
DARLINGTON 14-19 AREA WIDE REVIEW ACTION PLAN

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) -Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Purpose of Report

1. To ask Cabinet to endorse the 14-19 Area-Wide Review Action Plan

Information and Analysis

2. The Action Plan was prepared by the Learning and Skills Council Tees Valley (LSC) and the Local Authority, in collaboration with a wide range of strategic partners. It is a response to the 16-19 Area-Wide review undertaken by the LSC and an audit of 14-19 provision commissioned by the Director of Education.
3. The vision for 14-19 education and Training in Darlington is that *“All partners in the provision of 14-19 education and training work together effectively to enable the young people of Darlington, irrespective of background, to access high quality learning opportunities that will raise both aspirations and standards, meet individual needs, and encourage lifelong learning”*.
4. The vision is based on student entitlements, and these match to three main priorities:
 - (a) Collaboration, Planning and Partnership between the educational institutions in Darlington.
 - (b) Participation and engagement by the students in the curriculum offer.
 - (c) The raising of educational attainment and standards at Key Stage 4 in the Borough.
5. The three priorities contain a set of clearly targeted actions designed to address the needs of young people in Darlington. These actions will deliver the 14-19 Strategy outline in the plan as it unfolds over the next five years.
6. A key priority in the Plan is the establishment of the Darlington 14-19 Trust to help co-ordinate and manage the development of extended curriculum opportunities for young people. This was the subject of a detached report to Cabinet in June 2004.

Outcome of Consultation

7. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with all of the key partners leading to the final Area Wide Review Action Plan.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Key Decisions

12. This is a key decision.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Cabinet endorses the Area-Wide Action Plan, set out in the attached report; and
 - (b) The Director of Education be empowered to facilitate the actions in the report.

Reasons

14. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The implementation of the plan will have a significant impact, both immediately and in the longer term, on learning provision and opportunities for young people in Darlington.
 - (b) It will also meet the needs of employers more effectively in terms of the skilled workforce they seek.

Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Background Papers

Darlington 16-19 Area Wide Review, Bently Jennison Consulting (2003)
An opportunity for Excellence, Richard Knott Consulting (2004)

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