

County Durham 14-19 Partnership Position Statement– Diploma Delivery

March 2008

Audience

Headteachers in all secondary and Secondary Special schools, the Pupil Referral Unit and the Sixth Form College; FE College Principals; Work-based Learning Directors: Learning & Skills Council; CYPS Achievement Services

Purpose of this Paper

The purpose of this paper is to report on local progress with a range of diploma-related developments. A great number of colleagues from across our provider and partner organisations have contributed to the development of one, or more than one, work stream relating to diploma delivery. This paper is an attempt to summarise County Durham's progress towards aspects of diploma delivery; to state where we are making progress and to clarify what still needs to be done

The information in this paper is also intended to support discussions at diploma consultation meetings with Senior Leaders which will take place Spring 2008

Context

From September 2008, the Derwentside Engineering Diploma Partnership will deliver the Engineering Diploma L1-3. County self-assessments to extend the Engineering entitlement across the County, and to deliver the Creative & Media diploma, the Construction diploma, Society Health & Development diploma and the Land-based diploma were submitted to the DCSF Gateway 2. Gateway 2 results are due to be published towards the end of March 2008 to commence delivery in September 2009

Progress Report

1. **County Durham has only one consortium delivering a diploma line from September 2008.** Derwentside Engineering Diploma Partnership comprising Derwentside College, Tanfield School of Engineering and Science and the Engineering Employers' Forum are the main partners. Susan Welsh (Assistant Principal, Derwentside College) reports that *"a Steering Group now meets three times per term. It oversees task groups which are developing the areas of curriculum delivery, timetabling, functional skills, employer engagement, IAG, marketing and quality assurance. The contribution of employer representatives has been invaluable. Edexcel has been chosen as the awarding body. A single Scheme of Work is to be developed. Functional Skills staff development has taken place for staff from Tanfield School and Derwentside College and the FS standards mapped against maths and ICT in the school. A Year 9 Options evening was held in January, the partnership having developed a Marketing and IAG booklet to inform pupils and parents about the opportunities offered by the diploma."* We need to use feedback from Derwentside to inform developments in other parts of the County (Further information from Susan Welsh: tel 01207 585900)
2. In order to clarify how we will deliver the diploma entitlement, a **diploma delivery map** has been produced, based on intelligence obtained during the last year (expressions of interest, specialisms etc). The proposed delivery model needs to be further developed and agreed by providers. A consultation is now taking place with Headteachers, Principals and WBL Directors in order to achieve this. It is envisaged that the next version of the diploma map will be produced and commitment sought by July 2008. (Further information from Margaret.bell@durham.gov.uk)

3. To support this key curriculum development, a **diploma management group** is being convened in March 2008. This group will bring together senior leadership representatives from schools, FE Colleges and Work-based Learning with other diploma partners to make key decisions relating to the diploma rollout of the 17 lines across County Durham. (Further information from Margaret.bell@durham.gov.uk)
4. **Diploma Development Groups** are taking place termly for each of the diploma lines. Times, dates and venues are advertised on the 14-19 website. The response to the meetings has been very positive.

These network meetings provide up-to-date information about specifications and professional development opportunities; help providers develop the "Durham Diploma". They are the "governance" of the lines of learning, making key decisions in relation to subject specific aspects of a diploma

5. Ian Robertson, Executive Principal of The Hermitage, has been further commissioned until March 2008, to continue to develop a set of **Quality Assurance** principles, a portfolio of related proformas/documentation, as well as a Quality Mark process, which are intended be used by all County Durham 14-19 providers. A cross-sector development group is supporting Ian's work. It is expected, that once the development of the materials is complete, that these will be piloted in the Summer and Autumn Terms 2008 (Further information from Margaret.bell@durham.gov.uk)
6. A County Durham 14-19 **Information, Advice and Guidance** sub-group has been convened to bring together representatives of schools, colleges and work-based learning providers with the Children's & Young People's Services, Connexions, the 14-19 Partnership and the LSC. The function of this group is to consider ways in which providers can be supported towards meeting the national IAG Quality standards. The outcome of the first meeting was the successful conference at Hardwick Hall to launch the standards. The group will also advise the Diploma Management Group in relation to developing materials to inform our young people and their parents about local diploma opportunities. (Further information from: Janice Bray, Executive Director, Connexions: tel 0191 3831777)
7. The **on-line prospectus** is now populated with the current County offer for young people. As diplomas begin to be delivered, young people will be able to find out from the prospectus which institutions are offering diplomas. (Further information from: Janice Bray, Executive Director, Connexions: tel 0191 3831777)
8. The Education Business Partnership has been commissioned to audit level and models of **employer engagement** activity. EBP colleagues have visited County Durham Development Company, all FE Colleges, LSC Durham, Aim Higher, Connexions, Job Centre Plus. Visits to Work-based learning are planned. All Secondary and Special schools have been contacted by phone to carry out a telephone survey/arrange a visit to discuss their informal employer links and to establish precise need in relation to sectors and activity. This work is well on target and a report will be produced by end March 08. This workstream is expected to identify ways in which we can work more closely with employers for mutual benefit. (Further information from Sue.white@durham.gov.uk)
9. **The Work Place** is a brand new learning centre, due for completion in June 2008. It is specifically designed to support applied and work- related learning. There will be three large learning zones, a number of break out rooms, exhibition space, café area resource/library area, social area, storage and more storage ! The Education Business Partnership, the Work Experience Team and the Schools Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) will be based at the Work Place. The Work Place is intended to facilitate communication and co-operation between education and business. (Further information contact: Nancy Radford, General Manager, The Work Place (Aycliffe) Ltd, tel: 07875 385 927 or on nancy@twpa.org.uk)
10. In order to give access for all young people to principal learning in the 17 diploma lines, an initial proposal, to introduce **common timetabling** across the County, was made to senior

colleagues from schools, FE Colleges and Work-based Learning in January 2008. The proposals met with considerable support. However, a number of points were raised in relation to:

- the impact on Key Stage 3 timetabling
- the compressing of the remainder of the offer for young people studying diplomas into the remaining three days
- the impact on the offer for young people not studying diplomas
- the possibility of an evolutionary approach
- the capacity of providers offering specialist facilities to deliver within a limited timeframe

It was, therefore, agreed that a cross-sector sub-group would be convened to look more closely at these issues, and refine proposals which they felt would secure access for young people to the 17 lines across the County. Agreement would then be sought from providers in March 2008.

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