

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Scrutiny Committee 24 October 2012
Subject	Report on Student Journey Action Plan
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report identifies the initial outcomes of the actions to implement the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations and the further actions planned.
Recommendations:	We recommend that:- (a) the Student Journey Action Plan be endorsed; (b) the Scrutiny Committee recognises the legislative and policy changes made that impact on the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations

Introduction

1 (1) The Student Journey Select Committee review was established in March 2011. The committee chaired by Cllr Kit Smith describes the purpose of the committee in the report as;

(2) “The proposal to set up The Student Journey Select Committee stemmed from the findings of visits to all the twelve Kent districts in 2011. It became very evident that an urgent and fresh approach to education, learning and skills from Key Stage 2 right through meaningful employment was needed. That “journey” for students appeared to lie at the heart of any new regeneration strategy.

(3) The Wolf Report indicates that students’ education, training and skills should have a sharper focus on the economy and on employment, and less dependency on bureaucracy and exam results. We have sought to understand that journey and have endorsed it.

(4) The response has been excellent, so that on completion of the report several recommendations were already being put into practice.”

(5) The Committee established the following terms of reference;

- To investigate the extent to which learning and skills providers in Kent prepare young people for work, and enable them to apply their learning in the workplace.
- To explore the relevance of training and skills provision for young people against local labour market needs and growth industries in Kent.

- To seek out and listen to students' views about, and experiences with, their preparedness for work and their employability.
- To examine the efficacy of partnerships between local businesses and local educators, and the opportunities in Kent for young people hoping to enter the labour market at key transition points of their educational journey.
- To look into the extent to which careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) enables young people to make informed choices about their future education and employment at key transition points.
- To consider the potential impact of changes in national policy on the educational and employment opportunities, and choices, of young people in Kent.
- To make recommendations after having gathered evidence and information throughout the review.

(6) On October 24th the Student Journey Action Plan is to be presented to The Scrutiny Committee. The Action Plan identifies work to date completed on the recommendations. The Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

Financial Implications

2 The financial implications of the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations are that funding from the Skills and Employability Service are directed at the delivery of the recommendations.

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

3 (1) The outcomes of the Student Journey Select Committee are directly related to the achievement of the ELS Bold Steps priorities 3 and 4.

(2) The actions contained within the Action Plan will directly support the ambitions of the draft 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy, which is now about to go out for consultation.

Summary of Student Journey Action Plan

4 (1) Many of the recommendations given in the Action Plan attached are included in the Delivery Plan for the Skills and Employability Service. Where possible these actions for the Student Journey Select Committee have been assimilated into the Key Performance indicators for the Skills and Employability Service.

(2) The draft 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy includes references to the work of the Student Journey Select Committee. The KPIs within this Strategy will be delivered and monitored against the agreed actions which are attached in Appendix 1.

(3) A number of the recommendations made by the Student Journey Select Committee have been enacted as a result of changes to policy by the Department for Education. These include;

- Funding Review 16-19: From September 2013 the funding of students 16-19 will be on a per capita basis rather than per qualification.
- Study Programmes 16-19: From September 2013 there is an expectation that students should have purposeful work experience built into their study programme.

(4) There have been some recommendations which have not been implemented. The main barrier has been factors outside of the influence of the Skills and Employability Service. For example kentchoices4u.com has been assimilated into the KCC corporate site. This was because of the “One County” approach to communications.

(5) There have been some recommendations which the Local Authority now has less influence to direct. The removal of the duty from the Local Authority to provide a universal careers service as of April 2012, and placing the duty with schools, means that KCC exerts less direct influence on careers advice and guidance. Schools and Colleges are now accountable through the Destination Measure which is a new performance measure for schools. The Destination Measure identifies the positive destinations of the cohort of students leaving school or college at the end of Key Stages 4 and 5. This measure will be published in spring 2013.

Conclusions

6 (1) There have been a number of key actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Student Journey Select Committee.

(2) The draft 14-24, Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy has assimilated a number of the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations.

(3) The Skills and Employability Service has assimilated a number of the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations into its’ Delivery Plan.

(4) There have been a number of key national legislative and policy changes which have impacted on the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations.

Recommendations

7 Members are asked to:-

- Note the Student Journey Action Plan;
- the Scrutiny Committee recognises the legislative and policy changes made that impact on the Student Journey Select Committee recommendations

Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Student Journey Action Plan

The Student Journey Select Committee Report -

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/council-and-democracy/select%20committees/The%20Student%20Journey%20report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Contact details

<p>Lead Officer: Sue Dunn Head of Skills and Employability ☎ 01622 694923 ✉ Sue.dunn@kent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Martin Blincow Research & Development Manager Skills & Employability Service ☎ 07795 495701 ✉ martin.blincow@kent.gov.uk</p>
--	---