

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

<p>*Subject of Proposed Review:- "The Student Journey"</p>
<p>*Reason for the Review:- (see Note 1 below)</p> <p>To follow through one of the major outcomes of the year-long 12 District regeneration visits by REDPOSC and CFEPOSC – the student journey through education skills and qualifications to better jobs and sustainable social and economic regeneration.</p> <p>Regeneration in Kent will only come with skills and jobs and will be sustainable with the extra spend of such jobs.</p>
<p>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present journey for students in Kent• Potential for greater skills and regeneration – ‘bottom-up’ approach• Equality of opportunity• Networking/Partnerships• Training and skills provision - employer needs
<p>*Scope of the review:-</p> <p>To trace the present student journey by desk-top study and 1:1 interview with students and stakeholders. 12 year olds to 20+.</p> <p>To explore inequality of provision and opportunity for disadvantaged and talented/gifted students.</p>
<p>*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Review of present position – what is it like for students?ii) Recommendations for:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) information, advice and guidance (IAG)b) provision of skillsc) workabilityd) models for successe) sustainable social/economic regeneration via improved student journeys
<p>Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)</p> <p>KIT SMITH, Chairman CFE L&D POSC 11/10/10</p> <p>MARK DANCE, Chairman, REDPOSC11/10/10</p> <p><i>(handwritten original of form is signed)</i></p>

Completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s) for **Children Families and Education**.

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2010/11?

The CFE Directorate is concerned about the timing of this review. With the coming of the Education White paper and the Wolfe Review on qualifications there will be significant changes in national policy. It is possible that if the review commences in 2010/11 in its proposed form it could become out of date before it is completed.

There is also concern that there will be duplication in relation to the work of the 14 – 19 Planning and Commissioning Officers within the newly formed 14 – 19 Entitlement Service.

It is not clear what evidence there is to support the assumption that there is inequality of provision and opportunity for the disadvantaged and talented/gifted students. This would need to be further considered within the scope of the review if it is to be progressed. Furthermore the Directorate suggests that should the review go ahead it focuses on 14 – 19 as this is within the jurisdiction of the Local (Education) Authority, with 14 being the point in which young people make their choices.

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

The Kent Partnership has identified three overarching ambitions to guide partnership activity and these are subsumed within the consultation draft of KCC's Medium Term Plan to 2014/15: Bold Steps for Kent. These are:

- (i) To tackle disadvantage
- (ii) To put the citizen in control
- (iii) To grow the economy.

The Select Committee will contribute to (i) and (iii). Bold Steps for Kent also sets a new direction for Kent in terms of: choice, economic growth, communities, localism, empowerment and personal responsibility.

The Kent Children's Trust is moving ahead with developing a new Children and Young People's Plan and there has been extensive consultation with children, young people and families to identify priorities for action. The consultation has identified seven areas of greatest need to be addressed:

- (x) Emotional and mental health
- (xi) Healthy start in life
- (xii) Safeguarding
- (xiii) Primary aged children's learning
- (xiv) Adolescent engagement
- (xv) Housing/accommodation
- (xvi) Family poverty.

The review will contribute to (xiv) and (xvi).

Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets:-

The review will support Kent Agreement/LAA Performance Indicators:

NI 117: 16 -18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training.

NI 78: Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSES in English and maths (floor) – (local target).

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-

Not known.

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

If the review is included in the 2010/11 work programme there is potential for it to cause confusion given that significant changes are expected in national policy.

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

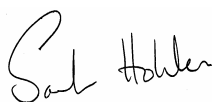
The CFE Directorate is concerned that the review will not add value if it goes ahead in its proposed format in the 2010-11 work programme. If the review is postponed for one year and there is some adjustment to the scope of the review there is potential for the review to add value to young people, employers and providers.

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:-

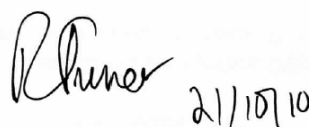
The Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director are in agreement with the comments above, particularly in relation to the timing and possible policy changes.

The Portfolio Holder also believes we need to look at pathways between vocational provision in schools and that in FE colleges to avoid duplication of qualification/training and assure consistent quality. The Portfolio Holder believes this select committee should be delayed.

Portfolio Holder's Signature:-



Strategic Director's Signature:-



Contact Officer:-
Lynne Miller

Date:-
25 October 2010

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2010/11?

No

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

The review will contribute to key pledges within the draft Medium Term Plan '**Bold Steps for Kent**':

- 'Linking skills to economic need
- Shifting from careers advice to career management skills
- Delivering a higher level skills base

- **Skills development** is a key challenge for Kent highlighted in '21st Century Kent: a blueprint for the county's future'.
- "Unlocking Kent's Potential: a framework for regeneration" cites "**increasing the number of graduates in Kent and retaining them**" as a key target, along with "**developing a new partnership with the HE sector**".

Will the review support the achievement of PSA or LAA targets? If yes, please identify targets:-

(LAA and PSA are no longer requirements)

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

- Implementation of MTP 'Bold Steps for Kent'
- Implementation of 'Unlocking Kent's Potential'
- Influence delivery among 14-19 Entitlement team

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

- Improve efficacy of IAG offered to young people, ensuring that they are work-ready and able to better informed decisions about their future education and employment.
- Improve employment opportunities for young people by strengthening partnerships between local employers and educators
- Improve the targeting of skills and training provision to meet local employment opportunities, enabling young people to be more successful in their pursuit of a first job.

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:-

The proportion of young people aged 18-24 who are unemployed in Kent has risen dramatically in the last two years: between Feb 2008 – Feb 2009, there was a 103% increase in the number of 18-24s claiming Job Seekers' Allowance (at an estimated cost to the economy of around £546k per week). This increase was mirrored in all districts across Kent during this period, with Sevenoaks experiencing the highest rise of 16.1%. In Thanet, 12.3% of this entire age group were out of work.

Whilst the recession has undoubtedly impacted upon the employment prospects for young people in Kent, it is timely to explore our education and skills provision in partnership with local employers. In particular:

- The relevance of training and skills provision for young people against local labour market needs and growth industries in Kent
- The extent to which education prepares young people for work, and enables them to apply their learning in a new context.
- The efficacy of partnerships between local employers and local educators, and the opportunities that exist for young people hoping to enter the labour market at 16+, 18+ and post-degree.
- The extent to which IAG enables young people to make informed choices about further education and employment – particularly those who are considering making a large investment in Higher Education.
- The potential impact of changes in HE funding to the future supply of skilled workers in Kent

The issues to be covered could include:

- Present journey for students in Kent – pathways and opportunities for young people at key transition points (16+, 18+ and 21+).
- How do young people access careers support at the different stages on their journeys? (e.g. school / college-based careers support; HE careers advice; JobCentre Plus; Connexions?) To what extent does this advice prepare them for their educational choices, and then securing sustainable employment?
- What local opportunities exist for young with different levels of skills and/or experience – and in what sectors? How are these opportunities currently communicated?
- Networking/Partnerships between employers and educators at all levels (school, FE, HE, vocational providers). What learning points have been gained from the recent 'Future Jobs Fund' pilot in Kent?
- Equality of opportunity: what prevents young people from securing employment? To what extent is 'experience' a barrier for young jobseekers?
- Training and skills provision – sector growth areas in Kent and employer needs

Portfolio Holder's Signature:-

Signed by Mr Kevin Lynes

Strategic Director's Signature:-

Signed by Ms Barbara Cooper - Director Economic Development

Contact Officer:-

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Date:- 25 October 2010.