

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: **Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Date: **Tuesday 8 March 2005**

Report of: **The Director of Children, Families and Schools**

Subject: **To report progress with the Learning Partnership and
14-19 Action Plan**

Wards affected: **All**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To report progress with the Learning Partnership and the 4-19 Action Plan

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress to date with the Learning Partnership and 14-19 Action Plan

3. Information/background

- 3.1 The 14-19 Area Inspection took place in February and March 2004 and the report was published in June 2004 and presented to this Committee (7 December 2004). In that report comment was provided by all the partners responsible for planning 14-19 education and training (Sussex Learning and Skills Council, Brighton and Hove, East Sussex County Council and Connexions) and the post inspection action plan is therefore a joint one.
- 3.2 The post inspection action plan was approved by CFS Sub-committee (18 October). This report updates members on actions and achievements to date.

- 3.3 The Brighton and Hove Learning Partnership has overall responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the progress of the action plan for Brighton and Hove. The Partnership has also formed a 14-19 Management Group who are responsible for delivering the actions.
- 3.4 A report on the management of the Brighton and Hove Learning Partnership was presented to, and agreed by, the CFS sub committee on 29 November 2004. The Learning Partnership has made good progress since that report. A manager has been appointed and the action plan approved. Progress has been made on all the action points. The LSC has shown confidence in the Partnership by awarding it substantial pieces of work: to develop Learning Champions funded by the European Social Fund and the development of pre-vocational courses for ethnic minority students. The schools and colleges have approved of the leading role of the Learning Partnership in 14-19 developments.

4. Progress with the action plan

4.1 Good progress has been made with all the actions and these are summarised in the appendix 1 attached. In particular attention should be drawn to the progress that has been made on increasing collaboration at 14-16 and 16-18 to provide a wider curriculum offer which better meets the needs of the learners. In September 2005 there are significantly more vocational courses on offer to 14 and 16 year olds than ever before. The vocational offering will be made across Brighton and Hove schools on two days per week. This ensures that students opting for these courses can still access the core curriculum. In addition the schools and colleges have agreed to offer Wednesday afternoon enrichment activities across a range of sports and other activities.

4.2 The 14-19 Management Group have created short term working parties to explore other aspects of the development of the action plan and these will be reported to a future Committee.

4.3 CFS Officers and the LSC Officers have been working in close collaboration with the Chair of the 14-19 Management Group to move the actions forward and to write monitoring reports for the Learning Partnership.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The progress with the Post Ofsted Inspection Action Plan has provided an opportunity to strengthen 14-19 partnership working across Brighton and Hove. The developments to date have helped to enhance provision locally.

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Financial implications

The Action Plan is funded by the LSC and no impact on departmental budgets is anticipated. The recommendation to note progress on the Action Plan does not give rise to any additional financial implications.
 Finance Officer Consulted: Jeff Coates Date 25 February 2005

Legal implications

Corporate/Citywide implications

The rapid progress of the post inspection action plan indicates the willingness of partners to improve the provision for young people at ages 14-19 in the City. The positive development of the Learning Partnership has important implications for future work in developing services for children and young people contributing to the achievement of thriving 14 year olds able to participate in city life.

Risk assessment

The risks highlighted in the inspection report and the learning Partnership Development Plan will be picked up in the DDP process.

Sustainability implications

There are implications for the financial sustainability of the services, particularly when funded by short-term grants.

Equalities implications

The post inspection action plan has specific recommendations for supporting students with special needs.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

Provision of more appropriate courses at 14 and 16 will improve the life chances of young people and will therefore have implications for reducing crime and disorder .

Background papers [Part 1 reports only]
 14-19 Ofsted Area Inspection Report 2004.

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