

# Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver

(Joint DCSF/DIUS consultation)

## Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 9 June 2008

Your comments must reach us by that date.

department for  
**children, schools and families**

Department for  
**Innovation,  
Universities &  
Skills**

**THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Children, Schools, and Families e-consultation website (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>).**

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.**

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address:

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact James Addy on:

Telephone: 0207 925 6209

e-mail: [James.Addy@dcfs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:James.Addy@dcfs.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794 311

e-mail: [consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Young person (under 18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent or carer	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult learner
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional working with young people	<input type="checkbox"/> Headteacher/college principal/leader of educational institution
<input type="checkbox"/> Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/> School	<input type="checkbox"/> General Further Education College
<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Form College	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary and community sector organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary College	<input type="checkbox"/> Work-based learning provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Large employer
<input type="checkbox"/> Small or medium-sized employer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	

Please Specify:

## Chapter 2: Local authorities commissioning provision to meet the needs of young people

1 Do you agree that transferring funding from the LSC to local authorities to create a single local strategic leader for 14-19 education and training is the right approach?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

We believe that the local authority should be the key strategic leader but we question the extent to which the proposals achieve this for FE.

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## Chapter 3: Operational models for commissioning

2 Do you agree that the model we have proposed for transferring funding to the local authority is the best way to give local authorities effective powers to commission, to balance the budget, create coherence for providers and retain the national funding formula?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Transferring funding is the right way to increase the strategic role of the LA but, the arrangements described will not be as effective as they should be due to the complexity of the model

Do you agree that there is a need for:

3 a) Sub-regional groupings of local authorities for commissioning?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

The great bulk of commissioning can be done **within** the LA but, sub regional groups will help in relation to travel to learn and the margins of FE delivery which crosses LA boundaries

3 b) Authorities to come together regionally to consider plans collectively?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

But, further reasoning is needed for co-chairing by the RDA

3 c) A slim national 14-19 agency with reserve powers to balance the budget and step in if needed?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

The intervention powers across agencies need further clarification

4 Do you agree that we have described the way that these bodies would function in broadly the right way? Is the balance of responsibilities between them right?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Replacing one agency with three adds to the complexity of arrangements and lines of accountability.

5 Do you agree that there is a need for a single local authority to lead the conversation with each provider?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

There is some ambiguity in the document. We believe the LA should lead for the FE colleges in the LA but, we should respect the autonomy of colleges so they can hold consultations with other LAs about needs and provision

6 Do you agree with the proposed approach for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

We welcome this and suggest the same approach be adopted for all learners

7 a) Do you agree that local authorities should be responsible for commissioning provision for young offenders in custodial institutions?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

We are keen to retain responsibility for our young people

7 b) Do you favour the 'host' funding model, or the model where 'home' authorities are charged?

Host

Home

Not Sure

Comments:

This supports the retention of LA responsibility for these young people

7 c) Are there planning or legislative levers other than funding systems which would create the right responsibilities and incentives to promote the best outcomes for this group of young people?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

The priority is to go for a simple model that works. The Government could consider how it strengthens expectations on LAs in the articulation of a learner's entitlement in a way which is simple and coherent to learners and providers

#### **Chapter 4: Management of the system**

Do you agree with:

8 a) Proposals to ensure that informed learner choices should be a key part of shaping the system?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Emphasis on strategic planning in localities will help learners shape provision. The arrangements need to better reflect how LAs build strategic planning on the needs and aspirations of localities within the LA.

8 b) The proposed approach to a common performance management framework based on the Framework for Excellence?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

This will need closer examination. Performance management needs to be driven by moderated institutional (and partnership) self evaluation. Again, the emphasis needs to be on simplicity.

9 Do you agree with the proposals for managing changes to 16-19 organisation and adjusting the arrangements for 16-19 competitions and presumptions?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

In addition, Leeds is developing a protocol for working with academies to ensure coherent approaches to planning

## Chapter 5: Funding

Are you content with the proposals:

10 a) To retain a national funding formula based closely on the existing one?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

To minimise the impact of transitional arrangements and ensure this extends on a common basis for all providers

10 b) For funding to flow to institutions on the basis described?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

There needs to be a national tariff for pathways. LAs should be funded to commission the provision needed

11 Would you support a move to a single national 14-19 funding system?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

12 Do you agree with the proposals for capital funding?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

In these proposals, LA have liability but without the capital resource to deploy in the development of finely tuned local provision

## Chapter 6: Implementation

13 Do these proposals about timescale and transition appear reasonable?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

The timetable is challenging but, reasonable given the urgency

## Chapter 7: Reforming the post-19 skills system to secure better outcomes for adults

14 Do you agree with the proposal to create a new Skills Funding Agency to replace the Learning and Skills Council post-19?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

15 Do you agree with the proposed role of the Agency?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

We are concerned about the Agency being the sole source of interventions pre 19.

The Agency needs to be effectively connected to local Skills Boards

## Chapter 8: Funding and commissioning

16 Do you agree with the funding and commissioning role proposed for the Skills Funding Agency?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

This is the basis on which funding should work for LAs too

17 Do the proposals in this chapter reflect the right balance of strategic commissioning and individual customer choice?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

There is insufficient emphasis on commissioning starting at the local level

## Chapter 9: Sponsorship of the FE system

18 Do you agree with the proposals on performance management and the performance intervention role of the Skills Funding Agency?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

See comments Q15

19 Have we got the right approach to sponsorship of the FE sector as a whole?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

There is a risk that proposals will make FE colleges distant from the collaborative arrangements needed to deliver in localities. Is this the first step in a transition which sees FE colleges delivering only adult education?

## **Chapter 10: An integrated system: other functions of the Skills Funding Agency**

20 Do you agree that each of the functions in this chapter should be performed by the Skills Funding Agency?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

### **Chapter 11: An integrated system: how the Skills Funding Agency fits into the wider skills landscape**

21 Do you agree with this description of the wider skills landscape within which the Skills Funding Agency will operate?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

See Q 19

The Agency needs to be effectively connected to local Skills Boards

22 Have you any further comments?

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply**

Here at the Department for Children Schools and Families we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 9 June 2008

Send by post to: Consultation Unit  
Area 1A  
Castle View House  
East Lane  
Runcorn  
Cheshire  
WA7 2GJ

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