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**THE NATIONAL REVIEW OF 14-19 FUNDING**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member** – Cllr Chris McEwan, Children and Young People Portfolio

**Responsible Director** – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of changes being made to funding for 16-18 year olds from September 2010 and to seek approval to plan now for the changing arrangements.

**Summary**

2. In June 2007 the government announced that funding for 16-18 year olds would move from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities. Each local authority would be responsible for provision within its boundary. This report highlights issues and implications for the Council to consider as part of this funding change. Moving funding for 16-18 year olds to local authorities will serve to provide a co-ordinated approach to 14-19 funding to facilitate new curriculum pathways and the raising of the participation age from 2013.

**Recommendation**

3. Members are asked to authorise officers to enter into discussions with other local authorities in the region with a primary focus on developing partnerships with other Tees Valley authorities to determine the arrangements which will be most effective for managing the future commissioning and funding regime for post 16 provision.

**Reason**

4. To meet the government requirement that shadow groupings of local authorities are in place to manage the transfer of funding by March 2009.

**Murray Rose,**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Murray Rose: Extension 2099

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| S17 Crime and Disorder           | The provision of sufficient and suitable places for all 16-18 year olds should have a positive impact on levels of anti-social behaviour in the future. |
| Health and Well Being            | A well-skilled workforce will have the potential to enjoy a healthier lifestyle than would otherwise be the case.                                       |
| Sustainability                   | There are no direct sustainability issues included in this report.  |
| Diversity                        | The local authority will be the commissioner of places to meet all needs for all communities in the Borough.  |
| Wards Affected                   | All Wards   |
| Groups Affected                  | This report affects all learners aged 16-18, including those on apprenticeships.  |
| Budget and Policy Framework      | This report does not recommend any changes to the council's budget or policy framework.   |
| Key Decision                     | This is a key decision.   |
| Urgent Decision                  | This is not an urgent decision.   |
| One Darlington: Perfectly Placed | This report contributes to the delivery of the themes of Prosperous Darlington and Aspiring Darlington.   |

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. The announcement by government that funding for 16-18 year olds would transfer to local authorities from September 2010 was made in order to ensure that provision for 16-18 year olds would become further integrated into the children's services agenda. Under the new arrangements, local authorities would act as commissioners of provision in their area, to ensure that there was a place available for every young person leaving school. The move continues the strategy of placing the leadership of the young person's agenda firmly with local authorities; the same agenda which saw the move into local authorities of the Connexions' information, advice and guidance service. The intended outcome of this strategy is that young people's participation in post 16 learning and training is increased in readiness for the raising of the participation age from 2013.
6. The government have asked each authority to undertake the following work by September 2008:
  - (a) analyse and report on travel to learn patterns for local providers;
  - (b) analyse local supply and demand of provision and ensure that there will be a place for every young person by identifying future commissioning needs;
  - (c) report on any cross-border collaborations being developed to deliver the new diplomas;
  - (d) report on collaborative arrangements with employers;
  - (e) report on any jointly commissioned provision, such as specialist placements;
  - (f) describe existing local authority planning and partnership arrangements; and
  - (g) describe existing indicators or targets which have been jointly agreed through local strategic partnerships, local area agreements or multi-area agreements.
7. Local authorities are being encouraged to link the proposed national changes with the ambitions expressed in multi-area agreements (MAA), in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and, in particular, to the development of the skills required to promote regeneration in the region. The proposed national changes complement the work strands agreed in the SCS to grow skills and to engage with employers.
8. The government have indicated that there may be further changes made to 14-19 funding in the future, including the introduction of a national funding formula for provision for this age group. However, currently the government is asking each local authority to enter into discussions only about the make up of sub-regional groupings and to give an indication of the preparations made within each local authority to manage the proposed changes by focusing on the points included in paragraph 6, above. The government will make further announcements in March 2009 about the next stages of the implementation plan.

9. The government are encouraging each local authority to work in a sub-regional grouping. This is because travel to learn areas are rarely contained within a local authority boundary. As an example, approximately 50% of the students enrolled in Darlington College and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College come from outside of Darlington. A significant proportion of these students come from North Yorkshire. Many more come from south west Durham. Darlington local authority, as the authority with the funding for these institutions in the future, will need to co-ordinate activities with the home authorities of the students who travel into Darlington. These students will also be accessing the new diplomas in the Borough from September 2009.
10. The Tees Valley city region and the multi-area agreement across the five Tees Valley authorities provides an ideal platform for the co-ordination and joint commissioning of provision across the sub-region to ensure that there is clear alignment between the regeneration agenda and the skills agenda.
11. There are also learners who require highly specialist placements, for example in residential colleges, because of their learning disabilities. No single authority can take responsibility for commissioning places in these highly specialised colleges or institutions and the government have recognised this by proposing the establishment of a regional commissioning body across the 12 local authorities in the North East.
12. Taking into account factors such as travel to learn patterns, the delivery of the new diplomas from 2009, links with employers and the skills sector through the MAA, Darlington is likely to be involved in more than 1 grouping or consortium of authorities.
  - (a) firstly, there is a need to consider the provision of places for the out of authority population attending Darlington College and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and co-ordinate activity with their home authorities;
  - (b) secondly, there is a need to contribute to the wider agenda of the Tees Valley authorities in terms of regeneration and strategic planning; and
  - (c) finally there is a need to secure specialist provision for a small group of young people in partnership with the other 11 North East authorities.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

13. Discussions have taken place with the Learning and Skills Council, with all local authorities in the region, with Tees Valley Chief Executives, with all schools and partners through the 14-19 trust and specifically with Darlington College and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College Principals.
  14. There is strong local support to develop a model which accurately reflects the needs of the provision within Darlington and where their learners come from and which also supports the sub-regional regeneration strategy.
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