

20th February 2017**Agenda Item: 07**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

CHANGES TO THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of changes introduced by the Duke of Edinburgh Award's (DofE) National Office to the licensing and governance arrangements for the delivery of the DofE Award in all Nottinghamshire schools, except special schools, from 1 April 2017.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has over 60 years of history and success of operating the DofE Scheme. Recent successes include:
 - a) increasing the number of open access Award Centres from 3 to 5, enabling more young people to access the Award independently
 - b) increased participation by young people, with over 2,294 young people taking part in the Award in 2015/16
 - c) record numbers of young people's Award completions in 2015/16 – at 56% (1,228 completions), this is 7% higher than the regional average
 - d) a 11% increase in the number of new DofE centres within Nottinghamshire, from 43 to 48, in 2015/16.
3. Currently the licence to deliver the DofE Award in Nottinghamshire is held by Nottinghamshire County Council, with all DofE activity in schools falling under the governance of the Council's licence.
4. Changes are being introduced by the DofE's National Office, from 1 April 2017, which will require all participating schools to hold their own individual licences direct with the Award, rather than operating under the remit of the Council.
5. The Council's Outdoor and Environmental Education Service's DofE Team is working closely with the DofE Regional Office and all schools to ensure a smooth change of the DofE licensing and governance arrangements from 1 April 2017.

6. The Council's DofE Team has agreed with the DofE Regional Office to offer 'migration' support to schools from 1 April to 30 October 2017 to ensure that pupils currently engaged with the Award do not have their experience and enjoyment diminished in any way.
7. From 1 April 2017 the Council will receive a Targeted Licence from DofE which will allow the Council to increase its current offer of the Award in Nottinghamshire to vulnerable groups, including:
 - Special schools
 - Disabled young people in mainstream education
 - Looked After Children
 - Young people who cannot access the benefits of the Award at school due to non-attendance, behaviour, illness, exclusion or attending alternative education provision etc.
 - Young people involved with, or on the edge of, the Youth Justice system
 - Non-uniformed voluntary youth organisations who have no access to the award
 - For those individual young people who cannot access the Award through a school setting, the Council will operate four Access Centres across the County including an online/digital centre.
8. The Council's DofE Team will continue to offer to all schools:
 - a) Free access to the Council's full Operations Manual for **all** NCC DofE Award Centres operating with young people from the County; this is non-binding guidance on best practice that exceeds the Council's duty of care to non-managed centres and the young people of Nottinghamshire.
 - b) Schools or academies who contract with the Council's Evolve visits and trips approval system will also receive redacted expedition guidance included in the Educational Visits Guidance; this will be based on the Council's current Operations Manual which would need to be met for approval via Evolve submissions and will address items such as:
 - Competency and currency to lead – National Governing Body (NGB) Awards/ Modular Expectations
 - Remit limitations
 - Ratios direct/remote supervision
 - Recognition of in-house Certificated Local Awards (CLA)
 - At cost Expedition support, as an Approved Activity Provider (AAP), for Council groups by The Mill Adventure Base
 - Access to National Governing Body courses and the volunteer training bursary.
 - c) In addition to this, those schools which have contracted with the Evolve Visits and Activity Approvals system from the Council will receive: Expedition guidance which will be provided/included in the Educational Visits Guidance; this will be based on the Council's current Operations Manual which would need to be met for approval via Evolve submissions.

Other Options Considered

9. As this change in licensing and governance arrangements is being made at a national level, the Council has not been able to consider other options.
10. Due to the success and expertise of the Council's current DofE provision, future income generation through offering support to other local authorities to manage their DofE offer may be considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. That the changes be noted.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

13. Young people who may become involved with the criminal justice system will have greater access to the benefits of the DofE Award Scheme in Nottinghamshire.

Implications for Service Users

14. The DofE Team has agreed to offer 'migration' support to schools from 1 April to 30 October 2017 to ensure that pupils currently engaged with the Award do not have their experience and enjoyment diminished in any way.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the changes introduced by the Duke of Edinburgh Award's (DofE) National Office to the licensing and governance arrangements for the delivery of the DofE Award in all Nottinghamshire schools, except special schools, from 1 April 2017, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

15. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (TMR 06/01/17)

16. The costs of operating the DofE scheme are contained within existing budgets.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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