



The strategic priorities for the provision of post 16 education and training in North Somerset for the 2012-13 academic year and, in some cases, beyond are, as follows:

- ❖ To increase further the overall participation rate, in line with national aspirations, to raise the participation age. Current participation rate in North Somerset is first amongst statistical neighbours, but short of the national RPA target.
- ❖ The DfE gives North Somerset's destination data as 89% of 2008-09 cohort going on to, or remaining in, education destination 2009/10, with a 6%, whose destination is not sustained.
- ❖ To reach full participation, the needs of vulnerable groups will need to be addressed creatively with key partners and stakeholders.

Key Priorities

Universal

- Ensure the September Guarantee is met for all 16 and 17 year olds.
- To sustain learner numbers participating at full Level 3 and increase the number from vulnerable groups, promoting collaborative provision, where appropriate.
- Match provision to the development of the North Somerset Skills Strategy and priorities of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.
- To work in effective partnership with all North Somerset providers (existing and new), ESF delivery bodies, Prospect training (Youth contract), Learning Partnership West and funding agencies Education Funding Agency, Skills Funding Agency and National Apprenticeship Service.
- Extend and develop a culture of collaborative and partnership provision, where appropriate, ensuring cost effectiveness and value for money.

Areas of development

- To ensure there is sufficient provision for the increasing size of the 16-19 cohort and only to consider new provision where existing cannot meet demand .
- To support appropriate and sufficient Apprenticeship provision and pathways and other vocational learning opportunities to meet the needs of learners, employers and the economic needs of North Somerset, including:
 - provision for those, who would have traditionally progressed to Higher Education Institutions, by expanding the opportunities for Apprenticeships at Level 3 and 4.
 - provision for pre-entry Apprenticeship and Level 1 Apprenticeships.
- To promote the development of employability and entrepreneurial skills for all 16-19 year olds.
- To support the development of a North Somerset Higher Education Institute.
- Promote collaborative provision, where appropriate to ensure that North Somerset can retain secure A-level provision in languages, music and other minority subjects .

Targeted

Areas for development

- To significantly increase the level 2 and 3 attainment levels of FSM learners, whilst narrowing the attainment gap.
- To work with all providers to raise the progression and attainment of vulnerable young people, by ensuring sufficient high quality flexible provision re Foundation Learning and re-engagement activities. Groups that are identified as high priorities are:
 - vulnerable young people;
 - teen parents;
 - those eligible for free school meals (FSM);
 - looked after young people;
 - those living in specific areas of deprivation;
 - individuals in jobs without training;
 - young offenders; and
 - individuals, who leave an educational setting at 17.
- To develop the curriculum pathways and provision from pre-16 to post-16 and, particularly post 19, to enable more learners with a learning difficulty and/or disability (LLDD) learners to be educated in the West of England area through local provision, which may be residential.

Link to North Somerset Strategic Plans and Policies

- Children and Families' Partnership Plan
- Child Poverty Strategy
- Joint Strategic Needs' Assessment
- Children Looked After Joint Commissioning Strategy
- Raising Participation Age Strategy
- Early Intervention Commissioning Strategy (*Complete December 2012*)
- Parenting Strategy (*Complete October 2012*)
- High Impact Families strategy