

## Shared Commissioning Services

### Purpose

1. To receive a briefing from West of England Shared Commissioning Services on the development of a 16-19 Commissioning Plan, which will shape provision for 16-19 training and education in the Partnership area and to comment as appropriate.

### Background

2. On 1 April 2010, the functions previously carried out by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) relating to 16-19 education and training transferred to either local authorities or the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).
3. Local authorities are now responsible for commissioning all 16-19 provision as well as for learners with a learning difficulty or disability (LLDD) up to age 24, and for young people in youth custody up to age 18. The Shared Commissioning Services (SCS) team delivers the commissioning role on behalf of the four local authorities in the West of England. Although the unitary authorities do not have direct responsibility for funding sixth form places in academies or Apprenticeships, the Commissioning Plan will include an assessment of the number of places required.
4. The process requires a Commissioning Statement for each of the four unitary authorities and the identification of common priorities across the Partnership area. This intelligence informs a Commissioning Plan which will be consulted on widely before finalisation early in 2011 assuming that policy is relatively stable and that the national commissioning framework remains in place.
5. Funding and regulating post-19 education and training is the responsibility of the Skills Funding Agency.

### The Services

6. The SCS has identified priorities for the education, training and employment of young people in the Partnership area. They include the need to increase participation, increase the take-up of Apprenticeships, reduce the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), and improve Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG). Sectoral priorities have also been identified.
7. Trends of participation and achievement remain positive while there is change in learner behaviour relating to choice of occupational and learning pathways.
8. The Board is to receive a presentation from Patrick McLaughlin, 16-19 Director of Shared Commissioning Services.

## **Recommendation**

That the Skills & Competitiveness Board agrees a process for ongoing engagement with the commissioning process to address recruitment and skills issues.

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