

14-19 Strategic Needs Analysis for Nottingham City Consultation Responses, November 2009

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A total of thirteen responses were made to the consultation exercise, arriving from a range of organisations including schools, colleges, training providers and strategic bodies. The following document summarises the key points made through the responses, against the four questions posed in the consultation response form.

Question 1. Are the conclusions of this report correct?

There was considerable support for the findings of the report, with several respondents stating that they felt they were an accurate portrayal of the issues facing 14-19 education and training in Nottingham. Other comments included:

- The need for commitment from all stakeholders.
- Don't neglect traditional post 16 routes.
- Little in the report about either learning disabilities or foundation learning issues. The voluntary sector can plug the gap in this market.
- Concern over initiative overload.
- Student demand needs to be represented.
- Older learners may be disadvantaged by fees issue. Need for LA to look at further incentives for 18/19 year olds to engage in learning.
- Progression issues require better communication between schools and FE.
- Functional skills should be seen in the context that it is the first year of Diplomas.
- Concern over the information being used in the report that focuses on performance in one college.
- Hub and spoke model is sound but the individual sectors and the occupations within them are constantly changing.
- Opportunity to expand Apprenticeships in the creative industries.
- Care is an important sector with skills needs, not reflected in the report.
- Some providers have a strong track record of delivering Programme Led Apprenticeships (PLAs) – need to work with these providers to expand PLAs.
- Need to recognise 'Antenna', the newly formed hub for creative industries in the region.
- Need greater recognition of the private and third sectors in delivering provision.
- The Skills Pledge could be used to focus organisations to deliver Apprenticeships.
- Need to identify specialist providers to deliver provision for NEET young people, focusing on the individual barriers that they face.
- Recognition is needed that the national environment encourages competition rather than collaboration.

Question 2. How can we implement the changes in outcomes and processes that are described in this report?

- Sharing experiences through collaborative discussions is the key.
- Better and more consistent funding for quality assured third sector provision.

- Greater input from industry to define the curriculum offer, including subject (sector) boards.
- Need to treat all partners equally in collaborative arrangements.
- Greater analysis of work with disadvantaged learners is required.
- Electronic database would make everything easier.
- Hub and spoke model would work well in the private or third sector. Spokes could include IAG, technical training, Functional Skills and personal development.
- Greater use of short certificates as tasters during transition rather than forcing all learners to progress straight into a full level 2 qualification.
- Greater utilisation of industry and providers' expertise in delivering IAG.

Question 3. What views do you have regarding the commissioning intentions outlined in this report?

- Need commissioning intentions to be clear and transparent.
- There should be a pot for innovation.
- Bring back in-year reconciliation.
- Higher emphasis for PLAs required.
- Greater emphasis on employers' needs.
- Greater focus on skills shortages in hospitality and catering.
- Need incentives for collaboration.
- Concern that commissioning process could favour larger providers.
- Need better information from schools to support progression and ensure that students are most appropriately placed post-16.
- Level playing field for FE and schools data.
- Need the commissioning unit to understand the provider base.

Question 4. What further information would you like to receive regarding the Machinery of Government changes taking place in Nottingham City?

- Better understanding of the funding chronology.
- Continued discussion and sharing of reports, documents and committee papers.
- Specific sub group within Enable required to look at these issues.
- Need to put partner deliverers on mailing lists.
- Open approach required to data issues.
- Updates on performance required by providers.
- Regular (monthly) updates.