

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
10 NOVEMBER 2014	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children’s Services

Contact Officer(s) – Jonathan Lewis – Assistant Director – Education, Resources and Corporate Property

Contact Details – jonathan.lewis@peterborough.gov.uk / 01733 863912

EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVISION FOR 16- TO 19-YEAR-OLDS IN PETERBOROUGH – OFSTED REVIEW

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with details of the review of the effectiveness of education and training provision for 16 to 19 year olds in Peterborough undertaken by Ofsted in May. It will give an overview of the review and its findings but also the draft action plan to be put in place to address the area for development the review found.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee is asked to discuss the Ofsted report and review the proposed action plan that has been developed to address the areas of development identified.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Single Delivery Plan - Programme 1 – Creating jobs through growth and improved skills and education.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Ofsted conducted a review of the effectiveness of education and training provision for 16 -19 year olds, particularly the most vulnerable in Peterborough, during the week beginning the 19th May 2014. Two of Her Majesty’s Inspectors conducted the five day review. This was a pilot review, similar in style to that of the old area wide inspections when the Learning and Skills Councils (LSC) oversaw post 16 provision. The main purpose is to find out what is happening in education and learning post 16 in a local area and to look at how effective the local ‘system’, as a whole, is in reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

- 4.2 Ofsted also wanted to understand how Peterborough exercised its statutory responsibilities in respect of:

- Tracking all young people 16-19 – intended outcomes and destinations data;
- Ensuring there is sufficient and appropriate provision in the local area post 16, particularly for the most vulnerable;
- Reducing the number of young people who are NEET and who may be at risk of being NEET;
- Responding to the Raising of the Participation Age legislation

- 4.3 These responsibilities have changed since the last government with a number of functions being transferred into schools and other partners. For example, Information, Advice and Guidance for instance is now a responsibility of schools for delivery and is assessed as part of

a schools Ofsted inspection. However the Local Authority is still viewed as the strategic lead across post 16 education, albeit with many of the powers removed.

- 4.4 At the time of planning the inspection, the published data indicated that the percentage of young people identified as NEET in Peterborough was above the regional average. The decision to review the authority also took account of the findings from the inspection of the local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement carried out in February 2014. The inspection in February stated the following –

“The local authority has effective arrangements to ensure there are sufficient and suitable places for all 16- and 17-year-olds in education or training. A particular strength is the improved provision, at a local college, for students who have special educational needs or a disability. There is more to do, however, to increase work-based learning opportunities and to challenge schools about the quality and impartiality of the information, advice and guidance they provide to students.”

- 4.5 This led to the following area for development being outlined in the report –

“Improve information, advice and guidance in schools and broaden the provision of work-based learning opportunities so that young people succeed along their education and training pathways.”

- 4.6 The engagement letter from Ofsted outlined the following lines of enquiry for the inspection –

- **Standards and progress:** Review of published data against national averages for GCSE English and mathematics grades A*-C, Key Stage 4 and 5 attainment, classroom-based learning and work-place learning success rates, learners’ progress data from the Level 3 Value Added table, learners’ destinations and NEET data.
- **Local authority strategic planning:** The effectiveness of the local authority in meeting its statutory duties and in providing strategic leadership in relation to the participation of 16-19 year old young people in education or training and their well-being.
- **Local area provider accountability:** The effectiveness and impact of the full range of organisations working individually and collectively, to ensure transitions and support young people post-16 into education, employment, and training.
- **Curriculum range and access:** The scope of the 16-19 curriculum for young people, particularly the most vulnerable, and how effectively is it informed by local skill priority areas.
- **Information, advice and guidance:** Accessibility, responsiveness and quality of information, advice, guidance and support.

- 4.7 As part of the preparation for the review, a self evaluation against these areas was developed prior to the inspection and shared with inspectors at the opening session when an overview of post 16 education was presented.

- 4.8 The inspectors undertook 30 meetings including sessions with the following -

- Senior LA officers and Members including Chief Executive, Lead Member for Education, Director of Children’s Services, AD Education and Head of 0 – 19 service
- Leaving care team managers
- 8-19 Service team managers
- Youth in Localities Team
- Alternative Education providers and Youth Offending Service
- Performance management
- University Technical College and FE Providers
- Princes Trust team
- NEET delivery and homelessness team
- Adolescence Intervention Service
- Opportunity Peterborough and LEP

- The Skills Board
- National Citizenship Programme
- Cross Keys Homes
- Commissioners to vulnerable groups
- Independent Advice and Guidance leads from schools
- KS4 PRU visit – Honeyhill
- Work Club
- Work based learning providers
- Raising the Participation age strategic group
- Teenage mum support group
- Youth council and youth MP
- Head teachers

4.9 As this was a review, there was no formal outcome to the review. The report was published on the 1st September 2014 – see Appendix 1.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The review outlined a number of strengths especially around support for the most vulnerable in the city. There was strong praise for teams working together and the local authority having a good oversight of provision in the city. The areas of weakness were those areas we identified in our self evaluation at the outset. Areas for improvement were that Key Stage 5 outcomes were below national average and that information, advice and guidance needed improving.

5.2 The report covers the responsibilities of all stakeholders supporting 16 to 19 learners and the recommendations cover both the LA and providers. The key recommendations are set out on page 3 of the report.

5.3 In response to the recommendations made in the report, an action plan has been developed that covers the following 4 areas -

1. Determine clearly the key strategic priorities needed to bring about further improvement in post-16 provision
2. Review and amend the current consultative and planning arrangements in order that the local authority and its partners can take swift action to tackle their shared priorities
3. Continue to champion the needs of all young people but report publicly and more robustly on shortcomings in post 16 provision across the city
4. Devise a means to support and challenge schools in sharpening the quality of their information, advice and guidance for young people, to meet statutory requirements

5.4 The proposed action plan is outlined in appendix 2. This is a draft document for consultation with stakeholders and a working group is being established with secondary heads to focus on the school based issues within the action plan. A similar working group has been set up of LA officers.

5.5 The plan is still being developed and the timescales for action and resources to deliver actions are currently being identified. The resources will be found within existing capacity / structure. A final version will be published once agreed by all key stakeholders.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal or financial implications to this report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 All key stakeholders will be consulted on the action plan before it is finalised and published. A copy has been shared with our regional Senior HMI.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The key issues outlined in this paper will be brought back to this committee if required.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1
- Appendix 1 - A review (pilot) of the effectiveness of education and training provision for 16- to 19-year-olds in Peterborough – May 2014
 - Appendix 2 – Action Plan