

Comments sought on proposal for future of education provision in Lowestoft

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A competition launched by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Suffolk to improve education and training provision in Lowestoft has been met with a bid from a consortium of local schools, colleges, training providers and private organisations.

The LSC Suffolk invited proposals to provide a wider choice of education and training to 16-19 year olds in the town in response to an increase in demand and a need for a higher standard of provision. A proposal was submitted by the 'Lowestoft Learning Trust' and the LSC is now inviting local people to comment on the proposal.

Judith Mobbs, Area Director for the LSC Suffolk, said: "Lowestoft has some of the most deprived wards in the country and because of this local people face many challenges relating to education and training. We launched the competition to directly address these issues; to provide good quality education provision for young people and to meet the needs of local employers.

"Decisions affecting the education of young people are important and this is an opportunity for people living in and around Lowestoft to give us their opinion about whether this proposal meets the needs of the area."

Significantly fewer young people in Lowestoft aged 16 to 19 are in some form of education or training than the Suffolk average. The LSC Suffolk has ambitious plans to increase

education and training provision so that by 2015 all 16-18 year olds will be in some form of education or training.

The LSC Suffolk is keen to encourage people to read the proposal and respond to its recommendations between now and 24 October. A local stakeholder panel will convene to consider the proposal and any comments made from the public in November and their decision will be reviewed and approved by the LSC Regional Board so that the outcome can be announced in early December.

If it is approved, the proposal will then be developed to include full financial and property details and move forward to the next stage: an application for funding from the LSC.

You can download the proposal and find more details of the Lowestoft competition at www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/whatwedo/lowestoft-competiton.htm. For further details on the proposal contact Lynne Tabone at the LSC Suffolk at lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk

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Notes to editors

For more information please contact Louise Colbridge at Tribe on 01603 417722 or email louise@tribepr.com

LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

In the east of England we have six offices, one in each county: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. We work with our partners,

local employers, training providers, schools and colleges to realise the vision of developing the region as one of the most successful knowledge-based economies in Europe.

Lowestoft Competition

A proposal was received from the 'Lowestoft Learning Trust' which is led by Suffolk County Council and comprises the following partners: Kirkley High School, Lowestoft College, The Ashley School, The Benjamin Britten High School, The Denes High School, Warren School, University Campus Suffolk, Adnams, Lifeskills Solutions, Sixth Form Colleges' Forum, Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations, YMCA Training and Young Suffolk with support from 1st East.