

## IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STRATEGY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

1. Public consultation was conducted between 7 June and 5 July 2019, with responses being received from 81 participants representing 17 stakeholder groups.
2. Stakeholders included parents and carers, children and young people, learning providers, school governors, employers and local enterprise partners, Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups, voluntary organisations and Nottinghamshire County Council employees. Some respondents identified partners and stakeholders that were missing from the consultation survey. Further analysis has since indicated that these 'missing' partners were in fact contained within the broader groups consulted (see above).
3. The consultation survey questions were as follows:
  - Do you agree with the rationale which underpins the new Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All, in relation to the focus on specific groups?
  - Do you agree with the rationale which underpins the new Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All, in relation to provision and outcomes from Early Years to Adulthood?
  - Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to work collaboratively with learning providers and partners, as proposed in the Strategy. What suggestions do you have for how we can do this better?
  - In your view, are there any significant partners missing from the list below?
  - Do you agree with the following statement? Data should be analysed where Nottinghamshire children and young people make least progress from their starting points to inform work with all learning providers.
  - Do you agree with the following statement? Resources and capacity should be targeted where the need is greatest and where collaborative work could make the biggest difference?
  - Do you agree that Nottinghamshire County Council should work with employers and learning providers to pilot innovative approaches to develop and embed employability and life skills in learning programmes from the earliest opportunity?
  - We are keen to gain a broad range of views, so please indicate all from the following list that apply to you? (Tick each applicable response)
4. The majority of respondents (88.39%) supported the Strategy's rationale and main aims.
5. Overall, the consultation received 196 free-text comments, which have since been analysed and, where appropriate, used to inform the final amendments to the IEOfA Strategy. Where respondents have made suggestions in relation to the implementation of the Strategy, these will be shared with key partners who will use them to shape ways of working and provision for all children and young people accessing education with Nottinghamshire learning providers.

6. For analysis purposes, comments and queries have been grouped under the following themes:

- **Resource Targeting and Allocation.** On average 86.83% of respondents supported the IEOfA Strategy's rationale for targeting resources at specific groups and at areas of the county where need is greatest. Some commented on the method of targeting. For example, two respondents suggested that "we need to be careful that we don't solely rely on data, but also use intelligence "on the ground" when targeting resources and capacity." Moreover, in relation to SEND, respondents indicated that resources should be "targeted at individuals rather than solely putting resources in one geographical area over another" based on socio-economic factors.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships.** The question relating to collaboration and partnerships was open only to free-text comments. The majority of respondents felt that NCC works well in collaboration and partnership with stakeholders. Some respondents suggested that this can be improved further by providing "planned opportunities for information sharing and collaborative solution seeking on a regular basis between LA and learning providers and partners". Other respondents, making similar suggestions, argued that these measures would help to establish a more "joined-up approach" and challenge the perceived "them and us" separation between the Council, its partners and Nottinghamshire schools.
- **Educational approaches.** On average 89.71% of respondents supported the Strategy's rationale for educational approaches. Some respondents were concerned that "the heavy push on academic work and phonics in early years may alienate children with SEND from education".
- **Early Years and Preparation for Adulthood.** On average 88.48% of respondents supported the Strategy's rationale in relation to provision and outcomes from Early Years to Adulthood. Some respondents, however, suggested that "improving outcomes at the EYFSP stage is too late for many children and intervention should be earlier, between 0-3 years of age." Others stated that they "would like to see more impact around post-16 and employment/value added outcomes". Some recognised the developing relationship with our alternative education providers in the statement "NCC has the opportunity to enhance the support provided to the most vulnerable young people from Year 10 to aged 19 by working closely with alternative provision." Piloting innovative approaches to employability and preparation for adulthood by working more closely with businesses was recognised as important as one respondent felt that "university is a very overrated target and limits the development of key skills by not teaching the basics of how to save, cook, pay bills, get a mortgage, set up your own business etc"
- **Accountability.** Some respondents commented on accountability and monitoring arrangements in schools and Council services.

7. Responses to the specific comments raised above will be provided in the form of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), to be made publicly available online via the NCC Consultation Hub.