

By: Carol Parsons - Director, Standards and Achievement

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee
- 5 July 2007

Subject: DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS 14-19
GATEWAY PROCESS

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The national 14-19 programme, which will culminate in an entitlement for all students from 2013, began to be implemented in summer 2006 with the announcement of an opportunity for partnerships to apply to pilot the first five diploma lines in early December. All ten Kent local 14-19 forums made applications for between two and four diploma lines, a total of thirty five. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) promised a rigorous assessment and thus eighteen Kent applications were given the opportunity to pilot in either 2008 or 2009 providing conditions are met. The forums piloting from 2008 have received additional funding and are expected to participate in a wealth of training during 2007-2008.

Education and Skills 14-19 - the national programme

1. (1) The Department for Education and Skills publication "Education and Skills 14-19" (2005) and the subsequent implementation plan outlined the timetable to pilot the fourteen diploma lines that will become an entitlement for all 14-19 year olds from 2013. No one school, college or work based learning provider will be able to provide all fourteen diploma lines, delivery to meet the needs and aspirations of all students within an area is expected to be the result of collaboration. The pilot programme, scheduled from 2008 to 2010, requires partnerships of providers to demonstrate that they meet the Gateway criteria for each diploma line they wish to trial.

Pilot timetable

First year of pilot	Diploma line
2008	Construction and Built Environment Engineering Creativity and Media Society Health and Development Information Technology
2009	Land-based and Environmental Studies Manufacturing Hair and Beauty Business Administration and Finance Hospital and Catering
2010	Public Services

	Sport and Leisure Retail Travel and Tourism
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(2) Each diploma line will be offered at three levels (Level 1 equivalent to 4-5 GCSEs at grades D to G, Level 2 equivalent to 5-6 GCSEs at grades A*-C and level 3 equivalent to 3A levels). The Diploma Development Partnerships have ensured that each line includes 'generic learning' (functional skills and personal, employability, learning and thinking skills) principal learning (sector related and underpinning skills and knowledge) and additional/specialist learning.

(3) All 2008 pilots are expected to trial functional skills from September 2007 prior to a full national pilot in 2008.

(4) The DfES have commissioned a number of national bodies to provide training for those partnerships piloting from 2008. Some of the training is being provided at very short notice and challenges the capacity of schools.

Kent 14-19 context

2. (1) The development of a 14-19 curriculum, to meet the needs and aspirations of Kent students, has been a priority since the establishment of the 14+ Strategic Forum (membership includes: providers, strategic partners and higher education), the 14-16 vocational programme in 2004 and the launch of the 14-19 Learner Strategy in November 2004. A 14-19 Action Planning Group (membership is drawn from the strategic partners in accountable to the partners and the 14+ Strategic Forum) was established in January 2005 to draw up an action plan to enable the 14-19 Learning Strategy to be implemented and monitored. Following the Strategic Area Review, led by the Learning and Skills Council Kent and Medway, ten local 14-19 Planning Forums were proposed and agreed with Kent County Council and established in summer 2005. Each forum included all secondary and special schools within the area, representatives from, at least one FE college, a work based learning provider, Aim Higher, Kent Works and the three strategy partners. Some forums are divided into smaller groupings (delivery consortia) for operational purposes. From September 2006 each forum received a co-ordination grant according to the number of providers. Currently seven forums and one consortia have co-ordinators and the remainder intend to appoint.

(2) Both the 14-19 Action Plan Group and the local 14-19 Forums incorporated the national programme of development following the publication of "14-19 Education and Skills" (DfES 2005). All ten forums submitted expressions of interest during summer 2006.

(3) Training for the delivery of functional skills 14-16 will be provided by Advisory Service Kent national strategy consultants. Three forums have made arrangements to trial the leadership training programmes developed by the National College of School Leadership and the Centre for Excellence in leadership.

Response to the invitation to pilot the first five diploma lines

3. (1) Nine planning forums and two delivery consortia submitted proposals and self-assessments for 35 learning lines in December 2006. The applications per forum varied from two to four but across the county all five diploma lines were applied for. The emphasis of the self-assessment and outline proposal was on readiness to deliver by 2008. Forums were required to provide a summary proposal for each diploma line and to self assess collaborative arrangements, facilities, workforce, information advice and guidance and employer engagement. For each aspect they also needed to explain what they would need to put in place by 2008. Forums were expected to relate their proposals and self-assessment to the detailed requirements of the diplomas.

(2) During the assessment process the DfES success categories increased from three to four: 2008 with no conditions, 2008 with conditions; 2009 with conditions and reapply.

Outcomes of the 2006 Gateway application round

4. (1) Nine forums and two consortia submitted thirty five applications in early December 2006, each forum's set of application was accompanied by a support statement written by Kent County Council, the Learning and Skills Council and Connexions.

(2) Eighteen diploma line submissions were successful, four were placed in category two (2008 with conditions), fourteen in category three (2009 with conditions) and the remaining seventeen were unsuccessful.

(3) Eight out of the ten forums have been successful in gaining the opportunity to pilot one line or more in either 2008 or 2009.

(4) Two forums, Dartford (Hextable, Swanley and Wilmington schools consortia) and Dover, Deal and Sandwich will have the opportunity to pilot all the lines they applied for by 2009. Dartford's success in four lines was the greatest number of any of the forums.

(5) Only two of the ten forums have not been successful in this round, they are: Shepway and Sittingbourne and Sheppey. One 14-19 delivery consortia was also unsuccessful - Dartford - Town Consortia.

(6) Eight forums will be piloting the creative and media line but only two forums will pilot each of the following; engineering and information technology.

(7) There were one hundred and seventy diploma line applications across the South East Region; 12.9% (22) achieved category 1, with 11.7% (20) in category 2 and 35.2% (60) in category 3. Sixty eight (40%) partnerships were not successful, including at least one pathfinder partnership that had been used as a showcase by the DfES.

(8) Kent made the largest number of regional applications overall at 35, the next authority was Hampshire with 26. Hampshire has been less successful than Kent with a 30.7% success rate compared with Kent's 51.4%. Nationally 145 partnerships made applications, Kent's ten forums contributed 5.5% of the national total.

(9) Estimated Kent student numbers to benefit from 2008 are 1045 in construction and society, health and development, rising to 3559 students in 2009 when

a further four Forums come on stream with both diploma lines and the addition of creative and media, engineering and IT.

(10) Forums implementing in 2008 will receive an additional £30k for preparation whilst other categories receive £18K to assist them in meeting conditions for 2009 start up or re-application.

(11) Feedback forms identified collaboration and facilities as strengths. Weak areas were employer engagement and information advice and guidance, both areas were weak across England. In a number of cases applicants need to be more specific and precise in their responses. The feedback forms provided explained the criteria more fully and will enable better applications in subsequent rounds.

Next Steps

5. (1) Three forums have requested a review of one application each by Government Office South East. The requests have been endorsed by Kent County Council and the Learning and Skills Council and were submitted by 1st June.

(2) The priority for the four forums with conditions for 2008 is for them to address their issues with the support of the Learning and Skills Council and Advisory Service Kent by July 2nd. Forums with diploma lines agreed for 2009 with conditions need to demonstrate that these have been met by January 2008.

(3) The two forums and one consortia that have not been successful need to note the feedback and begin to think about securing a stronger position for reapplication in the autumn or/and application for the new lines of learning that will be on offer.

(4) All forums need to establish a 2013 vision, re-plan the journey to achieve their objectives and ensure agreements are in place to manage programme delivery.

(5) Both the Learning and Skills Council and Kent County have a responsibility to ensure experiences of the forums engaged from 2008 are disseminated and that all Kent forums and individual providers have access to quality training so that no partnership is left behind.

Successful Kent 14-19 Forums

6.

14-19 Forums	Diplomas	Estimated student numbers by 2009
Ashford	Creative and Media	170
Canterbury City and Coastal	Creative and Media	300
Dartford - Wilmington Schools	Construction Creative and Media Engineering IT	425
Dover Deal and Sandwich	Society Health and Development Construction	420
Gravesham	Construction Creative and Media Society Health and Development	465
Maidstone and Malling	Creative and Media	50
Thanet	Creative and Media Society Health and Development IT	650
West Kent	Construction Creative and Media Society Health and Development	730

Recommendations

7. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to note the content of this report.

Don Garman
Head of Service Performance, Advisory Service, Kent
Tel: (01622) 221760
E-mail: don.garman@kent.gov.uk

Background Documents:

None