

**Post 16 Education
and Skills Vision for
Devon County
Council
2016-2020**

May 2016

Report of the Head of Education and Learning

Post 16 Education and Skills Vision 2016-2020.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Post 16 Employability and Skills has resurfaced as a national and local priority. There are many strands and pathways for young people entering employment and educational routes after they have finished their compulsory school provision. There are some deep-rooted structural issues as to the reasons that some students do not achieve their potential when leaving school. There is a push from Government and invited Universities, cities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and business to work with Government to map the strengths of different regions to provide a new way of working and build on the regions' strengths. Skills and employment will see major reforms to achieve the Government's productivity and economic growth across the labour market. The heart of the South West has already identified key golden opportunities to improve the employability of all of our young people and have a positive impact on the economic growth of Devon.

2.0 Vision

2.1 Devon County Council wants to ensure with all of its key partners in education, further education, higher education, employers and businesses that every person leaving school is given the maximum opportunity to achieve their fullest potential in work and employment.

3.0 Background

3.1 The reshaping and re-commissioning of Post 16 education has started with the devolution packages which will see Government funding move away from funding per qualification for adult learners (post 19 year olds) to ensure provision is targeted at training which has the greatest impact on the economy.

3.2 The changes proposed are to achieve educational excellence everywhere with preparation for adult life. All 19 year olds complete school or college with the skills and character to contribute to the UK's society and economy, enabling access to high quality work or study options.

3.3 The introduction of free schools, studio schools, University Technical Colleges and the drive to convert all schools into a forced academisation programme will increase the confusion and rising trend of vulnerable young people 'leaving' schools to avoid exclusion. Whilst education has the power to transform lives, it can also cause great concern for parents, young people and employers on which pathways to take for the future.

3.4 The quality of some post 16 provision can affect parents' decisions at Year 7 of their compulsory school education for future choices and admissions. This does fuel the downward spiral of some schools' viability.

3.5 Post 16 Area Reviews focused on Further Education and training institutions will be carried out in Devon, Somerset, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly starting in November 2016. The purpose of the review will add information to the Government detailing Devon, Somerset and Cornwall's:

- Student numbers 14-16, 16-18 and 19+ age groups in their FE colleges;
- Numbers of staff employed in FE;
- Financial budget of FE;
- A series of information relating to the impact the learners have on employers, business and the economy including gaps in provision, poor quality provision and imbalances in employer sector requirements. The skills need of the local area will be a focus using comparisons of provider delivery set against economic requirements.

3.6 The creation of National Colleges has been announced to provide high-level sector-specific training and some colleges will be invited to become Institutes of Technology to deliver high-standard provision. They will be sponsored by employers registered with professional bodies and aligned with apprenticeship standards. The Government is committed to increasing the number of apprenticeship starts in England to 3 million by 2020 and require schools to promote apprenticeships with the same parity as academic studies.

3.7 The Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) shows Devon to be in the bottom quartile in two areas and the third quartile in six areas for Gaps in Outcomes for disadvantaged students. Students in receipt of Free School Meals are making less progress at KS5. The large majority of potential NEET are either:

- Post 16 teenage mothers
- Post 16 learners with learning disabilities or difficulties (SEND)
- Post 16 young offenders
- Post 16 young carers
- 19 year old care leavers
- Post 16 children in care

4.0 What DCC will do

4.1 DCC will assist with the Post 16 Area Review to engage with all Post 16 providers, particularly schools with sixth forms, Further Education Colleges, Work Based Learning Providers, Adult and Community Learning (Learn Devon) and Higher Education Providers including Exeter and Plymouth Universities to prepare a statement of provision of post 16 providers across Devon, signposting both academic and vocational skills routes highlighting any gaps in provision and stating the long term view of capacity and quality at education levels 3, 4 and 5.

4.2 DCC will identify the opportunities within its own workforce and increase the number of apprenticeships under the new apprenticeship levy scheme. A new model of internships will be introduced into work placement programmes, particularly focussed on post 16 vulnerable groups including Children in Care and Care Leavers from Devon.

4.3 DCC will work with a wide employer base to establish employment routes to internships for any vulnerable group aged 16-21. DCC will establish good funding models within the FE sector and voluntary and community sector to provide training support and mentors within the internship model.

4.4 DCC will align its external contract with Babcock to engage with poor performing 6th forms and those that are financially struggling to provide good quality post 16 provision to their learners and work with the leaders in schools to

reform their 16-19 skills provision and help develop viable skills routes within their geographical areas of delivery.

- 4.5 DCC will align its external contract with CSW to account for every single NEET in Devon and to report to a number of different organisations including Health, Social Care, and all the provider network of post 16 provisions. CSW will provide full Information, Advice and Guidance provision for all the targeted groups within Devon on a regular basis and implement key assessments for post 16 learners requiring EHCPs.
- 4.6 DCC will review the governance of its working arrangements to ensure a single accountable body for all learners 16-25, reporting to the Children, Young People and Families Alliance and the employability and skills groups held in Economy and Skills. This will ensure the tracking and performance of young people and adults into Employment. By using the new governance routes the following outcomes will be achieved:
- A reduction of NEETS across Devon and knowledge of all of the cohort 16-19 and including 16-21 year old Care Leavers
 - 300 unemployed young learners (Post 16) with learning difficulties and disabilities will progress into internships or employment / work related opportunities by September 2017
 - The number of young adults entering independent institutions outside of Devon for Education and Learning, Health and Social Care reasons (EHCP) will reduce and good provision provided within Devon for Devon learners
 - Increase the number of Apprenticeship starts in Devon to diverting young people away from employment with no training to the new Apprenticeship.
 - By September 2018 working within the infrastructure policy and influence new providers into Devon where there is an educational and skills need and promote quality improvements in the provider offer.
 - Assist with the place planning for post 16 provision to account for the significant demographic increase in 16 year old learners in 2020 and help prepare a structure plan for DCC
 - Identify the students at risk of alternative provision not in mainstream school settings and provide good pathways through to traineeships, employment or study options.
 - Review the viability of the curriculum offer across Devon including sixth forms.
 - Work with partners in other Local Authorities to plan and provide the post 16 provision that may sit in different travel to learn area's (Somerset, Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall)
 - Develop a post 16 travel to learn policy for Devon with partner agencies to reduce the burden on DCC budgets whilst increasing the incentive to attend apprenticeships across Devon.
 - Work with appropriate agencies including the National Careers Service to initiate high quality Information Advice and Guidance for all post 16 students.

John Peart

Senior Manager Strategic Commissioning of Educational Employability and Skills

May 2016