

## 14-19 STRATEGY

**Report By: Director of Children's Services**

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To up-date the Committee on the revised 14-19 Strategy and to explain the progress in the initiative in Herefordshire.

### Financial Implications

2. The Council holds a budget of approximately £15 Million (excluding grants, and special schools for 14-19 education). This includes the allocations to delegated schools budget for these age groups.

### Considerations

3. **National Objectives**

- The goal of the 14-19 programme is stated by the DfES to be as follows
  - 'Our aim is that by the age of 19, every young person should have been prepared by their education to succeed in life'
- To achieve the key aims of the programme the DfES envisage that 3 areas need to be developed i.e.
  - (i) 'Getting young people to stay in learning now, getting them on the right courses, keeping them there, getting them to achieve – Raising Attainment now'
  - (ii) 'Reforming curriculum and qualifications so that more young people are motivated and engaged and so what they learn is a better preparation for life – 14-19 Curriculum and Qualifications'
  - (iii) 'Creating the infrastructure (workforce, providers, facilities, local partnerships and arrangements) capable of delivering the curriculum and qualifications entitlement – 14-19 Local Delivery'

### Implementation in Herefordshire

4. **Objectives:**

- To integrate the work of the 14-19 Strategy Team with the Secondary Strategy Team to establish consistent and co-ordinated development and delivery of education opportunity from 11-19.

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For further information on the subject of this report is available from Paul Murray, Secondary School Improvement Manager, School Improvement Service on (01432) 260823.

- To develop a close working partnership with schools, FE and HE institutions, the LSC, workbased providers and other agencies.
- To develop local and flexible provision to an improved range of academic and vocational courses and qualifications from KS3 to KS5.
- To establish an inclusive approach that meets the needs of every student with particular attention of the more vulnerable.
- To provide impartial advice and guidance to students, parents and carers on 14-19 opportunities throughout the authority.
- To submit expressions of interest through local consortia for the first five Diploma lines (Engineering, Creative and Media, Health and Social Care, ICT and Constructions and the Built Environment).
- To reshape the KS3 and KS4 curricula in order to prepare for the introduction of functional skills courses in 2008 and develop appropriate pathways to Diplomas, Apprenticeships and GCSEs.
- To accelerate the progress made by Children's Services and its partners in preparation for and the delivery of the statutory requirements of the 14-19 Strategy.

### **Progress to date**

#### 5. In the current academic year:

- A 14-19 Strategy Manager has been appointed and will take up post on the April 1<sup>st</sup>. She is currently the LSC Partnership Adviser for Herefordshire.
- A General Inspector, Secondary with particular expertise in 14-19-curriculum development has been appointed.
- In partnership with the LSC and Connexions we have contracted with Nord Anglia/Wolverhampton University to provide an Area Wide Prospectus and My I Plan for all post 14 students to extend information guidance and individual learning plans (a statutory requirement).
- A School Improvement Service staff member has been appointed Area Wide Prospectus Co-ordinator to induct school staff and students in the introduction and opportunities offered by the prospectus and individual learning plans.
- The Herefordshire 14-19 Manual has been published to provide the basis for a co-ordinated and consistent approach to curriculum access and quality assurance.
- Expressions of interest for the five Diploma lines have been submitted. (The decision on the pilot authorities is anticipated now in March)
- The curriculum audit of current 14-16 academic and vocational provision has been completed and confirms an improving trend for all schools of curriculum development

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- Partnerships of schools have been established on a regional basis within the county to develop local access to specialist vocational provision.
- A report has been commissioned by Children & Young People Services, Connexions and the LSC to advise on the development of data and performance collation with a particular focus on NEETS (Not in education, employment or training).
- The revision of the 14-19 Strategy and Action Plan is underway, taking account of recent developments.
- The restructuring of the 14-19 team is underway in order to reflect the revised overall strategy.
- Negotiations are underway with the LSC and Worcestershire County Council to bring the delivery of the Education Business Links programme back within the remit of the LSC and Herefordshire Council.
- A Curriculum Conference will take place on 14 March to explore and share innovative approaches by Herefordshire Schools to delivering the 14-19 Strategy.
- The Secondary School Improvement Partners have been briefed to monitor and report on the progress in secondary schools in fulfilling the requirements of the 14-19 Strategy.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT the progress made in the delivery of the 14-19 programme be noted.**