

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 26 March 2015

**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 2015-16.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board ratify the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement 2015-16 in order to fulfil Halton Borough Council's statutory duty.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement provides a summary of how Halton Borough Council carries out its statutory duties (*Sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009), Sections 10, 12 and 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 and Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014*) to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area, and encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training.

3.2 Halton Borough Council has published a 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement since 2011, when duties and staff from the Learning and Skills Council transferred to Halton Borough Council. The current format and focus of the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement has been in place since the 2013/14 document. This 2015/16 document is the final document within this current cycle.

3.3 The Post 16 Development and 14-19 Entitlement Division will carry out an evaluation of the structure and content of the current Strategic Commissioning Statement format, reviewing the purpose of the document, its audience and taking into consideration the planned Greater Merseyside Post 16 Review and feedback from Ofsted about expectations of challenge from Local Authorities Post 16. The timetable for publication of the document will also be

considered as currently verified data available is three academic years behind the documentation publication year. Consultation will take place as part of the review before a new document is developed.

3.4 To support the production of the 2015-16 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement and the identification of key priorities, evidence, data and information was gathered and analysed alongside a review of the outcomes of the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 2014-15. This information is attached to the Strategic Commissioning Statement 2015-16 as Appendix 1: Summary of 2014/15 Outcomes and latest verified data. Three key priority areas for the borough have been identified.

3.5 The three priorities are:

1. Ensure there is sufficient suitable provision in place to meet our statutory duties for vulnerable young people aged 16-25
2. Support young people to participate in education or training
3. Ensure young people have access to appropriate progression routes

3.6 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.

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
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