

By: Ian Craig, Director - Operations

To: Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE

Subject: TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL – PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGE RANGE TO REMOVE THE SIXTH FORM FROM THE SCHOOL'S FORMAL DESIGNATION

Summary: The Cabinet Member is requested to agree to issue a public notice to regularise the position regarding the suspension of sixth form provision at Tunbridge Wells Community High School, by changing the designated age range from 11 to 19, to 11 to 16 years only.

Introduction

1. The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 17 October 2007, supported a proposal to undertake public consultation on changing the designated age range of Tunbridge Wells Community High School, from the current 11-19, to 11-16 years of age.

The Proposal

2. (1) The proposal is to change the designated age range of Tunbridge Wells Community High School, from co-educational provision for students aged 11 to 19 years, to co-educational provision for students aged 11 to 16 years.

(2) This will consolidate the already established partnership for post 16 progression routes with West Kent College and other local sixth forms. A closer working relationship with nearby West Kent College has been developed, so that all Tunbridge Wells High students have ready access to the vast range of post-16 opportunities at the College. These are jointly promoted by school and by college staff.

Responses to the Public Consultation

3. 57 responses were received, of which 52 were in favour, and 5 were against the proposal.

Views of the Local Member

4. Mr Kevin Lynes, the Local Member, fully supports this proposal.

Views of the Governing Body

Cab Mem Decision/report (07-00988) TW High School

5. The Governing Body of the school, having taken the decision to suspend the Sixth Form arrangements in 2005, is fully supportive of the proposal to formally re-designate the age range of students at the school.

Views of the Cluster Board

6. The Tunbridge Wells Cluster Board fully supports the proposal to regularise the position at the school.

Resource Implications

Capital

7. (1) There are no capital resource implications.

Revenue

(2) As the school currently does not make use of its designation to educate sixth form students there are no revenue implications.

Views of the School Organisation Advisory Board

8. At its meeting on 10 January 2008, the School Organisation Advisory Board supported the proposal to issue a public notice to change the designated age range of Tunbridge Wells High School from 11-19, to 11-16 years only as set out in the recommendation in Section 9. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation:

9. The Cabinet Member is requested to agree to:

- (a) the issuing of a public notice to change the designated age range of Tunbridge Wells High School from 11-19, to 11-16 years only.

Chris Lay
Area Education Officer
(Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells)
Tel: (01732) 525107

The Local Member is Mr Kevin Lynes.

Background Documents:

None