



Leading learning and skills

Northamptonshire Learning + Skills Council

16-19 Competition

in

East Northamptonshire

Statement of Need

Introduction

The LSC Northamptonshire Strategic Area Review (StAR) conducted in 2004/05 highlighted the need to improve the educational achievement of young people across the county particularly those obtaining either a level 2 or level 3 qualification aged 19. It also recognised the need to increase post-16 retention through the development of a more relevant curriculum offer and a reduction in the number of young people in the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Group. These findings have been re-enforced by subsequent national policy developments such as:

- The Government white paper '14-19 Education and Skills, 2005'
- The '14-19 Education and Skills Implementation Plan'
- The Government white paper 'Higher Standards, Better Schools for All, 2005'.

LSC Northamptonshire's primary response, in an initiative joint funded by the LSC, Local Authority and Connexions, has been the appointment of a County 14-19 manager supported by 14-19 coordinators covering each of the seven districts to oversee the evolution of the curriculum.

There are signs that improvement is underway, but increased student numbers in the county's schools and colleges and the broadening of the curriculum to meet demand, places an additional strain on existing capacity. The advent of the LSC's 16-19 Capital Fund provides an opportunity for schools and colleges, possibly with other partners, to bring forward capital building projects to accommodate both additional students and the facilities needed for broader curriculum delivery.

Where the number of new and /or additional students is expected to exceed 200 16-19 year olds, the DfES requires the LSC to hold a competition to determine the most appropriate delivery vehicle.

The Competition

LSC Northamptonshire is seeking innovative capital proposals to facilitate 200 – 240 additional places for students aged 16-19 in the East Northamptonshire District which incorporates the towns of Oundle, Thrapston, Raunds, Irthlingborough, Higham Ferrers and Rushden. The successful proposal will need to:

- Develop a vocational curriculum delivered within purpose-built facilities to engage and motivate young people, and increase 16-18 participation in the District;
- Evidence how the provision will respond to industry needs and provide the skills needed for future employment;
- Contribute to the development of a balanced curriculum across the District that meets the needs of all 16-19 year olds through the provision of both academic and vocational subjects;
- Outline how the new opportunities provided will fit with the proposed introduction of diplomas from 2008 and contribute to the learner entitlement;
- Show how increased educational attainment will be achieved (see specifically the targets section of this document);
- Build upon the specialisms already available in the existing schools and colleges where facilities are inadequate to meet future needs;
- Demonstrate effective collaboration with existing providers, where appropriate;
- Illustrate complementarily and/or impact upon current 16-19 provision in the District; and
- Evidence how the new provision supported through the capital proposal will be sustainable

Although the main focus must be the 16-19 cohort, proposals should also address broader opportunities for those aged 14-16 to begin a process of increasing engagement and progression into 16-19 provision. Proposals will need to demonstrate how organisations have existing experience and expertise and/or have sourced external advice and support.

The StAR Findings and Current Provision

As stated in the introduction, the StAR identified the NEET group as a priority for action. In April 2006 the number of 16-18 year olds in the NEET group in East Northamptonshire stood at 169 or 9.6%. Another 49 (2.7%), were unaccounted for. In total, this resulted in over 12% of young people being disengaged. Reducing the NEET group down to the target of no more than 5% would require placing at least another 80 young people in education.

The StAR also identified East Northamptonshire as an area where Work Based Learning (WBL) needs further development and where vocational options post-16 were limited. Some measures are already underway to tackle this but it underlines the need for proposals to be both all embracing and to bring something new to the table.

The majority of post-16 educational provision delivered within East Northamptonshire is provided by the five secondary schools:

- The Ferrers Specialist Arts College (Higham Ferrers)
- Huxlow Science College (Irthlingborough)
- Manor School and Sports College (Raunds)
- Rushden Community College (Rushden)
- Prince William School (Oundle)

The first four are 11-18 schools and have formed a Sixth Form Consortium under the banner of 'The East Northamptonshire College' (TENC). Prince William is a 13-18 school and has recently joined the consortium.

GCSE and A-level Performance over the last 3 years is as follows: (figures from DfES)

School	GCSE 5 A*-C 2003	GCSE 5 A*-C 2004	GCSE 5 A*-C 2005	A level Average Points Per Pupil 2003	A level Average Points Per Pupil 2004	A level Average Points Per Pupil 2005
Ferrers	45%	58%	49%	255.9	292.8	326.4
Huxlow	49%	45%	63%	211.4	218.0	270.0
Manor	55%	48%	52%	231.0	217.2	309.5
Rushden	37%	30%	37%	237.1	258.2	252.2
TENC Avg.	46.5%	45.25%	50.25%	241.3	261.7	296.7
P William	65%	62%	62%	254.5	229.9	244.3
LA	51.3%	51.1%	52%	236.2	238.4	253.0
England	52.9%	53.7%	57.1%	258.9	269.2	278.8

Post-16 destinations for 2004 and 2005 (source Connexions) are as follows.

Destination	EN 2004	County 2004	EN 2005	County 2005
Education (SSF/FE)	72.2%	74.2%	75.4%	74.6%
Employed with Govt. Sponsored Training	2.0%	1.0%	3.9%	2.9%
Employed with Locally Recognised Training	5.6%	6.4%	5.5%	5.3%
Training but no Employment	7.6%	4.2%	2.6%	2.1%
Employed but no Training	3.8%	2.8%	1.5%	2.1%
NEET	6.7%	6.4%	7.7%	8.5%
Other/Not Known	2.2%	5.1%	3.4%	4.6%

The 2003 data is not available in the same format. These figures are a snapshot at a given moment in time, usually September, and are subject to fluctuation throughout the academic year.

Current and Future Curriculum

Currently each of the schools offers a post-16 curriculum and each has a designated specialism:

- Ferrers - Performing Arts
- Huxlow - Science
- Raunds Manor – Sport
- Rushden Community College - ICT
- Prince William - Languages.

Additionally, LSC funding has supported the development of a more vocationally based curriculum at each school either by supplying a mobile training facility or by the refurbishment of existing premises. This vocational provision is delivered jointly with Tresham Institute:

- Ferrers – Applied Performing Arts: Rock Music Modules (provision this year only offered to Ferrers students, but is due to be rolled out to all schools in 2007/08).
- Huxlow – Automotive Engineering (provision offered to all five schools)
- Raunds Manor – Catering (provision offered to all five schools)
- Rushden Community College – Beauty (provision offered to all five schools)
- Prince William – Automotive Engineering (provision offered to all five schools)

Under the existing arrangements these vocational specialisms will continue to be available to students across the district.

There are no WBL Providers based in East Northamptonshire and no FE College. There are WBL providers based in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough, though the range of provision is limited, and FE is available via Tresham Institute's sites in the same three towns as well as out of area in Moulton, Peterborough and Bedford. The rural nature of the district will require new provision to take account of transport issues.

In September 2006 Moulton College opened its new Trades Academy at Higham Ferrers. The purpose-built centre will offer a range of vocational courses in construction that up to now have not been available in the district. Negotiations are underway with Tresham Institute to deliver additional courses on-site. This will clearly have a beneficial impact on provision.

In September 2008 the first 14-19 diplomas will be available. Diplomas are intended to provide a real alternative to traditional learning by blending general education with applied learning. Schools and colleges will be expected to deliver them as part of collaborative partnerships and will need to be assessed on their state of readiness.

The first five diplomas to become available will be Health & Social Care, Construction & the Built Environment, Engineering, IT and Creative & Media. The first three cover three of Northamptonshire's four priority sectors and the last two are specialisms being delivered in the East Northants College group. We will expect proposals to embrace the opportunities provided by the Diploma initiative and to demonstrate the capacity to deliver them from September 2008. Currently the schools, Tresham Institute and Moulton College are working together to be in a position to deliver the first tranche of specialised diplomas from 2008 onwards.

Future Student Projections

The projections for Year 11 and Year 12 cohorts in East Northants to 2011 are as follows. (Figures supplied by Northants County Council)

Year 11

School	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ferrers	173	176	185	196	167	180
Huxlow	132	144	139	122	159	143
Manor	117	164	132	123	156	131
Rushden	182	178	207	166	182	200
Prince William	285	278	264	280	293	289
Total	889	940	927	887	957	943

Year 12 (assumes a cohort staying on rate of 75% in education of which 50% are in schools).

School	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ferrers	84	85	86	91	96	82
Huxlow	55	55	60	58	51	67
Manor	53	49	69	55	52	66
Rushden	70	76	75	87	70	76
Prince William	150	168	164	156	165	173
Total	412	433	454	447	434	464

The national aim is for 90% of 17 years olds to be in full time learning by 2015 and the local milestone target is 86% by 2011. In 2005 the staying on rate of 75. 4% resulted in 664 students from the district attending schools, colleges or work based learning. Achieving a staying on rate of 86% will mean an additional 147 students need to be accommodated.

Retention in the schools at age 17 (year 13) currently ranges from 44% to 79% and averages out at around 60%. We would expect to see an increase of around 10% in this figure by 2011.

Year 13 learner projections (based on the current average retention rate)

School	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ferrers	47	54	54	55	58	61
Huxlow	15	24	24	26	26	22
Manor	22	29	27	38	30	29
Rushden	36	42	46	45	52	42
Prince William	115	119	133	130	123	130
Total	235	268	284	294	289	284

Achieving all these targets will mean around 240 additional 16-19 year olds in learning in the East Northants district.

Targets

Proposals will need to contribute to the following targets.

- A participation rate in full time education post 16 of at least 86% (currently 75. 4%) by 2011;
- At least 69% of young people (aged 19) to have achieved a level 2 qualification (5 GCSEs at A*- C or equivalent) by 2008;
- A year on year increase in the number of students progressing from year 12 to year 13; and
- An increase in the percentage of young people progressing to HE. This was 28% in 2004 and the county target is 38% by 2010.

Timeline and further information

Proposals should be sent to:

Pauline Taylor
The Learning and Skills Council Northamptonshire
Royal Pavilion
Summerhouse Road
Moulton Park Industrial Estate
NN3 6BJ

email: pauline.taylor@lsc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01604 533029

All proposals must be received at the address above no later than 17:00 on Thursday 5th April 2007. Two identical paper copies are required; an electronic copy may also be submitted in addition.

After this date the LSC will publish a summary of all proposals received and there will be an opportunity for comments to be made on these proposals. This representation period will last for six weeks. After this time, the LSC will decide on the preferred proposal. This will be done within six weeks of the close of the representation period. The LSC will communicate the outcome of the process in writing to all proponents and key local stakeholders within one week of its decision.

Full guidance detailing the proposal process and assessment criteria is available at <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/northants>