

LSCGM 0278

18th September 2006

Review of Further Education in Manchester

Final Report Published

In May 2006, following discussions with everyone with an interest in further education (FE) in the city, the Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester commissioned a review of the organisation and structure of FE in Manchester.

The aims of the review were to:

- Improve curriculum coherence in the context of the local and national agenda for 14-19, workforce development and social cohesion.
- Improve geographical coherence ensuring that young people and adults are within reasonable travelling distance of specialist provision both within the city and across Greater Manchester.
- Ensure that appropriate partnership arrangements are in place.
- Make recommendations for the most effective governance and management structure for FE in the city.

The final report, completed in July 2006, considers a number of options and favours the merger of the two FE colleges, Manchester College of Arts and Technology (MANCAT) and City College Manchester (CCM), based on a federal model, as the strongest option.

The report also includes a number of important recommendations relating to:

- The LSC being more assertive in it's planning role.

News



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LSCGM 0278

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- The relative effectiveness of the different models of 16-19 provision offered by the colleges.
- Cross boundary recruitment.
- The 14-19 curriculum and the working of the 14-19 collegiates.
- Early replacement of the Abraham Moss facility.
- The effect of the FE review on the two sixth form colleges and the adult education service (MAES).

The recommendations have been endorsed by the LSC Greater Manchester's Council and work will now begin to determine a timescale and project plan for merger.

Elaine Bowker, director of area for Greater Manchester at LSC Greater Manchester said, "The review has been extremely helpful in identifying the most effective solution for the future of further education in the City of Manchester.

The report makes some radical recommendations and the challenges that lie ahead are substantial. We now need to discuss the recommendations thoroughly with the colleges and local authority and establish the best way forward. I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who contributed to the review."

The report is available at www.lsc.gov.uk/grmanchester.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester

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.

Top Level Messages

- We plan and invest in high quality education and training for young people and adults that will build a skilled and competitive workforce.
- We help employers to get the training and skills they need for their business.
- We are transforming the further education sector to meet the needs of employers and the local community.
- We are committed to improving learning opportunities for everyone.