

Learning and Skills Council Local Area Statement of Need

Trafford

2008/09

February 2008

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and learning opportunities
across Trafford

Introduction

Hello

As Partnership Director for Trafford, I am pleased to present the Annual Statement of need for the LSC Greater Manchester, Trafford Partnership Team. I have outlined the key priorities and challenges for Trafford within the context of the North West Regional Commissioning plan, and set out how we intend to focus our resources over the forthcoming year.

The transformation of the learning and skills sector in Trafford has accelerated over the last twelve months, and will continue to move over the next two years. In particular, the successful merger of the two colleges, and work on infrastructure for two new school sixth forms has raised the profile of learning and skills in the area.

More young people are now participating in learning, and we have invested an additional £xx in 14-19 initiatives to engage and retain learners in Trafford in the last year. Examples of good practice are being used to form the basis for future provision.

We are improving the responsiveness of the sector to learners and employers. More of our provision for adults is focused on skills needs at Level 2, Level 3 and in Skills for Life. Train to Gain volumes have increased significantly, with some excellent examples of provision meeting employer demand.

The quality of learning provision in the Trafford area has continued to result in strong grades awarded by OfSTED, giving a confident platform on which to build a range of provision in the area.

We do still need to increase the participation and achievement of young people in learning and encourage sustained participation amongst 17 year olds, developing appropriate progression routes to full, sustainable employment. We need more adults to undertake and achieve Level 2 and Level 3 learning and we will work with partners to stimulate demand for skills from learners and employers.

Partnership work in the area, both at individual organisational level and through formal partnerships, such as the Local Strategic Partnership and the 14-19 Partnership, has grown in effectiveness to secure relevant learning opportunities for Trafford residents and workers. We will continue to strengthen our relationships locally to ensure that learning and skills are at the heart of local economic development, and that we support growth in productivity in Trafford.



Janet Jackson
Partnership Director

Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Trafford

Priority 1: Creating Demand for Skills

Key Challenges:

- Engaging young people who are not in education employment or training
- Progression of learners to Level 3 and beyond
- Engaging employers in the full offer of learning

To increase the demand for learning, we need to ensure the benefits of learning and skills acquisition are clear to prospective learners and employers. For 2008/09, we aim to:

- Plan, through the local 14-19 Partnership, a **comprehensive 14-19 offer**, maximising ESF, to provide progression young people into mainstream learning within Trafford
- Work with the 14-19 Partnership to increase the participation of young people through an effective **NEET reduction strategy** with a clear focus on vulnerable learners including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Develop a comprehensive **14-19 Information Advice and Guidance Strategy**, working through the 14-19 Partnership to promote ownership across 14-19 partners
- Ensure successful take up of the Diploma offer in Trafford for 2008 and beyond, working with partners to develop and promote the new qualifications
- Work with partners, including Trafford Economic Alliance, learning providers and the brokerage service, to **promote the Skills Pledge** and increase take up of **Train to Gain**
- Support sustained managed growth of new and existing provision responsive to employer skills needs

Priority 2: Transforming FE

Key Challenges:

- The need to increase capacity for level 2 and 3 learning through flexible learning opportunities
- Aligning new infrastructure and provision with curriculum developments

We will support the continued transformation of the FE system as a whole with a clear focus on the areas where we believe we can add the greatest value. These include:

- Working with Trafford College to **increase income generation** through effective fee policies and the agreement of individual income targets that reflect the local area and employer base
- Commission high quality **Entry to Employment** provision which can be accessed by Trafford's young people and which will result in progression opportunities to Apprenticeship and further learning
- Through strategic investment, **expand the Apprenticeship programme**, including the growth of Programme Led Apprenticeships and additional volumes of adult apprenticeships
- **Build on high quality learning experiences** and in particular, high success rates at Level 3; only purchasing learning opportunities which exceed Minimum Levels of Performance and give value for money
- Work with the Local Authority and school sixth forms to encourage collaboration across the learning offer in Trafford and to support innovative curriculum opportunities in new school sixth form provision
- Continue to work with Trafford College and school sixth forms to progress **capital projects** planned to meet the needs of Trafford learners and improve the physical resources to enhance the high quality learning delivery in Trafford offering new 14-19 facilities and a learning resource centre

Priority 3: Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives

Key Challenges:

- Need for Skills for Life learning with a focus on numeracy provision
- Skills needs within the working age population
- Community areas of high worklessness in Trafford

We will focus our efforts and resources to engage more people from disadvantaged groups to increase overall participation and achievement levels. We will drive forward the integration of skills and employment and focus training on addressing skills shortages in local labour markets. In addition we will:

- Contribute to the process to refresh Trafford's Community Strategy and to the development of Trafford's new Local Area Agreement to incorporate learning and skills targets and **support the achievement of Trafford's Local Area Agreement targets** through effective procurement and programme management to ensure the integration of employment and skills
- Provide an increased focus on **engaging employers in learning**, to increase apprenticeship places and reduce the high numbers of young people who are in employment without any formalised learning
- Ensure equality of opportunity, **targeting areas of disadvantage**, including Partington and Old Trafford, which result in improved success rates for minority groups, increased participation of under-represented groups and reduced imbalances in learning and skills acquisition
- Work with further education providers to target the learning offer to **adults without a Level 2 qualification**, focusing on those who are disengaged from learning and furthest away from the labour market

- Work with the Trafford **Personal and Community Development Learning Partnership** to develop a collaborative approach to planning and delivering **adult safeguarded learning** and **first steps** provision

Partnership Working

Over the last twelve months the Trafford Partnership Team has developed new and effective relationships with providers, partners and stakeholders and we will continue to embed these throughout our work in 2008/09. The impact of the Trafford Partnership Team, supported by the Economic Development and Regional Teams, has been positive and resulted in a clearer understanding of the key issues within Trafford and supports our ability to align funding and resources to address Trafford's needs.

If we are to maximise the contribution of the learning and skills sector locally then we need to continue to drive forward partnership working. We will do this through the development of a shared understanding with partners of our joint agendas and targets; and in particular we will:

- Work with the Trafford Strategic Partnership to agree a consistent set of meaningful targets relating to skills, 16-19 performance and post-19 achievement in the new LAA process, and through the **Trafford Economic Alliance** support achievement of those targets
- Work with our local Connexions partners and Youth Support Services to **raise participation levels of young people** and reduce the number of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training, including encouraging progression of 17 year olds
- Work closely with Trafford Local Authority and 14-19 Partnerships to enhance and extend the development of 14-19 opportunities including embedding the **new Diplomas in Health and Society, Construction and Engineering** in the curriculum offer from September 2008, and development of the curriculum offer in new sixth forms at Ashton-on-Mersey and Wellacre Schools
- Continue to develop our relationship with Voluntary and Community Sector networks in Trafford, including through **Voluntary and Community Action Trafford** to help capacity build the sector as part of our commitment to widening learner choice
- Develop closer working with Jobcentre Plus to integrate skills and employment agendas, promote **Local Employment Partnerships** and increase take up of the Skills Pledge
- Work closely with our providers, schools and colleges to provide **high quality choice** for all learners and encourage cross-sector collaboration
- Strengthen our work with employers and employer representative groups, such as Trafford Chamber of Commerce to better understand the local demand for skills and qualifications, working in partnership to take forward skills development in **key sectors of finance, insurance, retail and hospitality** for Trafford