



Membership with voting rights

Strategic leads of all 14-19 education providers in North Somerset
Partnership Director Weston College
Assistant director of Learning and Achievement, North Somerset Council
Partnership Advisor (14-19) Learning Exchange
Vulnerable Learners Service Strategic Lead

By invitation, without voting rights

Education Funding Agency
National Apprenticeship Service
Connexions strategic lead
UWE
Bristol University
Bath Spa University
Job Centre Plus
Employers

Background

The Raising of the Participation (RPA) Legislation increases the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning, requiring them to continue in learning to 17 from 2013 and to 18 from 2015.

Young people will choose how they want to participate, underlying the importance of careers guidance. They can choose to participate through

- Full time education such as school or college
- An apprenticeship
- Part time education or training if they are employed, self employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week

Although a range of partners have specific responsibilities relating to RPA, the local authority has the lead role to ensure plans and activities are in place to

- to promote effective participation (to age 17 for Year 10 learners and age 18 for Year 9 learners);
- to monitor and track participation;
- to support NEETs and potential NEETs;
- to identify any gaps in 16-18 provision and to broker new provision;
- Economic regeneration.

North Somerset Council is strongly committed to working in partnership with all schools, academies, Weston College, work-based providers, Learning Partnership West, voluntary sector and job centre plus in respect to discharging these duties. It has a clear commitment to target and prioritise those young

people who are at risk of becoming NEET. They will be identified by the development of a Risk of NEET indicator (RONI).

National policy changes, austerity measures, the introduction of the 16-19 Bursary, changes to Post 16 funding all reinforce a need for partnership working to achieve maximum impact for young people. Careers guidance is both an opportunity and challenge.

Purpose

The actions required to reduce the number of young people who become NEET are many and varied and a successful strategy will depend upon the co-ordinated actions of a wide range of stakeholders including academies, Colleges, training providers, LPW and voluntary organisations and a number of services delivered by the Local Authority.

Strategy will be organised under the following themes

- Early identification
- Prevention
- Intervention

Organisation

The SPB will meet annually in the spring term. The LA will seek to work with and consult stakeholders via SHINS, DHINS, Post 16 network, SENS and 14-19 Reference group throughout the year.

In the event that the Chair decided that an extra meeting needed to be called in exceptional circumstances at least ten days notice would be given.

The quorum for all meetings of the Board is half of the total core members with voting rights.

Local context

The 16-19 cohort in North Somerset is increasing. The NEET figures have remained static at 4% of the cohort. September Guarantee for 16 year olds shows very high levels of participation, with increasing NEET percentages at 17, 18 and on to 19. Unemployment for 16-24 year olds has risen with 980 residents currently on the job seekers register. A significant number of young people are in jobs without training. There are some challenges with the availability of LDD (Learners with difficulties and disabilities) provision for some learners. The availability and high costs means that travel to learn is a constraint for some young people.

Identified vulnerable groups re NEET include

- Teen parents
- Children looked after and care leavers
- Movers in (those that move in to North Somerset from the age of 14 and who do not attend mainstream provision)
- Individuals who live in key wards in Weston super Mare
- Being in a job without training

Terms of reference

- To be consulted, feedback and endorse the 16-19 strategic commissioning plan of NSC including a review of learner need.
- To share annually the performance against RPA national targets and learner outcomes (achievement, destinations, employment) up to the age of 19 and LLDD learners up to the age of 25.
- To consult with ,communicate to and seek endorsement from the Board , the Local Authorities proposed strategies and actions in supporting Raising of the Participation Age
- To respond as a partnership to identified gaps in provision for 16-18 cohort.
- To work in partnership to raise perceptions, aspirations and confidence in the opportunities in North Somerset for all young people, their parents and carers.
- To raise educational outcomes at 19 narrow the attainment gap at 19 and develop increasing employability skills in North Somerset by working in partnership to ensure that appropriate provision and pathways exist for all young people to support progression to further learning, training and employment., supporting the development of 14-19 leading edge practice and provision in North Somerset and share best practice with key stakeholders.
- To determine and approve the individual who will represent the 14-19 SPB at SSF. This will be reviewed annually.
- Ensure the maximum benefit of collaborative activity is achieved by including wider partners
- To ensure all partners are aware of the priorities of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board and how this impacts on skills, education and employment opportunities for young people.
- To facilitate working collaboratively to access funding to deliver projects agreed by the Partnership Board.

Terms of reference to be reviewed January 2014