

Greater Merseyside Sub Regional Grouping Second Stage Application

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1 Introduction

The proposal for a Greater Merseyside Sub-regional grouping is made on the basis of supporting the implementation of the 14-19 reforms around broadening curriculum choice and raising participation. It is closely aligned to improvements in information, advice and guidance and developing learner choice.

The model of governance has been submitted to each Cabinet in the six local authorities in Greater Merseyside for approval.

The submission is made on behalf of the six local authorities on Greater Merseyside, after consultation with the local area of Learning and Skills Council, Merseyside Colleges Association, Greater Merseyside Learning Providers network and 14-19 Partnerships. Secondary school networks in each borough have also been kept informed of this development.

The submission seeks to meet the criteria identified in the second stage guidance published by the DCSF in December 2008. The Greater Merseyside Sub regional grouping wishes to obtain model (b) as soon as possible and the proposals in this document seek to demonstrate a preparedness for this.

Greater Merseyside has strong active 14-19 Partnerships in each borough. It also has a strong and well developed record of collaboration of Directors of Children Services through the Learn Together Partnership established in 2002 with the support of the Innovations Unit.

There are excellent relationships between DCS and the local LSC and the acting Area Director of Greater Merseyside LSC has attended 4 LTP meetings since September 2008 to support planning the transition.

There is also a long history of partnership working between providers at a Greater Merseyside level. This is evidenced by the Greater Merseyside Colleges Association which supports a partnership between FE and sixth form colleges and the Greater Merseyside Learning Provider Network which is a partnership of work base learning providers. The Action Plan attached supports this submission and contains a programme of support for transition that is designed to help Greater Merseyside implement the full range of 14-19 reforms, including the raising of the participation age, the entitlement to diplomas and apprenticeships and the transition of funding.

2 Values

The Directors of Children Services have consulted their stakeholders on the values identified here as the basis for supporting the transfer of 16-19 funding from the LSC to local authorities.

We are committed to

1. Improving outcomes for all young people who will always be at the centre of what we will do.
2. Ensuring that the voice of the learner is heard; that learners are treated with respect; and that their individual needs are recognised.
3. Ensuring that a full range of high quality and accessible provision is available to meet the needs of **all** young people in the sub-region, including vulnerable and hard to reach groups.
4. Ensuring appropriate and impartial information advice and guidance is made available for all young people aged 14-19 and up until the age of 25 for those young people with learning disabilities and difficulties.
5. Joint accountability for the implementation of Machinery of Government changes and will work together, and with providers and other stakeholders, in a spirit of openness, co-operation, transparency and trust.
6. Ensuring a seamless transfer of responsibilities from the Learning and Skills Council to Local Authorities in the interests both of learners and provider organisations.
7. Developing and implementing an equitable approach towards all providers, recognising the value of a diverse range of provision and the different strengths and contribution that each provider brings.

3 Summary

The Governance of sub regional grouping seeks to locate the key decision making on planning and commissioning with each Children Trust. However given the nature of travel to learn patterns such decisions will be supported and informed by a strong sub regional structure. The drivers for the model proposed are the statutory duties placed on each Director of Children Service for ensuring the participation of 16-18 year olds as well as the statutory duties to ensure access to the full range of diplomas and apprenticeships.

The submission proposes the establishment of a formal sub regional grouping, the Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive with powers to develop an aggregated Greater Merseyside 16-19 commissioning plan based on the

individual borough plans. A key element of this aggregation will be an analysis of travel to learn patterns and a testing of how robust local plans are.

The Executive will develop a common commissioning framework which will align national statement of priorities, strategic needs analysis and the LCR Skills Strategy. This Executive will establish targets across the six boroughs linked to the implementation of the 14-19 reforms and which will raise key outcomes for young people in the six boroughs. The Executive will consider what capacity needs to be developed at a sub regional level to support this planning. Any seconded staffing to support sub regional working would sit alongside any staff that supports the Multi Area Agreement Employment and Skills strand.

The proposed commissioning process seeks coherence, commonality of treatment, transparency and speed in decision making processes.

In our consultation with stakeholders there was an anxiety expressed that we could introduce complicated layers into the decision making process and this would have a negative impact both for learning providers in Greater Merseyside and the young people they serve. The proposals outlined here seek to balance local accountability and inclusive decision making with the need for quick decision making in certain circumstances.

There were also concerns expressed by key stakeholders that the new arrangements need to treat all providers equally and we were tasked to ensure any performance criteria for all providers of post 16-19 is on a equal footing .We will work with LSC colleagues to ensure any commissioning decision is informed by the same set of criteria for all providers of 16-19 provision.

Performance management and commissioning intelligence at a sub regional level will also be shared to support those institutions and organisations that provide both pre19 learning and post 19 learning.

We foresee that the proposed sub regional grouping will develop over the transition period. The transfer of funding for 16-19 is due to take place by September 2010 subject to the passing of legislation in 2009.. We know that there will be further guidance from the DCSF as well as further discussions with our stakeholders across the Liverpool City region.

This submission is based on the recognition that many of the proposals outlined here will evolve in consultation as a result of these discussions. In the action plan attached to this report we outline the actions we envisage to implement the transitions.

The Action Plan has a central principle of ongoing review and we indicate that one of the first acts of the sub-regional grouping will be to ensure that we are on track to implement the transition. The key determinant of such reviews is how we best serve the values identified above.

4 Governance of Commissioning

4.1 Decision making processes

The proposed governance of commissioning seeks to place the key decisions in planning and commissioning 16-19 learning closest to the learner at each borough level. Providers can expect to have a single 16-19 commissioning conversation with their host local authority. However planning, commissioning and provider dialogue will occur within the support of a strong sub regional grouping which will set a common commissioning framework based on a standard set of performance criteria and a sub-regional skills strategy.

The establishment of Liverpool City Region Cabinet and the development of a Greater Merseyside Employment and Skills Board offer the opportunity for planning and funding of 16-19 provision across Greater Merseyside to tie in with an increased sub-regional focus on employment and skills, economic development, transport, health and housing. The decisions and operation of the sub-regional grouping would be subject to the developing scrutiny arrangements of the Liverpool City Region as well as the scrutiny of individual borough Children Trusts and borough councils.

Given the longstanding nature of the Learn Together partnership and the understanding and trust between individual authorities and their Directors of Children Services we are not anticipating disputes between authorities to arise from the proposed arrangements. However if disputes cannot be resolved by the Executive group the proposed memoranda of understanding will contain formal mechanisms for the resolution.

Terms of reference for each Children's Trust, the Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive will be drawn up. There will be a memorandum of understanding between the six local authorities which identifies the powers of the Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive to submit the draft Greater Merseyside 16-19 Commissioning Plan and powers of each Director of Children services in consultation with the Cabinet member for Children Services to agree the final 16-19 Commissioning plan for each borough.

The memorandum of understanding will also contain the powers between each council across the Liverpool City Region in dealing with any disputes that might arise between boroughs relating to 16-19 funding. The formal ratification of such terms of reference will be submitted for agreement by the six local authorities once the outcome of this submission is known.

Each of the six Cabinets in Greater Merseyside is considering in the current cycle the proposal that each borough will have the lead role in commissioning. (Variation 3). 5 boroughs have agreed this proposal. The sixth awaits a Cabinet decision on the 19th March. We will relay the outcome of that decision to the Government Office of the North West at the relevant time.

4.2 Commissioning Cycle

Greater Merseyside Directors have already agreed to pool some of the days allocated by the DCSF Commissioning Support programme to support the development of a common commissioning framework. We intend to continue working with the regional support for commissioning in order to design the commissioning framework.

The Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive would aggregate borough targets for improved outcomes for young people. These would relate to increased participation, raised achievement at 19 years of age and increasing numbers taking up new curriculum entitlements as a result of the implementation of the 14-19 reforms. The Executive would also monitor positive progression at 19 into employment and higher education. There would also be monitoring of the outcomes for targeted groups such as care leavers 18-24 and young people with LLDD 16-25. The commissioning framework would support the achievement of the outcomes set by the 14-19 Executive.

The cycle of commissioning would seek to combine the strategic analysis of each area, the Liverpool City Region Skills strategy and the national statement of priorities. It would also be informed by wider employer feedback from Chambers of Commerce, large employers and other employer networks and coalitions. Key stakeholders are sector skills councils. The framework would also capture the feedback from young people on the provision commissioned. Other agencies such as the RDA and Connexions would also be given the opportunity to inform the commissioning process.

Each borough would use the commissioning framework and provider performance in terms of recruitment and learner outcomes around value added to develop individual borough 16-19 commissioning plans these commissioning plans would contain both the commissioning priorities for residents in the borough as well as the projected volumes for providers in each borough.

The six plans would be aligned through a Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive Group consisting of DCS from the six local authorities. This alignment would result in a single overarching Greater Merseyside 16-19 Commissioning Plan. The draft plan would contain the provisional overall volumes and allocation to each provider in Greater Merseyside. This would be submitted in draft form to the Young People Learning Agency and Regional Planning Group.

Any comments or proposed modifications to the Greater Merseyside 16-19 commissioning plan made in light of comments from YPLA or the Regional Planning group would be submitted for the final decision of each borough's Director of Children Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member for Children Services under powers delegated (which will be formalised in the memoranda of understanding).

This commissioning model seeks to capture the strength of borough and sub regional approaches while balancing it against speedy decision making. It can be described as broad and inclusive on the way up to regional and YPLA submission but then speedy and quick in dealing with any proposed changes arising from the region's comments.

4.3 Travel to learn and working with other sub regional groupings particularly Cheshire and Warrington, Lancashire and Greater Manchester

We anticipate that informal discussions will take place with neighbouring authorities both within and outside the Greater Merseyside sub region to inform the planning assumptions for each local authority area plan.

The Executive Group will assess travel to learn patterns across the sub region and beyond. It will test the underlying assumptions around each borough's plans and the assumptions about travel to learn. The outcome of these discussions will be reflected in the sub regional plan.

The Executive will enter a formal dialogue with neighbouring sub regional groupings to facilitate planning and commissioning for young people from Greater Merseyside who travel outside of Greater Merseyside (currently 7% of 16-19 in learning).

4.4 Supporting Learners (aged 16-25) with a Learning Difficulty and/or Disability (LLDD)

We anticipate that the planning and commissioning of learning for young people aged between 16 and 25 with a learning difficulty and/or disability will occur at three levels. Borough commissioning plans will carry the majority of learning opportunities. However there will be scope both at a sub regional and regional level for securing more specialist provision.

The Regional LSC has already a regional group to look at the implications of ensuring a smooth transition of planning and funding for this important group of young people. The Action Plan also indicates the establishment of a sub regional working group which will support both the regional group as well as individual boroughs in developing commissioning for this group.

4.5 Transitional arrangements

We recognise that shadow and transitional arrangements will be in place for commissioning of 16-19 learning provision for 2010/2011 which is due to start later in 2009. We will be working with colleagues in the Learning and Skills Council to ensure a smooth transition which enables a widest opportunities of learning provision for young people.. The DCSF website indicates further guidance on 16-19 Commissioning will be published. This will be reflected in future development of the commissioning process.

However for 2011/2012 the arrangements identified above will be in full force Table 1 describes how the commissioning cycle might work but this will be developed in full consultation with providers as part of the commissioning group's activity

Table 1 Proposed 16-19 Commissioning Timetable 2011/2012

Date	Borough Level	Greater Merseyside
Summer 2010	Discussions with all providers on 2009 recruitment and likely achievement and plans for Autumn 2010 and 2011. Results from Framework for excellence to be included.	Employment and Skills Board agrees Greater Merseyside Skill Priorities Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive agree 16-19 Commissioning framework in light of skill priorities
October 2010	2009/10 Achievement reported by providers 20010/11 recruitment reported by providers	
November 2010	Providers submit planned numbers for 2011/12 Borough 14-19 officers discuss performance, recruitment and plans with providers 14-19 Plans drafted Borough 14-19 Plans finalised to include 16-19(25) commissioning plan as a separate component	Greater Merseyside 14-19 officers informally moderate volumes in borough plan and identify issues for each borough
December 2010	Draft Borough 14-19 plan signed off by Children and Young Peoples Trust	
January 2011		Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive combine each individual borough into a draft Greater Merseyside 16-19 commissioning plan (formally moderating volumes across sub region and dealing with travel to learn issues)
February 2011		Greater Merseyside 16-19 commissioning plan submitted to Regional Planning group and YPLA
March 2011	Response by YPLA/Regional Planning Group to each individual boroughs component Each DCS agrees 16-19 commissioning plan on behalf of CYP Trust Funding for each provider is allocated against the final commissioning plan	Greater Merseyside 16-19 commissioning plan is revised in light of individual decisions and then monitored by Greater Merseyside 14-19 executive

Summer 2011	Discussions by with all providers on recruitment. achievement and plans for 2010 and 2011	Employment and Skills Board revise Greater Merseyside Skill Priorities for 2012 Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive revise 16-19 Commissioning framework in light of skill priorities
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Greater Merseyside has two major challenges in planning and commissioning 16-19 provision. The first challenge is to raise the level of participation: currently around 20% of 16-18 years old do not participate in learning .To engage those young people there will need to be active support in each borough and across the sub region. One of the aims of the sub –regional commissioning framework will be develop and support learning for young people who currently don't participate.

The second challenge is the large drop in cohort up until 2015. This will need to be planned through an active engagement of all partners through Children Trusts but in the end hard decisions will need to adopt through the moderation of the Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive. However the final decision on volumes and commissioning will rest with individual Children and Trusts and each individual DCS.

5 Collaboration and Strategic Contribution

5.1 Key Strategic Drivers and Targets

The commissioning framework that we plan to devise will be based on a full engagement with a wide group of stakeholders. We also seek to align it with key strategic drivers across each borough and the sub region. The development of the Liverpool City Region enables the commissioning framework to take place within a demand led approach based on the Employment and Skills Board and its Skills Strategy.

The inclusive approach to developing commissioning plans will ensure alignment with each borough's Children and Young Peoples Plan as well as the Sustainable Communities Plan including Local Area Agreements.

We intend to identify key targets at a borough and a Greater Merseyside level associated with these plans for 14-19 around

Reducing NEET

Raising Level 2 and level 3 achievement at 19

Improving Progression at 18/19 into HE and employment

Specific Outcomes for targeted groups of young people such as Care leavers and young people with LDD

And increased numbers participating in diplomas, foundation learning tier qualifications and apprenticeships.

5.2 Consultation with Stakeholders

5.2.1 Consultation with providers of learning

The submission is based in part on the results of consultation with the local area of Learning and Skills Council, Merseyside Colleges Association, Greater Merseyside Learning Providers network and 14-19 Partnerships. A Learn Together Partnership event was held on the 15 December 2008. The summary of comments from this event and the list of attendees are on the Learn Together website. 14-19 Partnerships in each borough have been involved in the discussion around these proposals as well as school networks in each borough.

The relationships between Local authorities and FE and sixth form colleges are good on Merseyside and we welcome the national protocol between the Local Government association (LGA), the Association of Colleges (AOC) and the Association of Directors of Children Services (ADCS). We also welcome the emphasis in this protocol on partnership, communication, governance and the joint ownership of outcomes. The cornerstone of our Greater Merseyside Commissioning framework will be quality and improving outcomes for young people and we will endeavour to support all providers assure the quality of their provision through the developing "*Framework for Excellence*". One of the tasks identified in the Action Plan is awareness rising among LA staff on post 16 quality issues as well as the planned partner event in the summer through the Learn Together Partnership.

There are three specific events through the Learn Together Partnership. The first we are holding in March to develop the partnership's understanding on the MAA on employment and skills. We are particularly pleased that many of our work based learning partners are attending this event. The second event in the summer is planned to look at measuring quality 16-19 which will be particularly targeted at schools and colleges. The third is scheduled for autumn 2009 and will look at consulting partners across Greater Merseyside on the proposed Greater Merseyside 16-19 Commissioning framework.

Providers of learning whether they are work base learning providers, schools, further education and sixth form colleges have an expertise in engaging and supporting learners with a wide range of abilities and needs. We need to tap this expertise in our planning arrangements both in preparing for transition but also in delivering the 14-19 reforms. We have started the dialogue with them on how we best do this. We will use the next 12 months to ensure that they co-design the arrangements we collectively put in place to ensure the full participation of 16-18 year olds in learning

5.2.2 Consultation with Young People

We will ensure that mechanisms currently in place in each borough for consulting young people will be used. First of all this will be on the development of a Greater Merseyside Commissioning Framework and in particular how the voice of young people can be built into developing the commissioning framework as well as their active involvement in commissioning processes.

5.2.3 Consultation with Parents/Carers (particularly parents/carers of young people with LDD)

One of the key constituents for the planned change is parents and we will seek to raise awareness and seek parent involvement in planning 16-19 provision. One of the work streams we seek to establish on a greater Merseyside level is looking at planning provision for 16-25 year olds with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The engagement of parents of such young people will be a central element of this work stream.

5.2.4 Consultation with Employers

We will be seeking to capture the employer voice in several ways. We will consult employers themselves on how the best way for their voice to be heard through the emerging structures. Subject to such discussion we anticipate that employers' voice will come through four main routes. First of all the views of employers will be sought for the development of the employment and skills strategy. Secondly employer representatives will sit on the Employment and Skills Board. Thirdly we will engage at a sub-regional level with each sector skills council. Finally there are arrangements within each 14-19 Partnership for capturing the views of employers.

5.2.5 Working with the Learning and Skills Council

The Greater Merseyside Directors of Children Services see dialogue with the Learning and Skills Council as vital to ensure a seamless transfer of responsibilities. There are at least five elements to this

- 1) Understanding current LSC commissioning processes and decisions
- 2) Help and support with the skills audit (identified in the Action plan)
- 3) Putting in place transitional arrangements for 2010/2011 through shadow 14-19 teams to be established in September 2009
- 4) Working jointly to transfer staff in the course of 2010
- 5) Working with regional LSC staff to support data, performance information ,regional planning issues and in particular support for 16-25 young people with LLDD

We will continue this important dialogue and expect to establish shadowing arrangements later in 2009. We also want to align discussions with regional LSC staff and staff from the Regional Development Agency

6 Resources and Capacity

The Greater Merseyside sub regional grouping will be established to implement the full breadth of 14-19 reforms including full roll out of diplomas, the introduction of foundation learning tier, the expansion of apprenticeships, as well as the implementation of the raising of the participation age.

In order to support this ambitious programme of change a full skills audit will be conducted in the course of early summer 2009 to identify which skills are needed to support the transfer of funding and commissioning responsibilities as well as the wider 14-19 reform agenda. This audit will help facilitate the transfer of LSC staff who are designated as 14-19 staff as well as help LA's prepare capacity to implement the full range of 14-19 reforms.

We recognise the need to consult with all staff involved and their relevant trade unions both in the local authorities and in the LSC .We indicate our readiness to meet with relevant staff and or their representatives at the appropriate time. It is our intention to move to a shadowing arrangement as soon as possible after September 2009 and then establish enhanced 14-19 teams in each local authority from as soon as possible in 2010.

Data sharing protocols will be part of the memorandum of understanding between the six local authorities.

There will be a nominated senior officer in each Council's Treasury department to ensure that the transfer of funding will be smooth and efficient and will implement a training programme in 2009 and 2010 to ensure that staff is adequately prepared for this.

Greater Merseyside DCS firmly believe that through its preparatory work to date and the actions identified in this submission and its accompanying action plan that Greater Merseyside demonstrate a readiness to move to model (b) in 2010.

7 Policy and Planning

Work streams to support transition

The Action Plan outlines several work streams in order to secure proper transition. In the following areas:

- data
- LLDD
- legal and financial arrangements
- staffing
- commissioning
- E-prospectus and common application form

For the latter we will work through the current Greater Merseyside Common Application Process Steering Group.

We will continue to work with colleagues establishing the Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board to get f to get a better understanding of learning infrastructure on Greater Merseyside and the important relationship between pre19 and post 19 learning..

7.2 Locating Transfer of 16-19 in the 14-19 Reforms

As indicated the transition can only be achieved successfully if it is part of a wider set of curriculum reforms for 14-19. In order to do this we need to instigate a review of membership, role and structure of each 14-19 partnership particularly against the challenges from the implementation of these reforms. These challenges are the move to a formal commissioning role of Children Trusts and the relationship of 14-19 partnerships to this change.

The need for an inclusive approach to identifying commissioning needs within each borough and in particular the demands of developing new curriculum opportunities through foundation learning tier (FLT), new diplomas and apprenticeships. Each borough will need to develop a 14-19 Plan, a part of which will be a 16-19 Commissioning plan. It is proposed that each partnership reviews its role in light of Children Trust developments and the broader changes associated with 14-19 reforms. Such reviews will include planning and delivery to ensure that adequate support arrangements such as information, advice and guidance and transport are in place to secure entitlement and raise participation. We note the specific changes on planning transport to Local authorities outlined in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill. We are in preliminary discussions with Merseytravel in anticipation of these changes.

We will formalise the current Greater Merseyside support arrangements for diploma development. This consists of sharing good practice and developing support in curriculum delivery. We will establish a Greater Merseyside Diploma plan which will indicate will institutions are delivering which lines up until the full roll out in 2013.

As part of our preparation for transition we will establish a Greater Merseyside 16-19 Data group comprising LSC and Local authority staff. This will support the establishment of a commissioning framework by looking at cohort data for Greater Merseyside schools and travel to learn patterns. It will also seek to establish datasets around the targets we propose to set on achievement, participation and progression. These targets are likely to be collected at borough/ sub-regional level for the following:

- NEET 16-18
- Level 2 at 19
- Level 3 at 19
- Progression to HIM at 18/19
- Progression to employment at 18/19
- EET figures for care leavers 18-24
- EET figures for LLDD 16-25
- % of young people on diplomas
- % of young people on FLT
- % of young people on apprenticeships

As indicated earlier the final work stream we want to establish is a group to plan and support the development of commissioning for 16-25 young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This group will support the work of the regional group established by the LSC for supporting LDD.

We will work the Employment and Skills Board to develop a Skills Strategy which will look at both supply and demand. One of the outcomes of the tracking/shadowing work with the LSC will be a greater understanding of the learning infrastructure across Greater Merseyside.

There are already arrangements for supporting the introduction of the e-prospectus and on line application the CAP Steering group. This is convened by the LSC .We intends to use this Group to establish a Greater Merseyside prospectus and a fully operational on line application service.

8 Conclusion

The second stage submission is put forward on the basis on the values identified to support the transfer of funding for learning provision at 16-19 as well as raise the proportion of young people attending such provision. It sets out new governance and commissioning arrangements for 16-19 which builds a greater awareness of each local authority of the learning needs of young people .It also sets out a series of actions to help achieve a smooth transition which will enable provision to be secured and learner outcomes to be raised.

We will develop the formal frameworks in the spring 2009 and seek political approval for them to establish the commissioning framework that will exist from 2010 onwards. It is our intention to consult fully all stakeholders on developing this framework. Greater Merseyside recognises in its values for

transition the importance of a smooth transfer and will be working with all relevant parties to achieve this, The shadowing arrangements proposed for later in 2009 are key to achieving this and maintaining the momentum on delivering the 14-19 reforms which we have already established on Greater Merseyside.

The challenges facing Greater Merseyside are clear. We need to raise participation in learning between 16 and 19. In order to achieve this we need to develop and embed the learning pathways that are part of the 14-19 reforms so that all young people can access and benefit from learning that is appropriate to them. In the current economic climate there is also a challenge to ensure that learning equips young people with the ability to progress to further or higher learning and employment. We also need to increase the number of young people on Greater Merseyside with qualifications

Annex 1	Action	Timescale 2009/2010	Responsibility	Proposed outcome
Governance	Agree through 6 local authorities terms of reference for sub-regional grouping	April/May 2009	Directors of Children Services in each borough	Establishment of Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive, comprising 6 DCS's.
	Establish Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive as sub regional grouping to oversee transition from LSC to LA	May/June 2009	Directors of Children Services in each borough	Review of actions/dates in this action plan
	Review of LSC commissioning of 16-19 provision, seeking to align broader CYP commissioning with 16-19 commissioning using the pooled hours from the DCSF Commissioning Support programme	May - September 2009	Learn Together Partnership	Alignment of 16-19 commissioning with CYP
	Establishing of governance arrangement for commissioning 16-19 provision from 2010 onwards	September 2009	Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive supported by 6 Borough solicitors	Formal processes through each council/CYP and the sub-regional group approved
	Draft a Greater Merseyside 16-19 commissioning framework	September/ October 2009	Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive	After consultation agree a Greater Merseyside Commissioning framework
	Each CYP Trust to develop its	Autumn	6 Children and	Formal involvement of

	<p>commissioning role through the transitional year</p> <p>Preparation for Local Government finance officers in each borough to prepare for</p> <p>a) allocation of funding to providers as agreed by LSC/LA commissioning process for 2010/2011</p> <p>b) establishing systems of financial monitoring ,accountability and audit</p>	<p>2009 and Spring 2010</p> <p>Autumn 2009</p> <p>Spring 2010</p>	<p>Young Peoples Trust</p> <p>6 Borough Treasurers</p> <p>6 Borough Treasurers</p>	<p>each Children Trust over commissioning process</p> <p>Proper preparation for transfer of funding including:</p> <p>Clear, transparent funding and speedy processes for each provider in 2010/2011</p> <p>Appropriate and proportional reporting and budgetary accounting</p>
Collaboration and Strategic Contribution	<p>Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive to establish formal links with Employment and Skills Board and employment and skills strand of Liverpool City Region Multi-Area Agreement</p>	<p>May /June 2009</p>	<p>Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive</p>	<p>Greater Merseyside Skills Strategy to be formally included with Greater Merseyside 16-19 Commissioning framework</p>

	and sub –regional groupings Cheshire/Warrington, Lancashire and Greater Manchester	May 2009 onwards	Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive	Agreements with other sub-regional groupings on travel to learn
	On going consultation with young people	May 2009 onwards	Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive	Each borough CYP forum to be involved in designing 16-19 commissioning framework
	On going consultation with parents/carers	May 2009 onwards	Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive	Awareness and understanding of changes (particular need to engage parents of young people with special needs)
	On going consultation with FE,WBL, sixth form colleges and schools	May 2009 onwards	Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive	Formal consultation about 16-19 commissioning with schools, sixth form colleges , FE and WBL providers as well as young people
		June 2009	Learn Together Partnership	Event on Performance reporting 16-19 in schools and colleges
	September	Learn Together	Greater Merseyside	

	<p>Developing Links with RDA, Regional Planning Group, GONW and sector skills councils</p> <p>Developing Links with REACT,DCSF, Learning and Skills Improvement Service</p> <p>(Note shadow/informal links will take place as appropriate in advance of the establishment of the formal sub regional grouping planned for May/June 2009)</p>	<p>2009</p> <p>May 2009 onwards</p> <p>May 2009 onwards</p>	<p>Partnership</p> <p>Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive</p> <p>Greater Merseyside 14-19 Executive</p>	<p>Conference on proposed 16-19 commissioning framework</p> <p>Alignment of sub regional 16-19 commissioning with regional planning and regional skills strategies</p> <p>sub regional decision making informed by and aligned to national discussion particularly around quality and commissioning</p>
<p>Resources and Capacity</p> <p>a)developing commissioning</p>	<p>Planning and commissioning 16-19 provision from 2010 onwards including managing relationships with providers Need to link 14-19 into wider CYP outcomes, sustainable communities strategies and multi-area agreement</p> <p>Resources needed for Budget allocation and Management</p>	<p>March-May 2009</p> <p>March – September 2009</p>	<p>Directors of Children Services</p> <p>Directors of Children Services</p>	<p>Identification of staffing resources</p> <p>Greater Merseyside Draft Commissioning Framework (sitting within CYP and national 16-19 framework)</p> <p>Common performance criteria across schools, FE and sixth form colleges</p>

b) developing staffing capacity	Resources need for performance and quality monitoring including alignment with Framework for excellence			
	Skills audit of staffing needs of 14-19 from 2010 onwards Audit to be carried out with support of LSC and REACT(if appropriate) Need to foreshadow additional duties to come in 2013 with the raising of the learning participation age to 17	March-June 2009	Directors of Children Services	Skills audit identifying needs at sub-regional and local level
	Establish shadow 14-19 teams in each borough	September 2009	Directors of Children Services	Shadow teams at sub regional and local level
Establish revised 14-19 teams in each borough to take on all responsibilities within 14-19 reforms	Spring 2010	Directors of Children Services	Substantive teams in each LA inc. some staff seconded to sub – regional support	
Policy and Planning	Review of each borough 14-19 Partnership in terms of preparedness for transition of funding and supporting commissioning in support of 14-19 statutory duties	March 2009	6 Children and Young Peoples trust	Revision of membership/structure and plans to fit new responsibilities
	Use Lean Together Data Group to build Analysis on projected learner numbers	February 2009	Learn Together partnership (with	Projections on learner numbers to support

	and likely transition and travel to learning at 16-19		LSC)	commissioning framework (likely numbers at each institution)
	Establish a Greater Merseyside LDD group comprising reps from each 14-19 partnership	March 2009	Directors of Children Services	Support for regional, sub-regional and borough planning for young people with LDD
	Develop a Greater Merseyside Diploma Plan	Spring 2009	14-19 Managers on Greater Merseyside	Support for commissioning framework
	Work with Employment and Skills Board to develop a Skills strategy which will look at supply and demand	Spring 2009	14-19 Managers on Greater Merseyside	Support for commissioning framework
	Revision of current e-prospectus to establish a Greater Merseyside prospectus	Summer 2009	14-19 Managers on Greater Merseyside	Improved access to IAG for young people and parents/carers
	Develop the current on line prospectus for a Greater Merseyside on line prospectus to be fully operational	January 2010	14-19 Managers on Greater Merseyside	Improved access to IAG for young people and parents/carers
Quality and Targets	Raise awareness within Local authorities of post 16 quality frameworks through a series of seminars using LSIS,LSC and	Summer 2009	Learn Together partnership and 14-19 Managers on	Better informed staff for planning and commissioning 16-19

	<p>others to look at</p> <p>a) Development of framework for excellence b) Common performance measure across all providers of learning for 16-19 providers</p> <p>Pooling 14-19 targets to establish Greater Merseyside targets up to 2011 for(and each boroughs element of each target)</p> <p>-NEET -Level 2 at 19 -Level 3 at 19 -% of young people on diplomas -% of young people on FLT -% of young people on apprenticeships</p>	<p>Summer 2009</p>	<p>Greater Merseyside</p> <p>14-19 Managers on Greater Merseyside</p>	<p>provision</p> <p>Quality and performance to inform commissioning decisions</p> <p>Raising outcomes for young people across Greater Merseyside</p>
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