



Making a difference where you live



14-19 Partnership Team



Leading learning and skills

County Durham 14-19 Partnership



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

NEWSLETTER

November 2006

Visit www.countydurham14-19.co.uk for

- Information
- Post Inspection Action Plan
- Meetings
- Groups
- Reports

Aims and Objectives of the County Durham 14-19 Partnership

County Durham's Vision

Our vision is that all young people will be able to select high quality learning programmes appropriate to their needs. They will achieve levels of success significantly above the national average, continue to succeed and have the opportunity to progress further into higher education and/or employment with training.

Our Strategic Goals

1. To accelerate the pace and impact of change.

Partners will deliver the 14-19 Strategy and the Learner Entitlement by developing an area action plan which is informed, evidence-based and build on a foundation of shared knowledge and information. Evaluation of progress will include the views of learners and their recommendations for action.

2. To develop flexible and responsive curriculum pathways.

All young people will have access to a responsive curriculum which meets their needs and which provides clear, flexible pathways to further learning and to create employment opportunities.

3. To provide a positive and inspiring experience of learning.

All young people will have a rewarding experience of learning which raises their aspirations through inspirational teaching and well structured learning. Technology will be used effectively within a pleasant learning environment. The result will be young people who are committed to continued learning and who use their developing skills and knowledge to support others.

4. To provide access to excellent learner support.

All learners and their families will feel part of a community of learning from which they benefit and to which they contribute. They will be empowered to choose learning that best fits their needs, and will be supported in making their choices by effective independent information, advice and guidance.

5. To enable learners to benefit from economic and social regeneration.

Learning provision in County Durham will be a powerful driver for social and economic regeneration will engage employers and will release the spirit of enterprise. Partners will join together from all sectors in productive action that allows learners to participate in the opportunities emerging from economic and social change.

HELLO



I hope that this will be the first of many regular updates about the way County Durham is taking the national 14-19 agenda forward. You will already know that the changes we are expected to implement will alter the nature of learning for 14-19 year olds more significantly than anything else in the recent past.

We believe that we are really well placed to embrace these changes and to provide a more relevant experience for all our young people. In June 2005 we underwent an Inspection of our area to see how well we are currently working together to provide learning and training opportunities. This gave us a very clear steer about the areas upon which we need to focus.

Fortunately for us it also provided funds for us to implement these actions.

We have:

- A 14-19 Strategic Group which has produced a Curriculum Entitlement for all Durham learners aged 14-19
- A small Central 14-19 team which is answerable to this group and works to ensure that we are delivering these changes for our young people.
- An Operational Group of professionals seconded from their substantive posts to assist in this implementation - they are our 'change agents'
- Time limited task groups for specific developments eg Diploma lines

We have also been fortunate in being able to access additional funds from Single Programme, ESF and the LSC. These are being used to good effect to provide additional:

- Vocational facilities across the county
- Support for 1000 KS4 students across the county
- Targeted support for young people in 15 of our secondary schools who are at risk of becoming disengaged
- Transition support for students moving into FE or Work Based Learning
- Support in each of our Special schools focused on easing transition to post-16 opportunities

There is a genuine commitment from the leaders of all our secondary schools, FE colleges and training providers to make sure that the necessary developments take place and become embedded in our provision.

To accelerate the pace of change what we now need is for more employers to become actively engaged with this agenda. We are really grateful to those who already work with our schools and colleges but there is always an opportunity for more to make a contribution. If you are an employer and would like to become involved with our work then please contact me

Mitch O'Reilly, 14-19 Partnership Director
on 07795590371.

14-19 CENTRAL TEAM



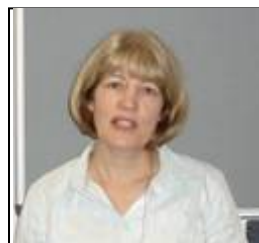
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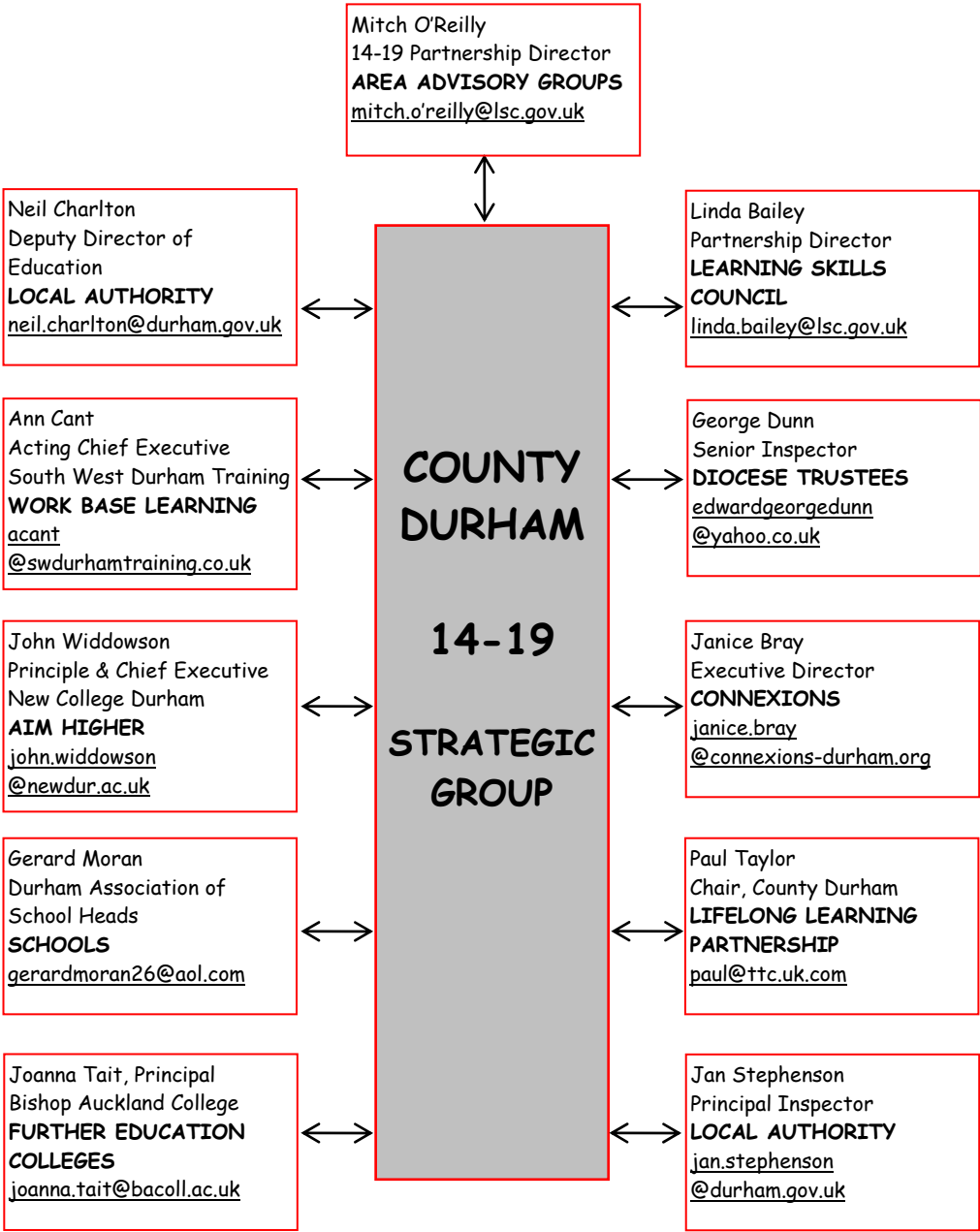
South West Durham Training have recently completed the building and fitting out of a purpose designed Schools area to meet the needs of school provision and the 14-19 agenda, and has been operating with three schools since opening in September.

The official opening of the **School 4 Skills** area is being held on Tuesday 5th December at 16.30. There will be guest speakers from the LEA and LSC, demonstrations of work, skills available etc. followed by a buffet and drinks. *All are welcome to attend.*

R.S.V.P. Neil Wise, Project Manager 01325 313194 nwise@swdt.co.uk

14-19 OPERATIONAL GROUP

The Operational Group meets monthly and as our Change Agents they review progress and ensure our activities are integrated with all other 14-19 work across the county.



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The Strategic Group meets monthly to review and evaluate progress against the 14-19 agenda. This group will ensure that as a county we are making sufficiently rapid progress to ensure that all our young learners have access to their curriculum entitlement.

A word from Linda Bailey and Neil Charlton

Implementing the far-reaching 14-19 reform programme, including the introduction of specialised diplomas, is one of the biggest challenges we face in County Durham. It is a challenge that no one organisation can address in isolation and will require ever increasing collaboration between schools, colleges, work based learning providers, employers and others if we are to meet the needs and aspirations of all young people in the county.

The 14-19 Strategic Group, which includes representatives of all key partners, is seeking to respond to this challenge through the formation of the 14-19 operational team described in this newsletter and through the work of the Area Advisory Groups. However, we know we will only be successful if all partners are actively involved and we are keen to hear from you about ways we can help this happen.

We would also welcome your views on any other issue relating to the introduction of 14-19 educational reform in the county.

Please send any views or comments to linda.bailey@lsc.gov.uk or neil.charlton@durham.gov.uk

Co. Durham COPEs Well With ASDAN's New Award

Co. Durham students received ASDAN COPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) awards at a special event in July. Special guests, Neil Charlton, Deputy Director of Education, and Fab Flournoy, Newcastle Eagles' player/coach saw impressive portfolios of work and presented certificates.

24 student representatives from the first cohort in Co. Durham were amongst the first nationally to receive their COPE awards.

This pilot project partners ASDAN with Durham County Council and Co. Durham LSC to introduce ASDAN's new award. In 2005, two cluster groups of schools were formed and much credit goes to cluster co-ordinators, Geoff Mallabar (Derwentside) and Kath Whitehouse (East Durham). Their guidance and the tremendous support of Kath Grant (ASDAN's Regional Co-ordinator) helped schools through delivery, administration and verification.

With new centres joining the clusters and existing centres widening their provision, this three-year project is ahead of targets in terms of both student numbers and levels achieved.

ASDAN's COPE award is expected to contribute significantly towards our target of ensuring that all 16-year olds gain relevant, nationally-recognised qualifications.

Lester Crawford, Derwentside Schools' Regeneration Officer



Futures4me - the on-line prospectus for County Durham

Young people aged 14-19 need a clear and impartial view of all their opportunities for learning and training. That means information about what's on offer and where - information that is clear, readily available and up to date. Futures4me is a web based prospectus maintained by providers themselves. Learners, their carers and professional staff get on line access to find courses, learning pathways, provider information, case studies and background information, for example EMAs.



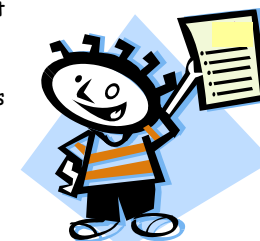
The user interface is easy to use with an exciting Google maps style and links to other important sites, like www.help4teens.co.uk - the new web site from Connexions - partners in the prospectus development.

Ready for full use by September 2007, you can try out a test site at www.futures4me.co.uk For further information contact the 14-19 team (ron.walker@lsc.gov.uk) or your school, college or WBL prospectus development contact.

Case study for a year 11 student at Roseberry School on the Durham 1000 Project

I think it's a good idea to allow students to do an alternative school program. Because it gives me work experience I will have skills which will help me to get an apprenticeship, I am doing a construction course at Skills training which I will get a certificate from. This will be an advantage to me as I can show a future employer or training provider that I have had some experience in construction. Finding out about what grades I will need to get to school. I have found out that I need good grades in Maths to get an apprenticeship in Plumbing or as an Electrician, therefore I intend to work harder than I might have done in this subject.

The personal development activity days and the Personal Development through sport not only give me another qualification I will learn how to get on with people that I might not normally hang around with. It also teaches me team building and problem solving all valuable skills for when I leave school. My time keeping this year so far is much better than last year. I think this is because this is my final year and I do realise that I need to be at school on time to get the most out of my lessons to make sure I do well in my GCSE exams to ensure I do get a college placement.



Have A Nice Day

A star of the small screen dropped in to the official launch of a major curriculum development in East Durham recently. Andy Whyment - alias Kirk from TVs Coronation Street - helped launch the "HAND" project at Dalton Park Retail Park which provides Key Stage 4 pupils with the opportunity to achieve a BTEC qualification.

Fifty Year 10 youngsters currently spend 6 hours a week studying in the state-of-the-art facility which was funded through a combination of Single Programme and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF).

The project is fronted by East Durham and Houghall Community College and the HAND acronym stands for "Have A Nice Day".

Vice Principal Malcolm Fallow explained, "Although the Retail and Customer Services sector is a fast growing part of the economy we felt there was a lack of a formal delivery mechanism at 14-19, it's a real testimony to positive collaboration that everyone has come together to rectify this."



THE SPECIALISED DIPLOMA



Nick Brewster - Diploma Strategic Development Officer

You will have heard of Specialised Diplomas - an exciting new qualification which will allow learners from age 14 to follow a vocational route to level 3, the equivalent of A level.

The first Specialised Diplomas will be available from September 2008. The provision of Diplomas will be through consortia arrangements, with strong employer involvement in their planning and delivery.

The County Durham Diploma Development Team is putting together the County's bid to become a provider of Diplomas in 2008. Members of the team are contacting providers who have expressed an interest in involvement and are preparing the submission for the 'Diploma Gateway', the name for DfES assessment process for applicants wishing to offer the Diploma. It is not expected that any single institution will be able to deliver Diplomas on its own; rather collaborative arrangements will be required between providers - including employers - for bids to be successful.

It is envisaged that the County application will comprise of a number of 'clusters' of providers, each offering one or more Diploma lines, within an overall County framework for quality assurance, curriculum development and staff training and support.

The first five Diploma lines are:

- Construction and the Built Environment
- Information Technology
- Creative and Media
- Health and Social Care
- Engineering

Durham 1000 - Transition Team

The transition team supports vulnerable groups of young people across County Durham. Nominations were gathered in December 2005 from the following services:

- Looked after children
- Impact
- Home & hospital
- Ethnic Minority Traveller Achievement Services
- Behaviour support service
- Special schools

The aim of the work is to improve participation and reduce youngsters at 16 Not in Education Employment or Training.

The key workers who are geographically based have offered support to 66 leavers and 149 current year 11's. The work includes:

- College/WBL visits
- Application form help
- Escorting young people to Connexions interviews
- Involvement of parents
- Completion of "Its your future" document
- Delivery support Impact centres

Many young people have responded well to the support and taken part in out of school activities including:

- Taster college sessions
- Music related work - with Sage, Gateshead

Contact: Susan Dolphin
Transition Co-ordinator,
Access Service 0191 586 3522
susan.dolphin@durham.gov.uk



Pupils taking part in music production at Sage Gateshead



ACTIVITY DAY Ferryhill & Sunnydale Schools

Over thirty five young people, all of whom are taking part in the Durham 200 programme, spent the day at Moor House Adventure Centre. They took part in activities such as climbing, abseiling, team building activities, archery and driving off-road buggies.

Unfortunately, the weather cut the day short, but did not dampen the enjoyment or spirit of the young people. They were commended by not only Moor House Staff, but everyone present on the day, for their participation, behaviour and the way they dealt with the torrential weather conditions.

WELL DONE TO THEM ALL



ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

May we introduce ourselves? We are the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators. Our brief, broadly, is to "champion" the needs of all young people within County Durham who have additional learning needs and require support, thereby allowing them to participate effectively in 14 - 19 education. Long term, our goal is to reduce the number of Not in Education, Employment or Training pupils from special schools within the county.

In response to the post inspection development plan we have

- Established a cross sector/agency task group
- Audited current provision at entry and Level1 across the county
- Visited all special schools and local FE Colleges
- Made contact with the WBL Network

We are in the process of

- Organising two training events
- Monitoring the developments in the Foundation Learning Tier
- Monitoring the impact of initiatives to promote effective transition
- Researching provision in other areas of the country
- Working with FE institutions to build their capacity to cope with young people with behavioural difficulties.



Lesley Taylor
ALN Co-ordinator



Gina Kosina
ALN Co-ordinator

FE Collaboration

Further Education Colleges in County Durham are working together via the 'Go Further' campaign across the North East region. This work will to help raise understanding about FE across the sector and the four FE college's in County Durham have produced a collaborative supplement for the first time which went out in the Northern Echo on October 4th.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 th November	Get Sorted - An Opportunities Event for 16+ 10am - 6.30pm Abbey Leisure Centre <i>Providers from Learning, Leisure and Volunteering are invited to meet with young people and their parents/carers and provide information, advice and practical activities that will help inform decisions and plans.</i> Contact Connexions 0191 384 9766
14 th November	Foundation Learning Tier 2pm-3.30pm or 4pm-5.30pm at LSC, Belmont, Durham Contact Gina Kosina or Lesley Taylor
22 nd & 23 rd November	Interim Monitoring Review Meetings for the Durham 1000 2.30pm each day at LSC, Belmont, Durham <i>The Durham 1000 ESF Key Contacts are invited to attend on either afternoon, to share good practice and discuss strategies for supporting Durham 1000 students.</i>
5 th December	'School 4 Skills' official opening (see article) 4.30pm South West Durham Training Contact Neil Wise, 01325 313194 nwise@swdt.co.uk
19 th January	Transition - Sharing Good Practice Event Contact Gina Kosina or Lesley Taylor
11 th January & 16 th January	Tutoring for Transition Training for Work Based Learning and E2E Providers At Connexions Staff Development Centre, Fyndoune
25 th January & 30 th January	Tutoring for Transition Training for Schools At Connexions Staff Development Centre, Fyndoune Contact Emma Lonsdale 0191 376 2333 <i>This is a course for those supporting young people at key transition points. The pack provides training for tutors, mentors and other members of the guidance community. There are eight sections, all of which have a lesson plan, presentation and supporting material. Each school is entitled to a free pack (worth £75), when they attend the two day training for trainers.</i>

FEBRUARY 12th

DEADLINE

INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN NEXT ISSUE

Please send information to jacqueline.brewster@lsc.gov.uk