

# Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) Inquiry

## 14-19 education review

### Terms of reference

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In setting its work programme and priorities for 2008/09, the Children's Services Scrutiny Board decided that one of its key priorities for the coming year would be to continue its focus on 14-19 education<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 This inquiry builds on work done by the Scrutiny Board over a number of years, most recently last year, when young people at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) were the focus of the board's work.
- 1.3 In order to decide on an appropriate and manageable focus for the inquiry, the board commissioned a working group from amongst its membership to scope the inquiry. The working group met with officers from Education Leeds on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008.
- 1.4 The working group were concerned to identify areas where the Scrutiny Board's input could add value to work already underway to improve education standards in Leeds, having regard to the proposed timescale for the inquiry.
- 1.5 There are significant national and local changes taking place in the learning landscape for this age group. These include changes to the curriculum and the introduction of diplomas; the increase in apprenticeships; the raising of the leaving age; the transfer of funding from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities; new information, advice and guidance (IAG) requirements; the local review of college provision; and the ongoing development of trusts and academies.
- 1.6 The working group was given a brief introduction to the proposed confederation approach to future 14-19 partnership working across Leeds. Members also discussed a number of key questions that needed to be addressed to ensure that future models of delivery in Leeds will produce improved choice and outcomes for individual learners.
- 1.7 The inquiry ties in to priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan, the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan, as well as the recommendations of the Joint Area Review.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to the 14-19 age group should be taken to extend to the age of 25 for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

## **2.0 Scope of the inquiry**

2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on how 14-19 provision in Leeds needs to develop in order to sustain the accelerated improvement in attainment in the medium term.

The inquiry will focus on how a new partnership approach to 14-19 provision will:

- Meet the needs and aspirations of all learners
- Meet the needs of society and the economy
- Improve the quality and efficiency of provision
- Deliver coherence, integration and impact in localities

2.2 The Board hopes that its findings will provide a timely and positive contribution to the management of change, as part of the longer term 14-19 review project.

## **3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member**

3.1 Comments received have been reflected in the terms of reference.

## **4.0 Timetable for the inquiry**

4.1 The inquiry will take place between November 2008 and February 2009, with a view to issuing a final report in summer 2009.

4.2 The inquiry will conclude with the publication of a formal report setting out the board's conclusions and recommendations.

4.3 It is planned that the inquiry will include a range of visits to service providers and meetings with stakeholders to complement the evidence gathered in formal sessions.

## **5.0 Submission of evidence**

5.1 The following evidence will be considered by the Board

### **5.2 Session One – Scrutiny Board meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

To consider background information from Education Leeds on the national and local policy context in terms of the drivers for change in the provision of 14-19 learning, including

- New learning and training opportunities;
- Wider participation and personalisation;
- The proposed confederation model of partnership working
- Examples of successful partnership working both locally and nationally

### 5.3 **Working Group activities**

- Visit to one or more other local authorities to discuss their approach to 14-19 collaboration – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009
- Working group meetings with representatives of partners/stakeholders to discuss their roles in the future delivery of 14-19 education and training in Leeds:
  - Employers
  - Providers
  - Young people

### 5.4 **Session Two – Scrutiny Board meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

To consider any outstanding issues arising from session one and the working group activities

To consider any updated information on developments since session one

To consider members' findings and to discuss issues arising with officers

To consider the board's emerging conclusions and recommendations to inform the production of the final inquiry report

## 6.0 **Witnesses**

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Education Leeds
- School representatives
- College representatives
- Learning and Skills Council
- Work-based learning providers
- Employer representatives
- Relevant council services – eg Regeneration, Jobs and Skills and Human Resources
- Other local authorities
- Integrated Youth Support Services
- Governors
- Young people
- Providers of relevant support services including council services, other statutory providers and voluntary agencies

## **7.0 Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 Following the completion of the scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 7.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

## **8.0 Measures of success**

- 8.1 It is important to consider how the Board will deem whether its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 8.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.