

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	Time scale	Who	Progress
<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.	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	Done. Discussed at the meetings in November and December
<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 the academic year of 2012/13. Depending on that evidence, the Executive should identify what further action should	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 students receiving the EMA in the year 2010/2011 who move into the second year of their course are entitled to	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)	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. An analysis of any changes in participation rates will be available at the next monitoring report

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be taken if required.		<p>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>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>				
Recommendation 3 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.					Elected Members	<p>Members continue to lobby through Lincolnshire MP's on a range of school funding matters.</p> <p>The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider if the Committee wishes to make additional representation to Government</p>
Recommendation 4 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	Yes	The increase in the student contribution from £199 per annum to £296 per annum became effective for post 16	Data on learning outcomes (courses and subjects undertaken) will be gathered and	Data - Jan 2012 & Jan 2013 Report	School Administration (John O'Connor /David	There is no compelling evidence that the change in transport policy has resulted in a reduction in the number of learners participating in Post-16 education and training.

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March 2012.		learners from September 2011. The increase to the full agreed contribution to £396 was deferred until September 2012. It is a 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.	analysed this year and next.	Feb 2012 and updated Feb 2013	Robinson)	<p>Transport is only one of a number of factors that could make it difficult for learners to access Post-16 provision. It is difficult to ascertain the extent to which transport prevents access for learners.</p> <p>As no baseline information existed, the survey of learners has been deferred until the start of this, the new academic year.</p>
Recommendation 5 A review of the impact of the changes on providing post-16 transport only to the nearest provider on student participation and drop out rates should be carried out by the end of March 2012.	Yes	With effect from September 2011, the County Council's 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	Data will be gathered on student 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.	Data - Jan 2012 & Jan 2013 Report Feb 2012 and updated Feb 2013	School Administration (John O'Connor /David Robinson) Lynn Smith	<p>Transport is only one of a number of factors that could affect student participation and dropout rates</p> <p>As no baseline information existed, the survey of learners has been deferred until the start of this, the new academic year.</p>

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		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.				
Recommendation 6 A review should be carried out into the possibility of a countywide post-16 learning concessionary fare scheme for young people, which is only available to young people when attending courses, training and Apprenticeships.	No	Transport in Lincolnshire, including school and college transport, is organised by the county council and delivered by private sector operators who also operate the public transport network.				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.
Recommendation 7 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.	Yes	1. Monitor performance via survey of young people in year 12, data on destinations and dropout rates, colleges' reports on access to schools IAG programmes, take up of LCC Careers Service offer.	Gather 2011-12 data	Initial report Sept 2012. Then annual reports	Mark Wilkinson	Task and finish group created to focus on supporting young people with their transitions. This will enable information on leavers from courses to be shared and young people followed up.

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		<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 Dec 2011 and then termly IAG network meetings</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Steve Walker	<p>Guidance Network Conference in December with 41 schools attending with a workshop on RPA. Five IAG network meetings held half termly across the county and attended by training providers, schools and colleges has RPA as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>42 schools access additional consultancy from CEIAG Team 29 are or intend to commission face to face guidance 18 of them will target face to face guidance on years 11,12,13 2 will make careers guidance available to their entire cohort. 30 schools will have a process so that students can self-refer for careers guidance All 35 schools had identified a senior leader to take on careers guidance work and 30 will continue to deliver careers education programmes from year 7. 13 of the schools had worked towards career mark 2011-12 20 of them were going to work towards it from 2012-13.</p> <p>33 schools are buying in a face to face careers guidance service from CfBT managed services.</p>

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						<p>6 have contracted with qualified careers guidance professionals who were former employees of either Connexions or LCC</p> <p>1 school has contracted with the Birchwood Access Centre</p> <p>Data is being gathered on the remaining 18 schools</p> <p>Overall the volume of face to face guidance being delivered is likely to be 70% less than what was previously delivered by LCC in schools at no cost to schools</p>
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Investigate ways of encouraging collaboration and remove any barriers identified</p> <p>Undertake a strategic analysis of the post 16 'offer' identifying</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 2012</p>	<p>M Freeman</p> <p>R Nelson L Smith</p>	<p>Head of Service 14-19 holds regular meetings with neighbouring Local Authorities.</p> <p>639 sixth form learners come from outside Lincolnshire, mainly from Nottinghamshire and North East Lincs.</p> <p>1084 post 16 learners left Lincolnshire to access FE; more Lincolnshire residents are taught outside the county than are taught in it with the biggest exports going to Grimsby and Kings Lynn.</p> <p>Close regional work on Post 16 high cost funding changes taking place.</p> <p>The partnership has agreed the priorities for 2012/13.</p>

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		collaboration between institutions, however they can encourage it. The LA is working hard to encourage collaboration, but schools, Academies, colleges and other providers (including charitable and third sector providers) are autonomous and independent bodies.	<p>areas where collaboration could take place.</p> <p>Meetings held with School Sixth Forms to identify the financial impact of the funding changes and to identify possible solutions</p>	Nov/Dec 2011		<p>Full post 16 collaboration takes place in: The Sleaford Joint Sixth Form (Carres and St Georges) and North Kesteven Joint Sixth Form (North Kesteven and Robert Pattinson). Some collaboration (8 courses in minority subjects) between Kings School, KGGS and Walton in Grantham Minor collaboration between Spalding High and Spalding Grammar.</p> <p>Analysis identifies the over-supply of school A Level provision, small classes and detailed opportunities for collaboration</p> <p>A review of the Post 16 funding reform 2012/13 will not result in huge differences to the funding per pupil but does raises concerns about the viability of small school sixth forms.</p>
Recommendation 9 The gaps in post-16 learning provision that are not being addressed by collaboration should be identified and addressed by Lincolnshire County Council in	Yes	It has been identified that there are sufficient numbers of places for the learner cohort for 2011.	Working through the 14-19 structures to identify and then address any gaps identified	Annual process	M Freeman	Risk that the new funding methodology could result in the loss of sub level 2 provision due to the programmes not being financially sustainable (currently 150 places are with these providers).

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partnership with the YPLA and post-16 learning providers.		There is a process in place to identify gaps.				<p>LCC is expanding its Foundation Learning provision.</p> <p>Colleges are well placed to take up any capacity and YMCA and NACRO as national organisations will also have capacity and resources to expand. GIFE could meet the gap in the north-east of the county.</p> <p>There is no need at this stage to undertake a commissioning process.</p>
Recommendation 10 The review into post-16 provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) should be implemented, including the issues for LLDD as detailed in the report on pages 28-29.	Yes	A LLDD Programme Co-ordinator has been recruited to implement the recommendations	<p>A draft strategic document/ plan is being developed.</p> <p>A Strategic planning group is established. Links being established with Post 16 providers.</p> <p>College Principals have voiced a commitment to building their</p>	2013/14	M Reader	<p>The Strategy was formally launched on Friday 21st September.</p> <p>6 Local working groups have been established to take forward the action plan. One has been successful in winning Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) Bid to support transition of learners from school to Further Education. One educational trust has been formed which will result in new provision being available in Lincoln from 2013.</p> <p>3 successful bids for Education Funding Agency (EFA) Demographic Growth Capital Fund to expand College capacity resulted</p>

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			capacity to meet the needs of learners with more complex needs.			<p>in £673,000 investment in the following colleges: Grantham College - to further develop their personal care facilities to ensure learners with complex physical and medical needs can access the college Boston college- to support the development of a new centre to meet the needs of learners with complex and profound learning difficulties and/or disabilities Lincoln college - to enable LLDD to access vocational learning and entrepreneurial activities through the development of a commercial laundry facility.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of learners (16-25) with complex needs accessing residential provision from 51 (11/12) to 25 (12/13) resulting in a saving of £1,009,506. This places LCC in a much better position for when the funding transfers to LAs from April 2013. This is because mainstream colleges have developed their provision and are supporting more learners with complex needs.</p>
Recommendation 11 Lincolnshire County Council will work with post-16 learning	Yes	LCC is working with Barnardo's to agree an action plan.	The development of an EET plan which includes care leavers	Nov 2011	Barnardo's	All schools have the EFA guide for 12/13 to Bursary Funding. All have policies and all have to complete the

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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>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>		14-19 Team	<p>mandatory returns identifying the number of learners in these groups and the amount paid to each learner.</p> <p>There have been no reports of any relevant young people not accessing the fund.</p> <p>LCC has developed a youth employment plan which identifies Care Leavers as a priority group.</p> <p>The Vulnerable learners group will work with NAS once they decide what actions they are undertaking to meet the recommendations resulting from the 'Creating an Inclusive Apprenticeship Offer' report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>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	There is a need to give schools the means to do this. That should be met by an online prospectus of opportunities post 16. 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>UCAS Progress 'Search' would need to be purchased.</p> <p>Training given to schools at heads briefings and IAG training events</p>	<p>Start Dec 11 for launch at Easter 12</p> <p>Start Dec 2011 and training planned for March and July</p>	<p>John Herbert Karen Thorpe</p> <p>CEIAG team</p>	<p>On line Prospectus launched Sept 2012.</p> <p>35 schools visited by the Apprentice Champions</p> <p>Information being given via RPA training for schools and senior leadership training in February and March. This was also covered at guidance network conference in December</p> <p>75% of Lincolnshire Schools and Academies have attended one or more briefings on the implementation of the RPA. There</p>

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		Due to changes in the priorities of the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) a gap in promoting apprenticeships in schools was identified.	Two Apprentice Champions have been appointed to champion Apprenticeships across Lincolnshire with young people, parents/guardians and schools	Dec 2011	L Smith	<p>are further sessions arranged for the academic year 2012/2013 All Schools/Academies and Special Schools have been given access to the internal tool (SHIRPA) to be used for early identification and targeting of young people at risk of NEET.</p> <p>Working with employers the champions have identified 100 additional apprenticeship places. 43 of these have been filled</p> <p>Apprentice Champions are working with school staff raising their understanding of apprenticeships. 24 staff have attended</p> <p>1000 young people accessed information about apprenticeships through young people's days at Sleaford, Lincoln, Boston and Stamford.</p>

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Recommendation 13 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.	Yes	Colleges already have some flexibility around start dates. Schools would find this very difficult unless there was a significant change to the funding methodology	Raise this with the consortia. Include this in the response to the DFE funding consultation.	Jan 2012 Dec 2011	L Smith	All year starts are now a feature at both Grantham and Boston Colleges for Level 2 and below. Apprenticeships and Independent providers have 'roll-on roll-off' provision. It has been identified that in year starts for level 3 are required
Recommendation 14 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.	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	2 ESF projects started April 2012; support for 19 – 24 LDD NEETs and 16 – 18 (19 – 24 if LDD) that are in employment with skills to help to sustain and progress. Barnardo's providing work readiness, emotional support and soft skills development for Care Leavers. 45 work preparation 12 attended life skills 37 currently being supported 13 young people on CLAS A new apprentice training agency (ATA) has been procured that will increase the number of Apprentice places by helping small businesses overcome recruitment barriers. 4 Apprentices placed with three businesses 4 businesses in the process of taking on an Apprentice each

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						Work to better understand the skills needs of employers is being undertaken by the Skills Board and LCC (Economy), results being fed into the 14-19 teams.
Recommendation 15 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: <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 			To be decided by CYP Scrutiny		Elected Members	LCC is working with Economic Development and Human Resources to increase employment opportunities for young people within the Council The Council has a well-publicised and assessed apprenticeship and graduate programme Members of the Committee are asked to consider how they wish to complement this at a ward level to take this recommendation forward so best practice can be shared.

