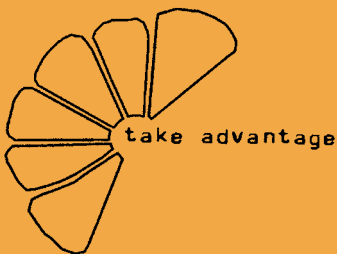


**“A Grapefruit
is a lemon that had
a chance and
took advantage of it”**

Oscar Wilde



Gloucestershire County Council and LSC Gloucestershire

Strategy for 14-19 Learning 2007-2013

Foreword



Our county strategy was first developed in response to Government's proposals for 14 -19 education and training. In '14 -19: opportunity and excellence', the Government identified weaknesses in the present system:

- nearly half the country's young people did not achieve five good GCSEs at school;
- 60% of young people nationally did not achieve a grade C GCSE in English and Maths;
- one in twenty young people left school without a single pass at GCSE;
- the UK ranked 25th out of 29 developed nations for the participation of 17 year olds in education and training.

Although outcomes for young people in Gloucestershire are generally good and better than the national picture, we still have some challenges:

- 1 in 10 young people aged 16-18 are not in education;
- 1 in 5 young people do not participate in education and training after the age of 16;
- only three-quarters of 19 year olds have achieved a level 2 qualification or equivalent;
- young people aged 14 -19 do not have a high quality personalised learning plan that stays with them throughout the 14 -19 phase.

We have an ambition in Gloucestershire to address these challenges. This local strategy for 14 -19 education and training was developed in 2004 through discussions between key partner organisations in the county. It set out the elements required for further consultation with stakeholders. Since that time DfES has released the 14 -19 Implementation Plan and services for children and young people in the county have been reorganised. We are determined to make sure that the updated 14 -19 strategy is embedded in the Children and Young People's Plan and supports the county's ambition to help every child and young person thrive and reach their full potential.

At the core of the national reforms are proposals to:

- put the needs of the learner at the centre of planning and provision;
- promote partnership and collaboration between schools, colleges and other providers;
- ensure young people have access to an appropriate range of opportunities;
- provide high quality impartial information, advice and guidance.

We intend to ensure that all of these become a reality in Gloucestershire. In order to do so, we still need the support of everyone in the education and training community for the vision, aims and objectives of the 14 -19 strategy and look forward to working together to turn our shared ambitions into reality.

Jo Davidson
*Group Director Children and Young People's Services
Gloucestershire County Council*

Marinos Paphitis
*Area Director
Learning and Skills Council*



Gloucestershire County Council and LSC Gloucestershire

Strategy for 14-19 Learning 2007-2013

1

Introduction - The purpose of this strategy

The strategy for 14-19 education and training was developed through discussion with key partner organisations in Gloucestershire. It followed on from the 14-19 strategic conference held in June 2003 and set out the elements required for further consultation with key stakeholders.

The development of the strategy is intended to: support and shape local activity; acknowledge and take account of its distinctiveness; recognise the invaluable contribution of the individual organisations and their staff. However, it recognises that the countywide strategy must be more than merely an aggregation of individual plans, activities and practices, no matter how good these may be individually. This strategy is intended to complement, not replace, partner organisations' existing local plans. It will identify the key actions that need to be taken to enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for specific occupations, HE and further learning.

In Gloucestershire there is a good track record of working together across the local authority and LSC and with partner organisations. By working together and putting the needs of learners first, we will provide and extend first class 14-19 education, training and skills development in the county.

Since the strategy was written in 2004, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has come into existence. Its role is to bring coherence to services for children and young people throughout the county and we must ensure that 14-19 provision is an integral part of its activity.

For that reason, and because we now have the national implementation plan for 14-19 provision, this document updates the original strategy and provides direction for the next six years.



2

The Gloucestershire vision

Gloucestershire County Council:

"Learners are at the heart of everything we do...

We want everyone, no matter what age, to be able to engage enthusiastically in the highest possible quality learning."

LSC Gloucestershire:

"Our vision is a learning society in which everyone in Gloucestershire has the opportunity to go as far as their talents and efforts will take them."

The local authority and LSC are determined that all young people should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in learning and training, whether in school, college or the workplace.

We will work together to ensure that all young people are able to follow the path of education and training that suits them best and offers the greatest chance of personal development, success and progression.

Young people including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who are disengaged from learning or most at risk of exclusion will be at the heart of the new 14 -19 arrangements.

To meet the needs of every learner and increase their participation in learning we need to:

- provide coherent and progressive routes for 14 -19 and post 19;
- provide opportunities for young people to maximise their personal development;
- ensure that the needs of employers and the Gloucestershire economy are actively considered;
- ensure the provision of full and impartial information, advice and guidance;
- help all learners reach the highest possible standards of attainment;



- specify and meet their entitlement to high quality and relevant learning;
- ensure that they have access to the highest possible quality of teaching and learning;
- develop collaborative arrangements between schools, colleges, work based learning providers and employers which:
 - maximise the choices available and provide the maximum possible flexibility;
 - remove barriers to participation;
 - enable the best use of the resources available;
- introduce specialised diplomas from 2008.

3

Current Achievement 14 -19

Gloucestershire is generally a high-achieving county but there is clear evidence that certain groups of young people within the county have unsuccessful and unsatisfactory experiences of education and training. This can lead to a pattern of low achievement and under-exploited potential and talent, which may persist throughout their lives. At worst, this manifests itself in unemployment and disengagement; at best we are not using our pool of potential.

A range of data is available in respect of achievement and participation in the county including progress against key targets. This data helps the county and area partnerships monitor progress on a regular basis and identify areas of concern.

Gloucestershire Targets from Local Area Agreement

Performance indicators	Baseline	Targets		
		2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
(i) Percentage of young people aged 16-18 who are not in Education, Employment and Training	x	Unstretched=4.2%	Unstretched=4.2%	Unstretched=4.1%
	x	Stretched=41.1%	Stretched=3.9%	Stretched=3.5%
(ii) Percentage of young people participating in education and training post-16	79%	81%	83%	85%
(iii) Percentage of 19 year olds achieving a level 2 qualification or equivalent	77%	79%	81%	83%
(iv) Percentage of 14-19 year olds who have a quality person liaised learning plan that stays with them throughout the 14-19 phase	0%	10%	30%	60%

Source: LSC Gloucestershire.

Gloucestershire: Year 11 Destination Statistics 2006

	Forest of Dean	Gloucester	North Gloucester	Central Stroud	West Stroud	Cheltenham	South Cotswolds
Full Time Education	843	1712	517	594	446	764	680
Training	20	37	17	9	2	19	6
Employment	94	219	67	80	54	118	102
NEET	32	73	23	26	11	52	34
Others	50	107	27	34	28	76	52
Total	1039	2148	651	743	541	1029	874

Source: Connexions Gloucestershire.

Note: Chipping Campden School is working with an area partnership outside Gloucestershire and is not included in this table.

GCSE data¹

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 Target ²
% 5+ A* to C	61.2	60.9	62.8	63.9	66.5
% 5+ A* to C Inc Eng & Maths ³			52.6	53.8	
Average Capped Points Score ⁴	38.1	304.5	308.3	312.2	
Average Uncapped Points Score ⁵	45.8	369.5	376.5	382.1	372.2
% 5+ A* - G	92.2	92.2	93.8	93.4	
% 5+ A* - G Inc Eng & Maths	90.5	90.7	92.3	92.1	
% Any GCSE or equivalent passes	96.7	97.6	98.4	98.3	

Source: Gloucestershire County Council.

A Level/A2 data⁶

	2004	2005	2006
% A-C	71.7	74.8	75.8
% A-E	98.5	98.9	99.2
Average point score (S96 points) per entry	217.2	220.4	221.7
Average point score (UCAS points) per entry	85.7	87.6	88.3

Source: Gloucestershire County Council.

- (a) From 2004, GCSE and equivalent results have been reported; prior to 2004, only GCSE and GNVQ results were included;

(b) From 2005, results have been reported based on all pupils at the end of KS4; prior to 2005 results were reported based on pupils aged 15;

(c) All data are taken from DfES Final Statistical First releases with the exception of 2006; data from 2006 are Revised (but not Final).
- The 2007 target was set in 2005, before the %5+ A*-C including English and Maths was a statutory indicator.
- Prior to 2005, this was not an indicator.
- & 5. S96 points scores apply from 2004
- Includes Final Year pupils' results in GCE A level (formerly A2) and V[G]CE A level qualifications. Results are those held locally.

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)

The take up and attainment of NVQs continues to grow and make an important contribution to both the choice available to young people and the skill needs of the economy.

NVQ achievement amongst the county's under 19 year olds in work-based learning has increased steadily over recent years.



NVQ Achievement in Work Based Learning - LSC Funded Gloucestershire Residents

2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
27%	30%	39%	54%	66%

Source: LSC Gloucestershire.



4

Aims and objectives for 14 -19 education in Gloucestershire

Our aims for a 14 -19 strategy remain:

- to meet the needs of each individual learner, irrespective of where their learning is provided, ensuring that they reach the highest possible standards of achievement in their learning;
- to maximise participation in learning throughout the 14 -19 age group;
- to increase the skills levels of the workforce and help meet the needs of employers and improve economic prosperity.

To help us judge the effectiveness of the strategy we will monitor our progress in the following areas:

- the proportion of 17 year olds participating in education and training;
- reducing the proportion of 16 -18 year olds who are NEET;
- the proportion of year 11 learners who progress through the qualifications framework to level 3 by the age of 19;
- the proportion of young people who achieve level 2 by 19;
- the proportion of young people who achieve level 3 by 19;
- the proportion of learners achieving 5 A*-Cs at GCSE or equivalent, including English and Maths;
- the number of young people completing an Apprenticeship
- effective arrangements for collaboration;
- good quality information, advice and guidance;
- a broad range of quality 14 -19 provision, including vocational options;
- effective targeted provision for young people at risk of disengagement;
- sufficient facilities to deliver a broad range of high quality vocational provision;
- a workforce equipped to deliver a broad range of high quality vocational provision.

5

How will we achieve our aims and objectives?

We will achieve our aims and objectives by:

- regularly seeking and acting upon the views of learners;
- encouraging establishments to undertake self evaluation to recognise their unique contribution to an area curriculum entitlement;
- requiring schools, colleges, work based learning providers and others to work together on an geographic area basis to reduce institutional barriers to learning;
- accepting that the curriculum offered is diverse and that 'one size' does not meet the needs of all of our young learners - but ensuring that there is an inclusive 14 -19 curriculum entitlement;
- striving to provide learning experiences that engage all learners, building upon key stage 3 (11-14 years);
- ensuring effective transition arrangements across all key stages and beyond;
- ensuring the highest possible standards of attainment at all stages of the 14 -19 learning experience;
- being flexible in the way young people can access learning outside the traditional hours, so that they can learn, study and work to a range of working patterns;
- ensuring that the specialisms of schools, and Centres of Vocational Excellence in FE and WBL providers are central to the development of specialist academic, vocational and occupational learning meeting the needs of the business community;
- ensuring high quality continuing professional development for teachers, trainers, lecturers and support staff to deliver the entitlement to a high standard;
- encouraging employers to be actively involved in 14 -19 provision;
- encouraging, supporting and providing the very best leadership and management of the strategy and its implementation in the local authority, LSC, and area partnerships;

- working with partner agencies to support students most at risk of social exclusion to overcome personal barriers to learning.

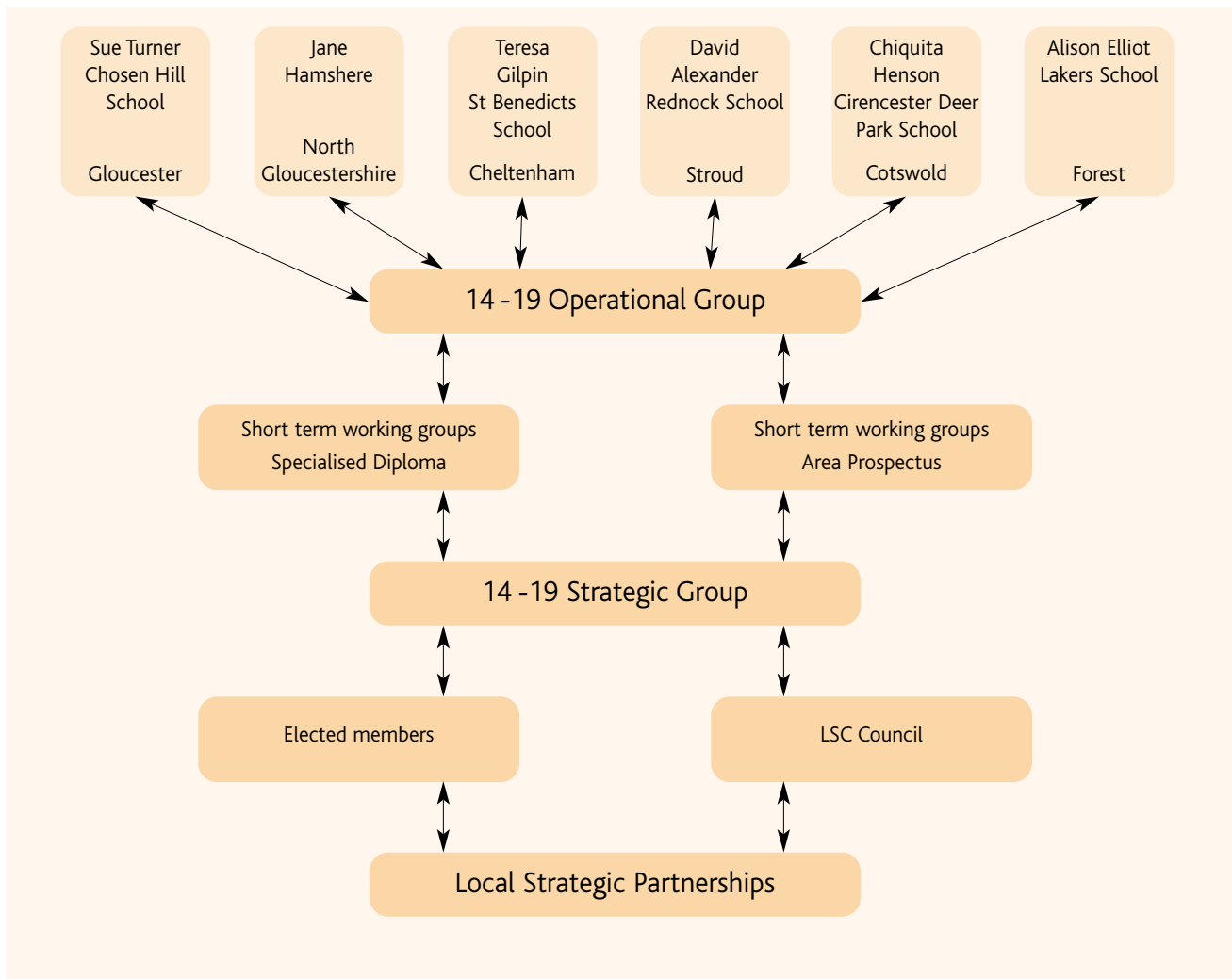
We need to ensure that Gloucestershire’s learner entitlement post 14 meets the needs of the learner.

This statement is driven by the principle of equality of entitlement at an area level. Together providers in each area will need to provide an entitlement that puts the learner first, and improves access to, and participation in, education and training.

All schools and colleges are now involved in area partnerships. These partnerships are the key agents for change. Partnerships will continue to evolve to include other key stakeholders such as work-based providers, employers, Connexions and so on. Each area group will incrementally and strategically plan for and deliver provision that meets both each student’s need and the skills need of local employment and eventually provide the national entitlement by 2013.

Allocation of resources to support 14 -19 development will be discussed and agreed by all stakeholders through the 14 -19 Strategy and Operational Group. The strategy is based on the assumption that planning and funding bodies

Delivery Structure



will provide the necessary support and resources to ensure that the learner entitlement has practical consequences for individual learners in Gloucestershire.

Entitlement to a Curriculum

Post 14 learners will be entitled to access a curriculum operating at an area level that will offer qualifications at three levels,

- National Framework levels 1 2 and 3 across three domains;
- academic, specialised and work-based learning.

Within the framework there is a prescribed minimum of curriculum coverage for each level and area, which meets the requirements of the national entitlement due to come into force by 2013:

Level 3 - AS/A2 - a minimum of 20 specified subjects (some with alternatives)

Level 1 & 2 - GCSEs - this must include Maths and English or alternatives as identified in the qualifications framework.

Level 1, 2 & 3 - specialised diplomas in each of the 14 areas

Level 1, 2 & 3 - work-based learning - in each of the 14 occupational areas

All post 14 learners will be entitled to the opportunity to develop functional skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT and personal development opportunities that will meet individual needs and aspirations.

Entitlement to Information, Advice and Guidance.

Post 14 learners will be entitled to impartial information, advice and guidance, including details on opportunities in the key sectors of the Gloucestershire economy. Partnerships will be required to contribute to the publication, annually, of a county prospectus, which meets national guidelines. In addition partnerships are expected to provide:

- partnership information events for students;
- support from personal advisers (Connexions, careers staff in schools, colleges, etc) on curriculum routes;
- a personal tutor for each learner;
- an individual learning plan. Partnerships will be encouraged to adopt an electronic learning plan for students. The LSC will financially support the introduction of the Plan-it system.



This strategy depends on clear and coherent leadership from the local authority and LSC. The local authority and LSC aim to promote equality of opportunity for all learners, irrespective of their age, race, sex, religion, sexual orientation and whether or not they have a disability, learning difficulty or any other characteristic. All stakeholders are engaged in the delivery of this plan via the 14 -19 Strategy and Operational Groups (see diagram). Stakeholders will encourage and promote collaboration to achieve the aims of the Gloucestershire 14 -19 Strategy and the national 14 -19 Implementation Plan.

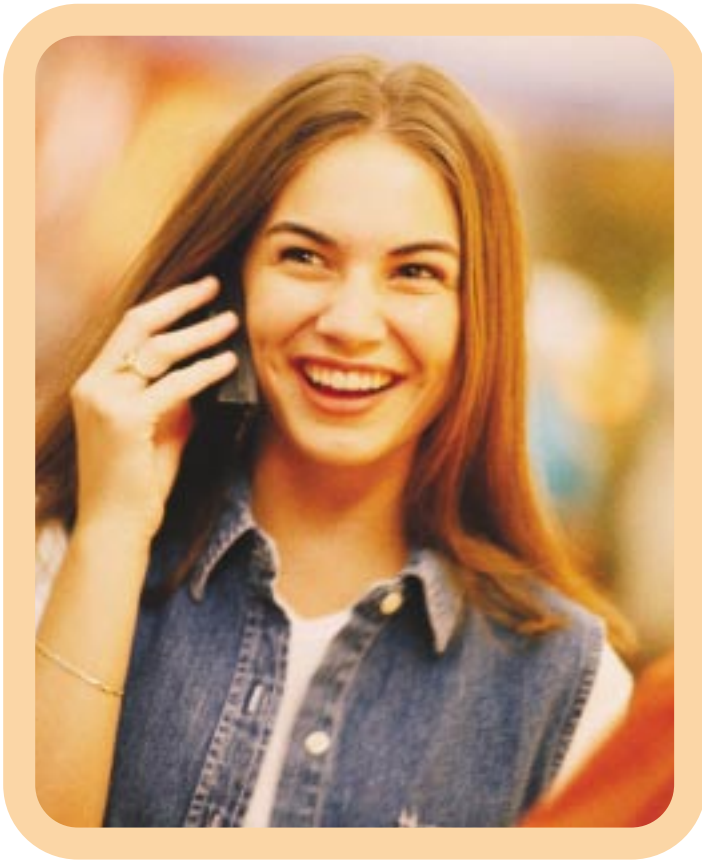
Ultimately the evaluation of the plans will contribute to the evaluation of the Children and Young People's Plan.

6

How will we know if we have succeeded?

By 2010, we will have:

- effective arrangements for collaboration;
- good quality information, advice and guidance;
- a broad range of quality 14 -19 provision, including applied options;
- effective targeted provision for young people at risk of disengagement;
- sufficient facilities to deliver a broad range of high quality applied provision;
- a workforce equipped to deliver a broad range of high quality vocational provision.



For this strategy to succeed all in the education and training community must:

- put the needs of learners before those of individual organisations;
- embrace the need for radical educational change;
- identify, support and promote good practice that is successful in raising standards;
- work together to determine the choices available for learners;
- set common targets across geographical areas, linked to county targets;
- adopt suitable protocols for working together;
- take local responsibility for leading particular aspects;
- adopt shared quality standards and approaches.
- increase the engagement of employers.

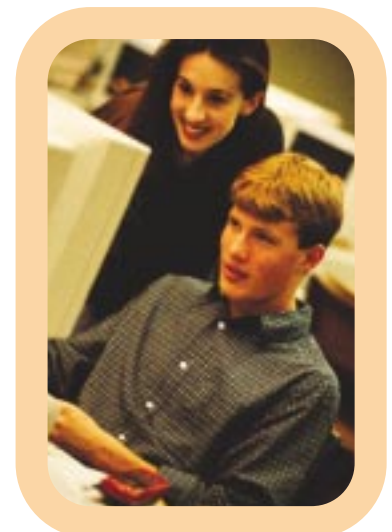
and we will have achieved measurable improvement in:

- the proportion of 17 year olds participating in education and training;
- reducing the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET;
- the proportion of young people who achieve level 2 by 19;
- the proportion of young people who achieve level 3 by 19;
- the proportion of learners achieving 5 A*-Cs at GCSE or equivalent, including English and Maths;
- the number of young people completing an Apprenticeship;
- effective arrangements for collaboration;
- good quality information, advice and guidance;
- a broad range of quality 14 -19 provision, including vocational options;
- effective targeted provision for young people at risk of disengagement;
- sufficient facilities to deliver a broad range of high quality vocational provision;
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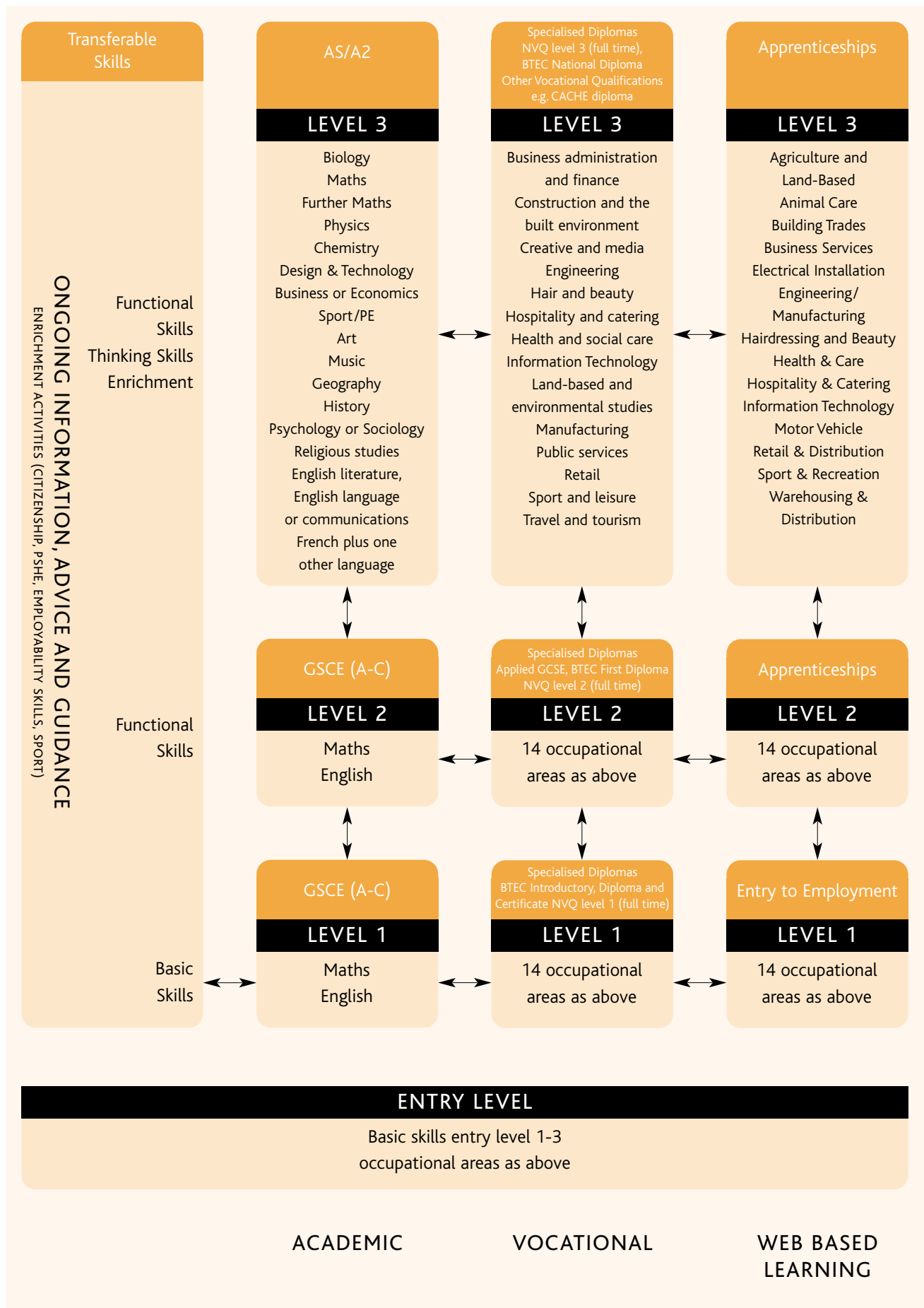
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Next steps

Provision for 14 -19 year olds is constantly changing and we will need to keep it under constant review. Area groups will monitor the effectiveness of their own plans, reporting through their representative on the 14 -19 Operational Group on its progress. Our collective effectiveness will be monitored by the county 14 -19 Strategy Group supported by the 14 -19 Operational Group, and any further updates of our strategy will be facilitated by those groups. The local authority and LSC will fulfil the challenge and support roles as appropriate for individual institutions.



Gloucestershire area based curriculum entitlement post 14



14-19 Area Groups

Forest

Dene Magna School
Hartpury College
Heart of the Forest Community School
Heywood Community School
Lakers School
Newent Community School
Royal Forest of Dean College
Whitecross School
Wyedean School

Gloucester

Barnwood Park School
Beaufort Community School
Brockworth Enterprise School
Bishops' College
Central Technology College
Chosen Hill School
Churchdown School
Gloscat
High School for Girls
Ribston Hall High School
Severn Vale School
Sir Thomas Rich's School
St Peter's Catholic High School
The Crypt School
The Hatherley Centre
The Milestone School

North Gloucestershire

Alderman Knight School
Cleeve School
Gloscat
Tewkesbury School
Winchcombe School

Central Stroud

Amberley Ridge School
Archway School
Cam House School

Maidenhill School
Marling School
Stroud College
Stroud High School
The Shrubberies School
The Whitminster Centre
Thomas Keble School

West Stroud

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School
Rednock School
Stroud College
Vale of Berkeley College

Cheltenham

Balcarras School
Belmont School
Bettridge School
Gloscat
Cheltenham Bournside School
Cheltenham Kingsmead School
Pates Grammar School
Pittville School
Sandford School
St Benedict's Catholic School
St George's Centre

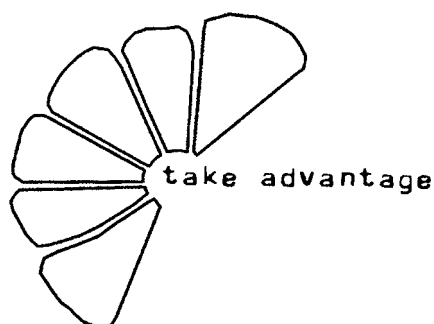
South Cotswolds

Cirencester College
Cirencester Deer Park School
Cirencester Kingshill School
Coln House School
Farmor's School
Paternoster School
Sir William Romney's School
The Cotswold School

Note 1: Some of the establishments take learners from a wider area than the group in which they appear above.

Note 2: Hartpury College, National Star College, Ruskin Mill and William Morris House all serve the whole county.

Note 3: Chipping Campden School is working across county borders.



Leading learning and skills



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL