

By: Ian Craig – Director of Operations

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee – 25 March 2008

Subject: 14-19 DEVELOPMENTS

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides members with an update on significant 14-19 developments across the county. This includes the continuing expansion of the 14-16 vocational programme, 14-19 diploma roll out, apprenticeships and Information, Advice & Guidance and Careers Education

Introduction

1. (1) The range and complexities of national 14-19 developments for schools, colleges and work based learning providers is significant. Alongside these national 14-19 developments there are a number of major developments initiated in response to the Kent 2010 targets. The main areas of focus for these activities are:

- Expanding the 14-16 vocational offer across the county in new curriculum areas;
- Implementing new diplomas in 17 curriculum areas by 2013;
- Giving all 13-19 year olds the very best careers advice and guidance;
- Introducing the new quality standards in Information, Advice & Guidance and providing a Master Class programme for 14-19 year olds;
- Expanding the number of apprenticeships at 14 and 16+;
- Building strong business education partnerships that benefit both employers and schools;
- Working with vulnerable groups including young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

(2) These developments are in the main being co-ordinated by the 14-24 Innovation Unit in partnership with Connexions Kent & Medway, Learning & Skills Council, FE colleges, Kent University and Employers

(3) The 14-24 Innovation Unit was established in September 2007. The Unit was established to provide strategic co-ordination and an innovative approach to developing an extensive universal education and skills programme, high quality information, advice & guidance, Careers Education and appropriate employer engagement.

(4) The 14-24 Innovation Unit will strive to develop learning opportunities which meet the needs of all young people maximising the potential of all 14-24 year olds in Kent.

Progress to Date

2. (1) Expansion of the 14-16 Vocational Programme

There are over 4,600 learners aged 14-16 currently involved in the vocational & applied learning programme. Ten curriculum areas are on offer, ranging from Entry Level to Level II qualifications. The first year of Kent Young Apprentices (14-16) within the vocational programme started in September 07.

The expansion and success of the vocational programme continues. In some localities there has been a significant reduction in NEET's mainly in Whitstable & Maidstone. In a number of vocational centres facilities and workshops are already up to capacity and learner demand outstrips the number of specialist places available.

Eight subject specialist networks to support curriculum delivery & development are in place. Continued curriculum development is required to ensure that these programmes meet the needs of industry and the skills sector councils.

Termly briefings and workshops are run by the 14-24 Innovation Unit to ensure that schools' senior leaders and vocational managers are informed of new developments, funding opportunities and good practice, which are shared across the County.

Two National Skills Academies are currently being bid for in Construction & Nuclear industries. These Academies will provide a range of employer led training opportunities across the County. It is hoped that these Academies will (from entry level to Masters degrees) provide appropriate progression routes for of 16+ learners from the vocational programme.

(2) Careers, Advice & Guidance

A detailed implementation plan has been drawn up between KCC & Connexions to ensure that learners receive high quality impartial advice & guidance. This plan will mean that all secondary schools will undertake an Information, Advice & Guidance health check. This is a self evaluation audit which highlights the strengths & weaknesses of guidance within the schools & other 14-19 providers. A major professional development programme has been planned to improve and raise the profile of careers education in schools.

Ten new information leaflets relating to the 14-16 vocational programme have been produced and will be available for all Year 10 learners this term. The September Guarantee was successfully implemented last year. This means that all Year 11 leavers will have the offer of employment or training via Connexions or schools. Those young people who have not received an offer will access additional support.

A major evaluation of Information, Advice & Guidance by Warwick University has been completed. The outcome of this research will be used to plan further developments to meet the 2010 target.

(3) Master Classes

Five subject specialist master classes which link to the 14-16 vocational programme were delivered for over 300 learners. The feedback by learners from these events shows 90% of participants rated the session good or excellent.

Kent Works has successfully delivered three 'generic' Master Classes to raise learners' aspirations and ensure learners' knowledge of the working world. Partners include The Royal Ballet and the Fifteen Foundation.

(4) Apprenticeships

Kent Success, the KCC Apprenticeship Programme, began in October 2006 following on from a pilot project that had been running within KCC. The programme is aimed at 16 to 19 year olds who would like to start their career within KCC - the target being to provide at least 250 Apprenticeship opportunities within KCC itself and 750 in other public and private sector organisations. As part of this target, the Young Apprenticeship Programme is also being developed through the 14-24 Innovation Unit.

Within KCC, placements are being offered across all directorates including Legal and Democratic Services, Waste Management, the Youth Service, and Adult Social Services as well as placements within KCC schools and nurseries. Young people are undertaking Apprenticeships in childcare, health and social care, customer service and business and administration. KEY Training Services is currently delivering the Kent Success Programme within KCC.

There are currently 63 Apprentices on the Kent Success Programme from a variety of backgrounds. Some have just finished school and come straight onto the programme, others have worked in a different job for a while but decided that this is a more positive route for them. So far, there have been 20 young people who have completed their Apprenticeship, and 16 of those have moved in to longer term employment either within KCC or other organisations. A further eight young people have left the programme for either personal reasons or because an Apprenticeship was not the right route for them.

(5) 14-19 Diplomas

The 14-19 Implementation plan promotes collaboration between schools, colleges and work based training providers to deliver 17 new 'curriculum' areas through the new diplomas. These new qualifications are still in the pilot phase and will be rolled out over the next five years.

If schools and other providers wish to deliver diplomas they have to undertake a diploma gateway process which identifies a partnership's preparedness to deliver these new qualifications. In Kent the partnerships are organised into nine 14-19 planning forums which cover the Kent area.

The Gateway 1 process was undertaken in 2006. Therefore, from September 2008, 4 planning forums will be delivering across two diploma subject lines: Construction and the Built Environment in Dover, Deal and Sandwich and Thanet

and Society, Health and Development in Gravesham and Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley.

For Gateway 2 which started in December 2007, eight of the nine Kent Planning Forums submitted applications to deliver Diploma lines from 2009 (see Appendix 1). Of the ten lines of learning available at this stage, Kent consortia have applied to deliver nine (the exception being Manufacturing and Product Design).

Not all the applicants in Gateway 1 were successful and these eight planning forums had to resubmit their Gateway applications. We will be notified of the outcomes of these reviews in March 2008, but it seems likely that the majority will be given approval to deliver from 2009.

Priorities for 08/09

3. (1) A major focus for the 14-24 Innovation Unit for next year will be working directly with the nine 14-19 planning forums to develop a diverse area curriculum offer for all learners, with appropriate progression routes.

(2) As the programme and curriculum offer widens and diversifies for all 14-19 learners, the need for high quality information advice and careers education becomes essential. In partnership with Connexions a major professional development programme will be delivered on careers education and information and guidance for all Kent schools over the next year.

(3) Priority will be given to working much more closely with employers to identify solutions for more effective and meaningful relationships between industry, employers and schools. An employer engagement strategy will be developed to assist and support the implementation of a more radical and innovative approach to working with employers.

(4) The number of Apprenticeships will be significantly increased to meet learner demand and the 2010 target of 1,000 Kent apprenticeships.

Resources

4. (1) Revenue funding for the 14-19 programme is via a direct support grant entitled Practical Learning Monies. This is an additional revenue stream which recognises the additional cost of vocational programmes. The DCSF will also be providing additional revenue funding for those planning forums delivering diplomas from September 2008.

(2) 2010 monies will be used mainly to provide new specialist equipment in priority areas, mainly Dover, Shepway, Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling. It is expected that any major capital costs of new specialist facilities and workshops will be delivered through the Building Schools of the Future programme.

(3) There is no KCC or DCSF additional funding for Transport for learners moving from their 'home' school to specialist provision off site either at another school, skills studio or college. Currently most schools use their Direct Support Grant monies to cover these additional costs.

Conclusion

5. 14-19 initiatives will continue to develop. Current Government reforms and more 'local' innovative approaches represent a radical and long term strategy that will transform the skills of generations to come. Kent is well placed to continue to raise levels of participation in learning by ensuring that there are appropriate progression routes and robust partnerships are in place to meet all learners' needs.

Recommendations

6. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

Note the progress and priorities for 14-19 developments including expansion of the vocational programme and 14-19 diploma delivery by the 14-24 Innovation Unit.

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Background Documents:

None

Other Useful Information:

None

GATEWAY 2

<u>Planning Forum Consortium</u>	<u>Diploma Lines</u>	<u>Student Numbers</u>
Ashford	Construction and the Built Environment	145
	Society, Health and Development	105
	Environmental and Land Based Studies	N/K
	Hospitality and Catering	221
	Hair and Beauty	205
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	170
Canterbury	Environmental and Land Based Studies	60
	Hospitality and Catering	175
	Hair and Beauty	200
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	300
Dover, Deal and Sandwich	IT	120
	Creative and Media	135
	Gateway 1: SH&D (C2, 2008)	155 (320)
	Construction (C3) Not proceeding	100
Kent Thameside	Hospitality and Catering	154
	Hair and Beauty	75
Gravesham	Business Administration and Finance	105
	Society Health and Development	75
	Gateway 1: Construction (C2, 2008)	155 (155)
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	160
	Engineering (C3, 2009)	150
Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley	Business Administration and Finance	91
	Gateway 1: Construction (C2, 2008)	100 (100)
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	94
	Engineering (C3, 2009)	45
	IT (C3, 2009)	180
Maidstone and Malling	Business Administration and Finance	152
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	50
Shepway	Construction and the Built Environment	N/K
	Gateway 1: Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	Business Administration and Finance	N/K
	Creative and Media	N/K
	Construction and the Built Environment	N/K
	Engineering	N/K
Thanet	Business Administration and Finance	150
	Hospitality and Catering	N/K
	Engineering	75
	Gateway 1: SH&D (C2, 2008)	230 (470)
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	205
	IT (C3, 2009)	260

West Kent	Not applying in 2007	N/A
	Gateway 1: Construction (C3, 2009)	180
	Creative and Media (C3, 2009)	330
	SHD (C3, 2009)	220

By Diploma Line:

Business Administration and Finance	Gravesham Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley Maidstone and Malling Sittingbourne and Sheppey Thanet
Creative and Media	Dover, Deal and Sandwich Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Hospitality and Catering	Ashford Canterbury Kent Thameside Thanet
Engineering	Thanet Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Society, Health and Development	Ashford Gravesham
Environmental and land Based Studies	Ashford Canterbury
Hair and Beauty	Ashford Kent Thameside
IT	Dover, Deal and Sandwich
Construction and Built Environment	Ashford Shepway Sittingbourne and Sheppey
Manufacturing	