

7 September 2004

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Learning+Skills Council
Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Dear Karen

School Organisation Plan 2004-2009

Thank you for the copy of this document. I have passed it to a number of colleagues in case they wish to make any comments in their particular areas of expertise e.g. Adult and Community Learning, Special Needs, Equality and Diversity etc.

I have a few small comments to make:

1. The second bullet point under 3.4 correctly mentions the development of a 14-19 Strategy. This was distributed to all schools, colleges and training providers earlier this month (copy enclosed for your information). As a point of detail, I assume that in the third row of the chart under 2.18, and the final sentence of 2.57 should also read "14-19" rather than "16-19".
2. In section 2.32 you make reference to the Herefordshire Association of Colleges and Schools. This forum no longer exists having been subsumed within the recently established 14-19 Strategy Group, itself part of the over-arching Learning Partnership for Herefordshire.
3. I am not sure when this draft plan is to be finalised. Although I do not envisage any major recommendation emerging from our current Strategic Area Review of post-16 education, it may be helpful to delay final publication of the plan until our preferred strategic options are announced for publication on the 22nd of October. It is also probably politic to mention the StAR process somewhere in the document. I will also ensure that you receive an invitation to the StAR Stakeholder event on the morning of the 1st of October at the Three Counties Hotel.
4. I wonder if it is worth making reference somewhere to the fact that the changing demands of the emerging 14-19 curriculum – principally brought about by an increase in vocational education – will create pressures that the current school building stock is not entirely suitable to cope with. I am sure that Vicky Ward or Michelle Balcombe can advise you better on this.

Yours sincerely

ALAN CURLESS
Executive Director