

EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO IMPROVING ACCESS TO POST-16 LEARNING PROVISION IN LINCOLNSHIRE – ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
<p><u>Recommendation 1</u> Schools, colleges and training providers should be encouraged to spend in full the 16-19 bursary funding to provide financial support to post-16 students for the purposes such as those outlined in the example framework attached at Appendix 2.</p>	Yes	Each institution is responsible for spending their bursary funding and for setting the criteria for their students to access it.	Encourage schools to agree a common policy for the application of the bursary fund. Communicate that next years bursary fund will probably use this years spend as the allocation basis for 2012/13 so that they are encouraged to allocate there funding in full.	Nov 2011	Roy Nelson	
<p><u>Recommendation 2</u> Lincolnshire County Council should gather evidence on the overall impact on student participation following the disappearance of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and other financial pressures by the end of March 2012 to inform</p>	Yes	The overall impact on student participation following the ending of the EMA scheme and “other financial pressures” will not be fully realised until the academic year 2012/13. This is because existing	Data will be gathered on post 16 student participation rates from September 2011 and repeated for September 2012	Data - Jan 2012 & Jan 2013 Report Feb 2012 and updated Feb 2013	School Administration (David Robinson & John O'Connor)	

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<p>the academic year of 2012/13. Depending on that evidence, the Executive should identify what further action should be taken if required.</p>		<p>students receiving the EMA in the year 2010/2011 who move into the second year of their course are entitled to continue to receive some funding for the 2011/12 year. Any potential impact might be mitigated by the introduction of the student bursary and the effect of the bursary should be considered at the same time.</p> <p>Any overall impact would only be properly measurable from the 2012/13 school/college year. It will be difficult to attribute a causal connection between the ending of EMA and changes in participation rates, but changes in numbers participating can be captured and attempts made to investigate causes.</p>				

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		Although the EMA was not a payment made by the local authority, the Executive/ County Council is interested in gathering intelligence on the impact and effects of its withdrawal.				
<p><u>Recommendation 3</u> Lincolnshire County Council should lobby the Government for an increase in the bursary funding allocated to Lincolnshire to recognise the specific difficulties arising from the rurality of Lincolnshire.</p>	No	We have lobbied the Government and local MPs. Schools and colleges receive the funding now to allocate to students and Government have not indicated that they will review the bursary.			Elected Members	
<p><u>Recommendation 4</u> A review of the impact of the increase in the cost of post-16 transport on student participation should be carried out by the end of March 2012.</p>	Yes	The increase in the student contribution from £199 per annum to £296 per annum became effective for post 16 learners from September 2011. The increase to the full agreed contribution to £396 was deferred until September 2012. It is a	Data on learning outcomes (courses and subjects undertaken) will be gathered and analysed this year and next.	Data - Jan 2012 & Jan 2013 Report Feb 2012 and updated Feb 2013	School Administration (John O'Connor /David Robinson) will co-ordinate and produce the reports with help from 14-19 team and the YPLA. The Rural Access to Learning	

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		<p>matter of interest to the County Council whether the increase will prevent potential students from participating in education and training. The contribution required is considered affordable and is considerably less than most other rural local authorities' charges, being in the lowest decile in the range of charges made by English rural local authorities.</p> <p>The scrutiny report indicates that the overwhelming majority of learners are not prevented from accessing learning opportunities in Lincolnshire (Scrutiny Report, p.19). The County Council subsidises education travel heavily. Of the 7% of respondents to</p>			<p>Group (RALG), supported by transport and access specialists from 40 English Rural LAs, of which Lincolnshire is a founder-member, and which has recognised expertise in this field, will be contracted and commissioned to carry out some of the work.</p>	

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		<p>the survey who indicated they were having problems in accessing education or training, around a third cited "cost". A smaller group cited "transport" as the reason.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it is not clear from the report whether or not the problems of access cited had actually <u>prevented</u> the students surveyed from participating, or whether they had made participating more difficult or more costly. It is also not clear whether the students concerned had qualified for transport support under the County Council's generous post 16 transport policy or not.</p>				
<p>Recommendation 5 A review of the impact of the changes on providing post-16</p>	Yes	With effect from September 2011, the County Council's	Data will be gathered on student	Data - Jan 2012 & Jan 2013	The report would be co-ordinated and prepared by	

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transport only to the nearest provider on student participation and drop out rates should be carried out by the end of March 2012.		transport policy changed in respect of qualifying schools and colleges for mainstream students. The policy now is to offer subsidised transport to the nearest further education college or as an alternative to the nearest school with a sixth form. Pupils already at a school with a sixth form who are entitled to transport pre - 16 will be entitled to continue to receive transport even if it is not their nearest sixth form , thus ensuring continuity. There are also safeguards for students travelling to specialist courses in the County, such as access to music, agriculture and horticulture.	participation and drop-out rates, as well as on provision and choices from September 2011. This will be analysed and compared with figures for previous years.	Report Feb 2012 and updated Feb 2013	School administration as per the proposals for recommendation 2 and 4 above.	
Recommendation 6 A review should be carried out into the possibility of a countywide post-16 learning	No	Transport in Lincolnshire, including school and college transport, is organised				

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concessionary fare scheme for young people, which is only available to young people when attending courses, training and Apprenticeships.		<p>by the county council and delivered by private sector operators who also operate the public transport network.</p> <p>The issue of a county-wide post 16 learning concessionary fare scheme has been considered at times in the past and each time found to be prohibitively expensive due to the investment in infrastructure needed to operate a concessionary scheme.</p>				
<p><u>Recommendation 7</u> The Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) team should monitor and review the quality and independence of the new careers service provided by schools from September 2012.</p>	Yes	<p>Three areas need addressing:</p> <p>1. Monitor performance via survey of young people in year 12, data on destinations and drop out rates, colleges reports on access to schools IAG programmes, take up of</p>	Gather 2011-12 data	Initial report completed by September 2012. Then annual reports produced there after	CEIAG team	

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		<p>LCC Careers Service offer.</p> <p>2. Communicate and/or offer training to schools on their responsibilities</p> <p>3. Review programmes via self assessment of schools and schools working to Career Mark</p>	<p>Run IAG subgroups and training to communicate responsibilities</p> <p>Continue to offer Career Mark support and access to online self assessment tool</p>	<p>To start December 2011 and then termly IAG network meetings</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		
<p><u>Recommendation 8</u> There should be more collaboration around provision between local authorities, schools, colleges and other post-16 providers in Lincolnshire and with neighbouring counties. The 14-19 Strategic Partnership should be requested to investigate a mechanism for ensuring this collaboration can occur.</p>	Yes	<p>Regular meetings are held between LCC Officers and neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>It is not within the remit of the 14-19 Strategic Partnership to ensure collaboration between institutions, however they can encourage it. The partnership has agreed the priorities for 2011/12 which includes collaboration within</p>	<p>Investigate ways of encouraging collaboration and remove any barriers identified</p> <p>Undertake a strategic analysis of the post 16 'offer' identifying areas where collaboration could take place. This analysis has been presented to</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 2011</p>	<p>M Freeman</p> <p>R Nelson L Smith</p>	.

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		consortia areas.	Local area partnerships and consortia. Meetings held with School Sixth Forms to identify the financial impact of the funding changes and to identify possible solutions including collaboration	Nov/Dec 2011		
<p><u>Recommendation 9</u> The gaps in post-16 learning provision that are not being addressed by collaboration should be identified and addressed by Lincolnshire County Council in partnership with the YPLA and post-16 learning providers.</p>	Yes	<p>It has been identified that there are sufficient numbers of places for the learner cohort for 2011.</p> <p>There is a process in place to identify gaps.</p>	Working through the 14-19 structures to identify and then address any gaps identified	Annual process	M Freeman	
<p><u>Recommendation 10</u> The review into post-16 provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) should be</p>	Yes	A LLDD Programme Co-ordinator has been recruited to implement the recommendations	<p>A draft strategic document/ plan is being developed.</p> <p>Links being</p>	Two years	M Reader	

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implemented, including the issues for LLDD as detailed in the report on pages 28-29.			<p>established with Post 16 providers.</p> <p>College Principals have voiced a commitment to building their capacity to meet the needs of learners with more complex needs. A Strategic planning group is being established.</p>			
<p><u>Recommendation 11</u> Lincolnshire County Council will work with post-16 learning providers to ensure that all care leavers in post-16 learning receive the 16-19 bursary funding so that they are able to continue their studies and that the other issues raised by care leavers as detailed in the report on pages 29-30, such as more access to Apprenticeships, are addressed.</p>	Yes	LCC is working with Barnardo's to agree an action plan.	<p>The development of an EET plan which includes care leavers as a group</p> <p>Barnardo's are supporting Vulnerable learners group.</p> <p>14 – 19 Team representation on the leaving care Partnership Board</p>	Nov 2011	<p>Barnardo's</p> <p>14-19 Team</p>	

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<p>Recommendation 12 Schools should be encouraged to promote all learning providers, Apprenticeship providers, and colleges as part of their Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) to help reduce the NEET figures and unemployment.</p>	Yes	<p>There is a need to give schools the means to do this. That should be met by an online prospectus of opportunities post 16</p>	<p>UCAS Progress 'Search' would need to be purchased. Decisions need to be made about how the Prospectus will be updated. This could either be by institutions themselves or through central input.</p>	<p>Start December for launch at Easter</p>	<p>John Herbert Karen Thorpe</p>	
		<p>Schools need to be aware of the value to them of their students not becoming NEET. This can be done by explaining to them the link between progression measures and the impact of this on an Ofsted inspection</p>	<p>Training given to schools at heads briefings and IAG training events</p>	<p>Start December 2011 and training planned for March and July</p>	<p>CEIAG team</p>	
		<p>Due to changes in the priorities of the National</p>	<p>Two Apprentice</p>	<p>Dec 2011</p>	<p>L Smith</p>	

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		Apprenticeship Service (NAS) a gap in promoting apprenticeships in schools was identified.	Champions have been appointed to champion Apprenticeships across Lincolnshire with young people, parents/guardians and schools			
<p><u>Recommendation 13</u> Schools and colleges should be encouraged to provide an all year round post-16 education system, which allows entry at other times during the academic year rather than just in September.</p>	Yes	<p>Colleges already have some flexibility around start dates.</p> <p>Schools would find this very difficult unless there was a significant change to the funding methodology</p>	<p>Raise this with the consortia.</p> <p>Include this in the response to the DFE funding consultation.</p>	<p>Jan 2012</p> <p>Dec 2011</p>	L Smith	
<p><u>Recommendation 14</u> The Executive should endorse and implement the action plan attached at Appendix 3 to ensure that the issues around the skills gap, lack of Apprenticeships, work experience and raising of the participation age are addressed.</p>	Yes	The Economic priorities and Learning Needs Plan has been produced and funding identified for 2011/12.	The partners deliver the plan	Mar 2012	L Smith C Hughes J Beard	

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<p><u>Recommendation 15</u> All elected members should seek to influence the mix of provision, demand and support for learners through their roles as community leaders; employers; media advocates and as governors of schools and colleges by, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Taking every opportunity to articulate to parents, young people and employers the economic needs of the county and the future trajectory of the economy ❖ Encouraging all employers to convert jobs with little training to Apprenticeships for young people ❖ Ensuring that debates about plans for growth in provision reflect the county's needs and recognise the impact on the future viability of smaller institutions of new provision by another provider 	Yes	<p>I agree all Members have a role as community leaders. We have, however, over the last 12 months made a lot of progress in this area. One area is that I am a member of the Employment & Skills Board and the Board have worked to increase the number of apprenticeships in the county. The Board have assisted in setting up an Apprenticeship Training Agency and this will help small businesses in employing apprentices. Cllr Poll also works very closely with businesses in his Executive role. This work will continue.</p>			Elected Members	