvantaged children and young people).

Implications

Financial

43. All of the initiatives and expenditure referred to in this report can be funded from additional grant income that is being provided by either the DCSF or the LSC. There is not expected to be any impact on the directorates existing base budgets.
44. As the LA is not included in the BSF programme until after 2013, when the 14–19 entitlement should be in place, it has been given a Capital Grant of £6m to develop facilities in the short term (2009–11). It should be noted that this

funding will not be sufficient to meet all the requirements of the new curriculum. A citywide vision for transformation of 11–19 educational facilities through BSF is necessary and must take into account the demands of the 14–19 curriculum reforms. Details of expenditure from this capital grant which have already been agreed by partners are contained in Annex 1.

45. The Partnership's success in achieving "Category 1" status brought one off grants totalling £515k. These were to meet specific needs identified in the original Gateway submissions (December 2006). Details of expenditure are contained in Annex 2. The Society, Health & Development Diploma in York has had national pathfinder status for two years and has been supported and encouraged by the national diploma development group to develop innovative models of delivery, including the use of a "Skills Bus".
46. The introduction of Diplomas is being supported by a Diploma Support Grant paid to schools on the basis of numbers of participating learners. This grant recognises that, in the early stages of introduction of Diplomas, no efficiencies can be achieved by consolidation of existing provision. The grant will reduce as Diploma provision increases and schools will need to reconfigure their budgets to cover the costs. Because many learners will study Diplomas at other centres, there will also be considerable transfers of funding between schools.

HR, Legal & IT

47. There are no specific HR, legal or IT implications arising from this report.

Equalities and Crime and Disorder

48. There are no Equalities and Crime and Disorder implications arising from this report

Risk Management

49. During the transition to 2013, Diploma Support Grant funding, and the sustainability of provision, depends on the numbers of learners choosing to follow these courses.
50. High quality Gateway submissions meeting the criteria reduce the risk of York not being able to offer diplomas and implement its 14–19 Plan. Funding is also dependent on the number of successful Gateway submissions.

Recommendations

51. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note the developments in 14–19 education across the partnership and the partnership's agreements to date on capital expenditure and to agree that future expenditure is included in the Directorate's mainstream Capital Monitoring procedures.

52. Reason: The LA has the key strategic role and is the lead partner within the 14-19 partnership across the City and members should be aware of the LA's responsibilities, decisions, and financial plans.

Contact Details

Author:

John Thompson
14–19 Partnership Manager

Ext 3039

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Pete Dwyer
Director, Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Report Approved **Date** 3 July 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*

Richard Hartle
Finance Manager
LCCS
Ext 4225

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

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex 1 - Capital Projects to support Gateway 2 diplomas
Annex 2 - Gateway 1 Capital Grants