

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 January 2013
Subject:	The Lincoln University Technical College

Summary:

1. This report summarises the imperatives previously identified by the Committee for learning provision better matched to the needs of the economy.
2. It introduces the new sub-regional 'Lincoln University Technical College' (UTC) that will be explored further at the meeting by senior representatives of the University of Lincoln; Lincoln College and Siemens (UK) plc who are its sponsors.

Actions Required:

The Committee is requested to receive the presentation and to question the UTC sponsors.

1. Background

In September 2011, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee considered a substantial report prepared by a sub-group of its own members entitled "Improving Access to Post-16 Learning Provision in Lincolnshire". The conclusions of the Report included:

"There is a mismatch between the skills required by Lincolnshire businesses and the local economy, and what young people are studying. There is a need for more employer engagement in post-16 learning."

and

"There is a role for Lincolnshire County Council, at both Councillor and officer level, to promote the future labour market needs of Lincolnshire's economy and the wide ranging post-16 options available, in particular the vocational and Apprenticeships routes, to employers, parents and young people across Lincolnshire."

In response to this, a Skills and Learning Action Plan was drawn-up and appeared as Appendix 3 to the original report. It appears as Appendix A to this report. Recommendation 14 of the "Improving Access to Post-16 Learning Provision in Lincolnshire" report was to adopt and implement the Skills and Learning Action

Plan. This recommendation was accepted by Executive on 04 October 2011 and subsequently implemented. Progress reports to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have been scheduled.

One of the principal tenets of the plan was to work towards a better match between learning opportunities and the needs of the future economy. Section 3.5 required officers to “Work with FE and Universities to consider University Technical College proposals in target areas and sectors”.

University Technical Colleges (UTC) are academies for students aged 14 to 19 which specialise in technical studies and that are sponsored by a university. They offer full time courses for all abilities that combine practical and academic studies. Employers are involved from the start in shaping the curriculum.

There are considerable opportunities for economic growth in Lincolnshire and beyond in both Engineering and in the Sciences (notably pharmaceutical sciences). The University of Lincoln, Lincoln College and Siemens UK plc have been successful in a bid to the Department for Education to open a University Technical College in Lincoln in September 2014. The UTC will be a sub-regional facility accessible to young people of all abilities from across Lincolnshire and the surrounding areas.

Nick Muntz, Managing Director of Siemens UK in Lincoln; Mary Stuart, Vice Chancellor of Lincoln University and John Allen, Principal of Lincoln College will make a short presentation to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee about the Lincoln sub-regional UTC (Appendix B) explaining how it will operate and will be able to answer the Committee’s questions.

2. Conclusion

The Lincoln sub-regional UTC will help address several of the Committee’s key concerns about access by young people to appropriate progression routes into jobs that have a real future in Lincolnshire and beyond. This will enable more young people to achieve economic well-being for themselves and their families; to take advantage of new and existing opportunities in growth areas and compete for higher level professional and technical jobs in what will be an increasingly competitive labour market-place.

3. Consultation

Policy Proofing Actions Required

None

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	The Learning and Skills Action Plan from the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Report “Improving Access to Post-16 Learning

	Provision in Lincolnshire” of September 2011
Appendix B	A presentation by Nick Muntz, Managing Director of Siemens UK in Lincoln; Mary Stuart, Vice Chancellor of Lincoln University and John Allen, Principal of Lincoln College about the Lincoln sub-regional UTC.

5. Background Papers

“Improving Access to Post-16 Learning Provision in Lincolnshire”, Lincolnshire County Council’s Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee, September, 2011 available at:

<http://pai.lincolnshire.gov.uk:8080/minicms/CommRecDisplay.do;jsessionid=949C45947AA70F55FA7B5AE952CEF542?documentDescription=APPENDIX+A+TO+REPORT+5.0&extension=pdf&reportReference=5.0&location=VOLUME1&docId=1803468&documentType=Appendix&meetingRef=2996>

Decision Notice by Executive 04 October 2011 available at:

<http://pai.lincolnshire.gov.uk:8080/minicms/CommRecDisplay.do;jsessionid=4A9D9A3F32A70DA779F5ED7AE628D456?documentDescription=IMPROVING+ACCESS+TO+POST-16+LEARNING+PROVISION+IN+LINCOLNSHIRE+SCRUTINY+REVIEW+&extension=pdf&reportReference=11.0&location=VOLUME1&docId=1820500&documentType=Decision+Notice&meetingRef=3019>

Information about University Technical Colleges can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/technical>

and at

<http://www.utcolleges.org/>

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Appendix 1: The Learning and Skills Action Plan from the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Report “Improving Access to Post-16 Learning Provision in Lincolnshire” of September 2011

Skills and Learning Action Plan (Originally appearing as Appendix 3 in the Scrutiny report)

Targeted Intervention to Promote Access to Coherent Progression Routes

Priority	Action	Lead Organisation			
1. Identify target sectors and geographical areas	1.1 Identify economic needs/skills gaps geographically	Economy & Culture			
	1.2 Identify provision needs compared with demand geographically	14-19 Team			
	1.3 Identify target areas with regard to deprivation and child poverty	Children's Commissioning Team			
	1.4 Identify target areas for promotion of routes into specific economic growth areas	Economy & Culture			

Priority	Action	Lead Organisation			
2. Promote learning routes into target sectors	2.1 Market progression routes directly to young people, parents, carers and employers in target areas	Employment & Skills Board (ESB) and Economy & Culture			
	2.2 Involve employers in the promotion of progression routes with a special focus on apprenticeships				
	2.3 Enhance and disseminate Labour Market Information (LMI) available to learners, parents, carers and teachers in target areas				
	2.4 Provide training to staff in the use of targeted LMI in willing schools (FOC)	14-19 CEIAG Team			
	2.5 Work with schools to help them prepare for the transfer of statutory advice and guidance to schools from Sept 2012				

Priority	Action	Lead Organisation			
3. Map and fill gaps in provision 14 - 16	3.1 Map the routes available into identified job areas in each target geographical area	14-19 Team			
	3.2 Work with willing schools to adapt provision to fill gaps 14 - 16				
	3.3 Commission provision from FE/IPP and offer this to schools at a subsidised rate				
	3.4 Commission and offer a new Lincolnshire Student Apprenticeship scheme(with linked work experience and employability skills development) in identified areas				
	3.5 Work with FE and Universities to consider University Technical College proposals in target areas and sectors	14-19 Team			
4. Map and fill gaps in provision 16 - 19 and target sector vocational learning for 16 - 19 year olds	4.1 Map the routes available into identified job areas in each target geographical area	14-19 Team			
	4.2 Work with willing schools/FE/Providers to adapt provision to fill gaps 16 - 19				
	4.3 Cultivate and market FE provision in target sectors through formal competition where necessary				
	4.4 Cultivate and market IPP provision in target sectors through formal competition where necessary				

Priority	Action	Lead Organisation			
5. Increase the availability of apprenticeships	5.1 Include apprenticeships requirements in LCC contracting above an agreed value in each target area	Children's Commissioning Team			
	5.2 Establish and fund two Apprentice Training Associations (ATS): one in the North of the County and one in the South	Employment & Skills Board (ESB) Economy & Culture			
	5.3 Appoint two Apprenticeship Champions working with the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and ATs to work with employers to encourage conversion of jobs with training to apprenticeships in each target area	14-19 Team working through the Work Based Academy (WBA)			
	5.4 Development budget for Apprenticeship Champions	14-19 Team			
6. Ensure access to higher level learning in target sectors	6.1 Fund and target work related learning, work experience and employability inputs to support targeted geographical and sectoral areas Free of Charge to providers	Possible ESF funded. Possibly EBP			
	6.2 Support introduction to HE and involvement of HE in progression route development in target areas	HE institutions expected to do this as part of their Widening Participation			
	6.3 Ensure progression routes can lead to accessible higher level (L4 & 5) learning in target areas	14-19 Team			
	6.4 Ensure that HE and FE play a full role in opportunity awareness raising	14-19 Team			
	6.5 Develop employer mentoring for nominated young people in target areas	EBP			
7. Ensure economic drivers, apprenticeships and other linked learning opportunities are well understood	7.1 Ensure coherence in press and media coverage of the agenda through regular briefings to the media, press officers, elected members, MPs, senior officers and the new 'Careers Service'	EBP			
	7.2 Appoint two Apprenticeship Champions to co-ordinate all apprenticeship activity, one based with each ATA	14-19 Team			

Targeted Support into Mainstream Opportunities for the most Needy

Priority	Action	Lead Organisation			
8. Targeted support into mainstream opportunities for the most needy	8.1 Develop robust multi-agency transition plans and pathways for vulnerable Young People. Transition plans to commence at Year 9 and to be reviewed annually as a minimum.	LCC Transitions Board			
	8.2 Specifically review EET pathways for future care leavers to increase opportunities within mainstream provision	Leaving Care Service - Barnados			
	8.3 Identify groups and categories of 16-18 year olds with the greatest difficulty in accessing 16-19 learning provision (e.g. Sleaford Foyer, Care Leavers)	LCC Children's Locality Teams			
	8.4 Establish systems to remove barriers to access of learning provision for vulnerable groups e.g. facilitate enhanced financial support to enable individuals in these groups to participate in mainstream provision (e.g. extra support for transport)	LCC Children's Locality Teams			
	8.5 Identify Families with Complex Needs with Young People at risk of none engagement. Target work to engage the YP at risk.	Community Budget Pilot Project Board			
	8.6 Develop Apprenticeship opportunities for Vulnerable Young People via Social Responsibility Clauses in large County Council contracts.	Children's Commissioning Team			
	8.7 Develop Apprenticeship opportunities for Vulnerable Young People within the County Council and with other public sector key partners e.g. Health, District Councils	14-19 Team			
	8.8 Establish mentoring scheme involving employers who take on vulnerable young people	EBP			
	8.9 Work with local employers and the appropriate ATA to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities in target sectors	14- 19 Team (through the Apprenticeship Champion)			
	8.10 Use mentoring scheme to bespoke introductions of mentored individuals to apprenticeship opportunities	EBP			
	8.11 Increase learning opportunities for LLDD to enable them to study in their local area and improve outcomes into employment and independent living	14-19 Team			

Priority	Action	Lead Organisation			
8. Targeted support into mainstream opportunities for the most needy	8.12 Commission specifically, employability support programmes for the most deprived groups in geographical areas where no such provision exists.	EBP?			
9. Ensure that the Local Authorities responsibilities for vulnerable young people are met	9.1 Co-ordinate the work of Children's Services localities teams and Careers Service to ensure that individuals from vulnerable groups are supported into learning at 16 and retained to 17 (from 2013) and 18 (from 2015)	LCC Children's Locality Teams			
	9.2 Ensure that provision needs of vulnerable young people are communicated to inform commissioning needs	LCC Children's Locality Teams			
10. Support Schools to fulfil their new statutory responsibilities for the support and careers guidance of young people from April 2012	10.1 Work with secondary schools to develop capabilities with regard to the early identification of learners at risk of non-participation at 16	14-19 Team			
	10.2 Work with schools to help them develop interventions for learners at risk of non-participation	14-19 Team			
	10.3 Mount a direct publicity and information campaign with a local dimension leading up to the first year of RPA (2013)	EBP			
	10.4 Ensure provision mix is sufficient to meet 100% participation	14 - 19 Team			