

## **Young people in Haverhill set to get more choice and more places for post-16 education and training**

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Young people in Haverhill are set to have a wider choice of education and training options open to them following a competition that has been launched to improve the range of courses and increase the number of places available for 16 to 19 year olds in the Haverhill area.

Local schools, sixth forms, colleges, training providers and private organisations have been invited by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Suffolk to submit proposals that will provide a new way of delivering A levels, sixth form courses and eventually specialised diplomas. This is in order to meet the likely increase in demand from young people, which will also encourage more of them to stay on in education post-16.

Working with local high schools, the new provision may also offer access to the specialist diplomas for 14-16 year olds with a focus on broadening the learning options available to young people under 16.

LSC Suffolk is keen to broaden the range of learning options open to young people and the competition for new 16-19 education provision in Haverhill is being launched in response to the outcomes and findings from two recent independent reviews carried out in the area. Suffolk County Council's School Organisation Review and the LSC's own review of supply and demand for skills and learning in the Haverhill area highlighted a need for new 16-19 provision to extend the current offer.

Judith Mobbs, Area Director for LSC Suffolk, said: "This competition provides an exciting opportunity to offer a bright future for young people in Haverhill. We want to ensure they have the education and training options available that will meet their needs and the requirements of local employers. So we're looking for ambitious and innovative entries that will provide a broad range of high quality courses and give all young people in Haverhill the best possible start in life."

The closing date for proposals for the competition is 5pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009, following which the LSC Suffolk will publish a summary of the competition entries and invite comments from the public and other interested parties. The submissions and feedback from the consultation period will be considered by a Stakeholder Panel which will then make recommendations to the LSC Regional Council. A decision on the competition outcome will be made in July 2009.

More information on the competition criteria and process can be obtained from Peter Mumford, Partnership Manager at the LSC Suffolk at [peter.mumford@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mumford@lsc.gov.uk) on 01473 883014.

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### **Notes to editors**

**For more information please contact Louise Betts at Tribe on 01603 417722 or email [louise@tribepr.com](mailto:louise@tribepr.com)**

### **LSC**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive

workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.