

LOCAL GOOD PRACTICE

STRAND 3: Local Delivery

14-19 Strategies and Plans

- All areas have recently or are currently reviewing and revising their 14-19 strategies and structures.
- In Norfolk, the LSC and LA have jointly developed a 14-19 strategy entitled 'Norfolk – Our 14-19 Plan 2007-2010'.
- New 14-19 Strategy Manager posts (employed by the LA and funded from the regional 14-19 agenda fund) have been agreed in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Discussions are underway in Peterborough and Essex around improving their 14-19 infrastructure along similar lines. This should result in every area having a dedicated 14-19 Strategy Manager responsible to the 14-19 Strategic Partnership (i.e. the LSC and LA).
- Effective strategic planning occurs through the Campus Luton model (local name for the 14-19 Partnership Board).
- Strong collaborative approach to 14-19 through Team Peterborough, with online applications and common timetabling due in 2008.
- Effective collaborative working in Southend: the 14-19 Delivery Group has proved critically important.
- Data sharing templates have been agreed for use by Areas across Norfolk. Data include school performance, Young Apprenticeships, NEET, Increased Flexibility Programme, KS4 Engagement Programme.
- The Suffolk experience highlights how effective local authority/LSC collaboration depends on (a) key appointments being made at a senior level, and (b) the hands on involvement and action by senior staff.
- Essex LSC has prepared a strategic document to ensure that it is able to contribute effectively to the 'development of a robust 14-19 implementation plan' in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, including a Joint Working Protocol and Action Plan.

Local partnerships/planning groups

- Work is ongoing on further developing the action plans of local partnership/planning groups including the increasing use of specific targets and trajectories and linking the monitoring of plans to the 14-19 progress checks.
- The effectiveness of local planning groups is being enhanced in Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Essex, Luton, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire through additional posts to provide increased support to local partnerships in implementing local responses to the 14-19 reforms.

- Hertfordshire achieved notable success from the Diploma Gateway process with a 60% success rate compared with 40% nationally. Five of the seven Strategic Area Planning Groups were successful for 2008 or 2009 with North Herts SAPG being one of only ten consortia to be successful in all 5 diploma lines for 2008. Nationally out of 40,000 learners targeted for the 2008 start Hertfordshire has over 2,000.
- Hertfordshire: Partnership structures are increasingly action oriented. 7 planning areas have been established based on travel to learn patterns. Each area has a 14-19 strategic area planning group, with working groups (e.g. Diploma, transport) to make things happen.
- Relationships with Norfolk Connexions are clear and simple. Integration with the local authority provides continuity - the team is to stay intact.
- Norfolk 14-19 Co-ordinators have been the biggest catalyst for change: a diverse and dynamic group that is proactive in for changes to the current infrastructure.
- In Norfolk, a common spreadsheet is used to share data within the 'Area 14-19 Learning Boards', and is used for action planning. In some areas, there is full stakeholder agreement to the collating and sharing of these data; other areas are still negotiating this.
- The Norwich-based OpenOpportunity partnership is an excellent example of local collaboration between 6 equal institutions (5 schools and CCN) leading to effective learner-centred planning and speedy action. They have achieved aligned timetables, a large Increased Flexibility programme, and a range of Young Apprenticeships.

Funding

- Every area is working with their LA to identify the multiple sources of funding that support 14-19 activity with a view to aligning budgets where possible. This is also happening at a local partnership level e.g. in Suffolk local 14-19 partnerships are formalising their work through local partnership agreements, in most cases accompanied by agreements to pool dedicated 14-16 funds to the partnership so they can begin to develop their role in procuring provision for young people across the area.

16-19 Competitions

- 16-19 competitions have been used in Essex (Thurrock and Basildon), Ipswich and South Suffolk, and Lowestoft (Suffolk), and in Norfolk (Thetford) with the aims of increasing the availability of relevant and high quality learning programmes. **[insert update of the results so far]**

Academies

- Barnfield College in Luton became the first FE college to become an academy sponsor. Two local high schools are now academies (Barnfield South and Barnfield West Academies) and are run within a specially-created federation with Barnfield College.