

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Cabinet - 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
Subject	14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy
Classification:	Unrestricted

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Summary:	This report presents the final version of the draft 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy, following changes made as a result of the consultation with stakeholders and further amendments made as a result of consultation with Cabinet Members.
Recommendations:	To agree the 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy for publication.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The draft 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy has been developed by KCC in conjunction with schools, FE colleges and other partners, and has been considered by the Education Cabinet Committee, Corporate Board and Cabinet between November and December 2012 along with findings from the consultation with stakeholders during October and November 2012.

## 2. Strategy Update

- 2.1 A draft of the Strategy was taken to an informal meeting of cabinet members on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 together with findings from the stakeholder consultation. In addition to a number of suggested amendments to the Strategy, which have been incorporated, a key action from that meeting was to produce an executive summary of the Strategy. Both documents are attached as Appendix A and B for consideration. Appendix C details the revised list of targets and performance measures for the Strategy.

## 3. Summary of the Strategy

- 3.1 The ambition of the 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy is for all young people in Kent to become better qualified and more employable; to be able to participate and achieve success in education and work based training at least until the age of 18; and to ensure more 18 to 24 year olds can access higher learning or sustained employment that is appropriate to their needs and relevant to the local and national economy.
- 3.2 Our ambition is also to improve the Kent economy by ensuring there is a better skilled workforce and employers are more engaged in the design and delivery of new training programmes and vocational qualifications for young people, including

a significant increase in apprenticeships. The strategy incorporates many of the recommendations of the KCC Select Committee Report, the Student Journey.

- 3.3 Key success indicators for this strategy will be more effective partnership working, through a new Kent Skills and Employment Partnership Board, that delivers lower youth unemployment, better systems for local employers and learning providers to work in partnership and the higher levels of skilled young people we need, with every young person being helped to participate in learning or training until the age of 18, with a good outcome.
- 3.4 Under the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) regulations the local authority has a responsibility to ensure all young people's education or training can be tracked until age 18. An agreed approach to doing this in Kent, in partnership with schools, colleges, employers and work based training providers is a priority for the 14-24 Strategy.
- 3.5 The strategy has four major priorities, to raise attainment; to improve and extend vocational education, training and apprenticeships; to increase participation and employment; and to target support to vulnerable young people so that they achieve better outcomes and employment.
- 3.6 The strategy is supported by the review of the Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision, which will result in improved support and educational programmes for young people at risk of exclusion, by September 2013. It is also aligned with the development of the Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service, which will be rolled out across Kent in 2013.
- 3.7 The 14-24 Strategy is ambitious for major change in developing a better vocational training and skills system in Kent, which guarantees higher levels of qualification and employability that match the key employment sectors in the county. The targets we have set are challenging and their success will mean significant benefits for young people's employment and the Kent economy by 2016.

#### **4. Communicating the Strategy**

- 4.1 The launch of the Strategy will be accompanied by a comprehensive Communications Plan to ensure that the Strategy's aims and activities will be disseminated to stakeholders, including members of the public, schools and FE Colleges, work based learning providers, employers and other partners.
- 4.2 This will include designed versions of the Strategy and Executive Summary for the public (as above) and a series of press releases that will coincide with high profile events such as National Careers Week (4 – 8 March 2013), Kent Choices 4 U Live and National Apprenticeships Week (11 – 15 March 2013). These will highlight key messages illustrated through case studies and success stories from our partners that demonstrate the positive work already taking place in line with the Strategy.
- 4.3 Furthermore, KCC's apprenticeships website will have been refreshed and updated for the launch so that information is more accessible for young people and employers wanting to pursue apprenticeships.

## **5. Recommendations**


Cabinet is requested to:

- a. Agree to adopt and publish the 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy, as at appendix A
- b. Agree to adopt and publish the Executive Summary of the 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy , as at Appendix B
- c. Agree to the outline communications plan for disseminating the Strategy, as at paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of the report.

## **6. Background Documents**

- Appendix A: Draft 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy
- Appendix B: Executive Summary
- Appendix C: Revised list of targets for the Strategy
- Appendix D: Press release plan

## **7. Contact details**

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