

Schools Forum Date:	SCHOOLS FORUM 12 FEBRUARY 2014	Agenda Item	5
Report Title:	Post 16 Local Offer : Task and Finish Group Recommendations		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information and decision		
Directorate:	School Improvement		
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Wards affected:	ALL		
Appendices	Appendix A: Task and Finish Group Recommendations Appendix B: Executive Summary and Recommendations from LBWF commissioned research		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. As directed by Schools Forum in September 2013 a sub-group with representatives from special schools, colleges, sixth forms, commissioning and the 14-19 team was set up to identify gaps in provision and possible solutions to developing the local offer. Schools Forum agreed to set aside a sum of £350,000 from Special Education Needs (SEN) underspend towards the cost of implementing recommendations made by this sub-group in September 2013.
- 1.2. The Task and Finish Group have identified that the Local Authority (LA) would be best served to recruit a Senior Officer to identify employment opportunities for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, and to implement a series of proposals that will bring together key stakeholders to ensure that a robust, rigorous and equitable offer of post 16 education is made available to all learners.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Schools Forum approve: the recruitment of a Senior Officer for 18 months to identify employment opportunities for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities. The post holder will be expected to achieve the outcomes set out under 4.3 to 4.9.

- 2.2. Schools Forum to note that the post holder will support Local Authority post 16 providers to implement systems that enable them to be competent to identify employment opportunities for their young people as part of their offer of learning.
- 2.3. Schools Forum to note that the LA will continue to undertake its post 14 LLDD work as set out in Appendix A.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Task and Finish Group met at the request of the Schools Forum to review, analyse and set out a proposal for identifying gaps in post 16 provisions.
- 3.2. The group met twice with one further meeting held to agree the content of the paper. The meetings were attended by Gary Pocock, Head Teacher, William Morris and Brookfield House School ; Karen Morrell LBWF, Adult Care ; Rosanne Stirrat and Tracey Weller, SEN leads, Waltham Forest College ; Rishi Peetamsingh, Finance, LBWF ; Julia Mainwaring, Head Teacher; and Candice Schilbacah Belmont Park School.
- 3.3. The group commenced its research by considering the work that LBWF had previously achieved when it conducted a review of the current status of **Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities** (LLDD) in 2010. (See attached –Appendix B)
- 3.4. The group considered the Authority's post 14 Local Offer as it is, and, what a realistic and aspirational offer might look like.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1. The Task and Finish Group identified a clear proposal linked to a set of actions to improve the offer and outcomes for post 16 learners with learning difficulties within the borough.
- 4.2. To recruit a senior post between the range of PO7 to PO9 which would cost £53,700 to £63,200, to be funded from the £350,000 allocated from the SEN underspend, to carry out the following tasks:
- 4.3. Develop an LLDD employment offer linked with local providers who can offer the educational support, such as the FE College, Post 16 SEN Schools or the Voluntary sector.
- 4.4. The post to be part of the 14-19 team until the SEND reforms are introduced. Aspects of the work can be delegated to an existing team.
- 4.5. To provide strategic support to schools and other post 16 providers to develop working models for recruiting and working with employers i.e. internships, traineeships and or apprenticeships.
- 4.6. To consult with learners to ensure that they are at the centre of the decision making process pertaining to employment opportunities.
- 4.7. To ensure that at least 8 learners are in some form of supported employment or employment within 18 months.

- 4.8. To identify positions within the LA that would be suitable for learners with LLDD needs.
- 4.9. To develop a condition management framework to enable the borough to understand the needs and barriers facing young people accessing the employment sector.
- 4.10. To provide a strategic report to the LA on suitable models of delivery drawing on the current research and work undertaken by local providers and national drivers.
- 4.11. To support existing schools with business planning models to ensure that they have a clear and robust local offer.
- 4.12. To identify areas of specialism suitable to the needs of young people within the borough that complements delivery within the travel to learn area.
- 4.13. To ensure that the LA meets its commitment as set out in the governments legislation on Children and Families, by ensuring that services are available to meet the needs of vulnerable children. This is in line with the council's priority of "Helping You and Your Family".

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In reaching its proposals the Task and Finish Group have consulted with head teachers, and operational staff involved in post 16 education needs.