

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 10th JANUARY 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

RAISING EXPECTATIONS: ENABLING THE SYSTEM TO DELIVER MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES

NATIONAL COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the proposed processes and guidance around the post-16 Commissioning Cycle as outlined in the National Commissioning Framework.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Machinery of Government changes announced on 28th June 2007 proposed that funding for 16-18 education and training would be delivered through Local Authorities. Legislation has now passed through Parliament. The LSC will be dissolved from April 2010 when the commissioning and funding of post-16 provision will transfer to the Local Authority.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum at the 30th September 2009 meeting received a report outlining the objectives of these changes, the main features, the links to 14-19 curriculum reforms, the role of the LA for post-16 commissioning and the stages of the transition process.

2. National Commissioning Framework

- 2.1 Consultation on the proposed National Commissioning Framework (NCF) was published on 16th November 2009.
- 2.2 The document is a draft of the National Commissioning Framework for new planning, commissioning and funding systems for the education and training of:
 - young people aged 16-19;
 - those aged 19-25 for whom a learning difficulty assessment is in place;
 - education and training for children and young people in youth custody aged 10-18.
- 2.3 The NCF has been developed and shaped through discussions with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Local Government Association, the Association of Colleges and others through a number of testing and dry run exercises.
- 2.4 Consultation lasts until 5th February 2010. Comments will be considered a formal consultation response will be published by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).

- 2.5 As explained at the last meeting of the Schools Forum, there is a sub-regional work stream to look at the commissioning issues and processes. Wirral LA leads on this work stream for the Merseyside sub-regional group. It was agreed at the last meeting of that work stream group that individual LAs in Merseyside would not respond to the NCF but that it would be done through the work stream group. The work stream group also includes representatives from colleges, schools and providers and their responses will also be incorporated into the response to the consultation.
- 2.6 The work stream group is meeting on 22nd January to finalise its response to the consultation.
- 2.7 It was agreed at the 14-19 Partnership meeting of 14th January 2010 that a draft of the work stream group's response would be circulated to that group so any additional contributions can be captured.
- 2.8 The Schools Forum at the September meeting agreed that the response from the work stream group and Wirral 14-19 Partnership should constitute Wirral's response
- 2.9 The NCF is attached with this report.
- 2.10 Broadly speaking the processes outlined in the NCF marry with the Business Cycle currently used by the LSC and which school sixth forms, colleges and providers are all familiar. There are details of operation that need to be teased out and clarified. Discussions at the work stream group have focused more on these rather than questioning the process as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Schools Forum:

1. notes the National Commissioning Framework and the opportunity to respond to the consultation