

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 27 March 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Strategic Commissioning Statement for 14-19 education and training

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval of the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement for 2014-15.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board ratify the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement 2014-15 in order to fulfil Halton Borough Council's statutory duty.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement will enable Halton Borough Council to carry out its statutory duty, under Sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009), to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area, and to make available to young people support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008).

3.2 In order to fulfil its statutory duties, Halton Borough Council are required to champion the needs of young people in their area by:

- Influencing and shaping the provision on offer and helping to develop and improve the education and training market;
- Promoting any necessary structural change in the local education and training system;
- Supporting the improvement of the quality of the education and training of young people aged 16-19;
- Supporting employer needs, economic growth and community development working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as appropriate;

- Promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area; and
- Make arrangements to identify young people resident in their area who are not participating

3.3 To support the production of the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement and the identification of key priorities for young people in Halton, evidence, data and information was gathered and analysed alongside a review of the outcomes of the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 2013-14. This information is attached to the Strategic Commissioning Statement 2014-15 as Appendix 1: Strategic Analysis and Appendix 2: Summary of Outcomes from 2013-14. These documents, along with the National and local commissioning environment, have been analysed and five key priority areas for the borough have been identified.

3.4 The five key priority areas are:

1. Ensure there is sufficient suitable provision in place to meet our statutory duties for vulnerable young people aged 16-25.
2. Put in place an effective strategy to reduce the number of young people at risk of become or who are already Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or their activity is not known.
3. Implement the Halton Participation Strategy to support meeting the raising of the participation age to 17 by 2013 and 18 by 2015.
4. Ensure young people have access to appropriate progression routes.
5. Work with partners to support effective implementation of strategies to meet the requirements of the Alternative Provision statutory guidance and the recommendations of the Halton Alternative Provision report autumn 2013.

3.5 These priorities and supporting evidence have been individually consulted on with partners in specific task groups across the 11-19 Partnership and been ratified by the 11-19 Strategic Partnership and the Children's Trust Commissioning Partnership.

3.6 The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement is coherent with the purpose of positive activities for young people supporting them with their health, lifestyle and career aspirations enabling them to achieve their full potential in their transition to adulthood. The majority of our young people will achieve this through their family, school, college and social activities.

3.7 The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement 2014-15 is attached to this report as Appendix A.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Council Corporate plan, Children and Young People's plan and Employment Learning and Skills Strategies have key priorities to raise aspirations of young people and increase local employment opportunities for local young people and adults.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The 11-19 Strategic Partnership members are involved in the planning of provision and support for 14-19 learners in Halton and learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in Halton up to the age of 25. They will enable Halton Borough Council to carry out its strategic commissioning role by responding to the borough 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Supports key priorities to ensure that Children and Young people do well wherever they live and provides opportunities for young people to be successful when they leave school by raising aspirations of young people and increase local employment opportunities.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Apprenticeships and providing employment opportunities for local people are an important part of the Employment Learning and Skills Strategic Partnership and as such strong linkages must be maintained to ensure that the Commissioning Statement reflects the pathway from education and training into employment opportunities available.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Will create opportunities to reduce the number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), young people who are NEET are at a higher risk of ill health.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Young people who are NEET are more likely to be involved in criminal activity.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

With the significant investment in Urban Renewal project in Halton partnerships are ensuring that employment, learning and skills opportunities are written into key performance indicators within all new development contracts.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to understand and influence the commissioning of Post 16 provision in the borough and progression routes to Post 16 provision will lead to a mix and balance of provision driven by providers' priorities which may not meet the needs of young people or employers.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Halton Borough Council has a statutory duty to secure that enough suitable education and training is provided to meet the reasonable needs of:

(a) persons in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19, and

(b) persons in their area who are aged 19 or over but under 25 and are subject to learning difficulty assessment.

9.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

9.1 To ratify the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement for 2014-15 to ensure that Halton Borough Council fulfil its statutory duties under Sections 15ZA and 19A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009) to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the borough and to make available to young people support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008).

10.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

10.1 Not applicable – 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement provides information about our priorities to meet our statutory duties.

11.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

11.1 With immediate effect following the March 2014 Executive Board

12.0

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009	Rutland House	Simon Clough
Statutory guidance on the participation of young people in education, employment or training March 2013	Rutland House	Simon Clough