

The Brighton & Hove 14-19 Partnership Board

The 14-19 Partnership has strengthened year on year. The Board consists of the leaders of all 18 schools and colleges also the chair of the Education Business Partnership (an employer), the Director of Aimhigher (University Brighton and Sussex), the Connexions commissioner and the director of the Sussex Consortium of Training Providers. This Board meets every 6 weeks to make strategic decisions.

There is a 14-19 Strategy covering the period 2008-13 agreed by all partners and there is a detailed 2008/9 action plan with an individual Board member providing oversight and challenge to the assigned officer for each section. The strategy has been approved by the Children and Young People's Trust and Connexions Boards. The Strategy is being 'refreshed' in light of new legislation.

The 14-19 Curriculum Group is energetically implementing collaborative plans for Diplomas and an Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) Implementation Group is developing collaborative Progression Pathways. A memorandum of understanding on collaboration has been signed by all 14-19 providers in the city and there are an agreed set of policies and protocols around students educated on more than one site.

We have a map to show where diplomas are being offered and a time-scale to show how young people will have the full entitlement by 2013.

Information advice and guidance (IAG) for young people

There has been a partnership-wide audit of IAG against the new Quality Standards. This report highlighted some good practice but also much that needed to be developed.

A new group has been initiated formed of senior leaders from all providers and they are keen to move the agenda forward. We are planning a major event for young people on 3rd and 4th November 2009 to explain the wide range of choices they will have at their next phase of education: "Your Future, Your Choice". All schools and colleges will have whole-staff INSET before this event to support the young people in making option choices and materials will be given to schools so that there is preparation work.

The Sussex wide Area Prospectus is in place and information is up-to-date i. 'How to' guides for the prospectus, aimed at young people and Connexions Personal Advisers, have been developed. We will be piloting the Common Application Process this year, this means that students apply on-line for a places at BHASVIC Varndean, City College and school sixth forms. It is a way of ensuring that all young people are able to choose from all the options available post-16.

Effective links with employers

A mass marketing campaign has generated 200+ new employer links. The Education Business Partnership (EBP) plan covers an increased range of 14-19 activities including development of an effective Apprenticeship Plan for the city's 5 key employment sectors. There is liaison with key business groups to engage further employers.

The EBP has partnered with the Economic Partnership to promote 14-19 activities developing new projects around social enterprise. The EBP Lead Officer sits on the City Employment and Skills Board. We continue to work on ensuring closer links between 14-16 and 16-19 provider employer engagement activities.

Breadth of provision

There is a common, city-wide timetable structure in place for options and collaborative partnerships are developing and growing in the East and West of the city, alongside plans for minority subjects city-wide. Some areas of curriculum planning have been completed (Diplomas) but others only scheduled for 2009-10 (Apprenticeships and Foundation Learning Tier)

The quality of courses is mostly high although there is little access to Young Apprenticeships. An Apprenticeship Plan has been completed to increase the numbers available in the key employment sectors and notably the public sector.

NEET reduction including guarantee of a place in learning post 16

A NEET reduction plan is embedded into the 14-19 Strategy and accompanying action plan. NEET figures have been reduced. The new database, Aspire, used by Connexions is providing improvements in both data capture and reporting.

There is a wide range of NEET reduction programmes including the KS4 Engagement Programme, College 14-16 programmes and e2e and a new pilot for Entry to Learning, all offered by Third Sector, private and College providers. These providers are also involved in the provision for vulnerable young people aged 14-16, with additional support mentors, funded via the European Social Fund.

A September Guarantee Group has been set up and a Service Level Agreement between all Providers/Stakeholders outlines each organisation's roles/responsibilities in ensuring the Guarantee. Post-16 drop-outs are notified and young people receive immediate Personal Adviser support.

Resources

The LA and colleges have reviewed accommodation and have planned to address deficiencies. The colleges have had an Integrated Education Case for capital investment but this has not been realised and new plans need to be discussed so that there is capacity for the increased numbers of students participating in education until age 18.

B&H is developing its Secondary Strategy for Change with all partners taking part in its development.

Schools and colleges share accommodation to increase access to a range of high quality provision e.g. the hair and beauty centre at Portslade CC (provided by a private training provider, accessed by Blatchington Mill and Hove Park), specialist provision at City College accessed by schools, Varndean College at Falmer.

There is use of Third Sector providers' facilities via the KS4 Engagement Programme and some use of HE facilities for G&T and Aimhigher. Some private sector providers and employers offer facilities for students on specific programmes including hair and beauty and Young Apprenticeship programmes in Construction and Sport.

Work force development

A city-wide Work Force Development plan is in place for 2008-13 and partners' individual organisational plans are aligned to this. The plan has four objectives:

- Delivering the 14-19 reforms;
- Information Advice and Guidance;
- Maintaining professional competence and
- Succession planning.

Board members are utilising free national training programmes and those from awarding bodies. E-learning units on the 14-19 Reform agenda and the City Economic Strategy have been developed and are readily available on a variety of websites.. EBP has subcontracted to provide Sussex wide Personal Development Placements and industrial experience to maintain professional status. The secondary CPD network identifies emerging skills needs and responds accordingly. Leadership and Management training has been sourced via NSCL/CEL.

