

**3 December 2012****Agenda Item: 7**

## **REPORT OF THE EDUCATION ADVISOR POST-16**

### **POST-16 REFORMS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide a summary of an announcement in October 2012 by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in respect of changes to curriculum and funding for 16 to 19 year olds and to funding arrangements for those aged 19 to 24 who have a Learning Difficulty Assessment or Education and Health Care Plan, to be implemented for the 2013-14 academic year.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

2. The Government is committed to ensuring that all young people continue to participate in education or training up to age 18. Summer 2013 is the first major milestone in achieving this as, from this point on, young people will be required to participate in learning up until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. This will rise to their 18th birthday in summer 2015.
3. Local authorities are required to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16-18 (inclusive) in their area (under sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009)) and to make available to young people age 19 and below support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (Section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008).
4. Draft regulations are being prepared requiring young people to participate in full-time education or training for at least 540 hours per academic year, or take up a job for at least 20 hours a week and combine this with 280 hours of part-time education that leads to qualifications. This legislation also places duties on providers to promote good attendance and to report early leavers to their home local authority. EFA expects that all programmes offered as full-time in 2013/14 will meet the minimum requirement of 540 hours of participation per academic year.
5. Other funding streams that also support full participation are: European Social Fund; funding available for young offenders in custody; and grants to local authorities. In addition the Youth Contract for 16- and 17-year-olds is a new funded programme of £126 million over three years that started in September 2012 and supports disengaged young

people who have low levels of attainment, and who are not in education, employment or training, to go back into learning.

6. Further information on RPA is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/16-10/participation/rpa/a00201391/useful-information-what-does-raising-the-participation-age-mean-for-me>

## **16 – 19 Study Programmes and Conditions of Funding**

7. The introduction of 16-19 Study Programmes from September 2013 is in response to the recommendations made by Professor Alison Wolf in her review of vocational education. Study Programmes will need to be clearly focused on the education, training and development needs of each individual student and enable them to achieve their full potential. Providers are encouraged to develop well-designed Study Programmes that offer young people:
- breadth, depth and progression either into higher education, further study at the next higher level or skilled employment
  - A levels or at least one qualification of substantial size and challenge, taking up the majority of the young person's programme or, where this is not possible, a substantial core of work experience
  - English and/or mathematics for all students without a GCSE grade C in these subjects
  - work experience and other activities that add value and enhance employability.
8. Study programmes must include English and mathematics for any student who has not already achieved a GCSE at grade C in these subjects. All institutions are expected to deliver to this requirement in the 2013/14 academic year. EFA supported by Ofsted will be introducing monitoring reports during the next 12 months to support institutions to recognise where this requirement is not being met.
9. The funding for Study Programmes for full-time students is designed around an average of 600 hours of participation per academic year. EFA is preparing more detail on what will and will not count towards the overall programme. They aim to have initial guidance available by the end of December 2012.
10. Further information on Study Programmes is available at:
- <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/a00210755/16-19-study-programmes>

## **16-19 funding formula 2013/14 and shadow allocations for 2012/13**

11. The Schools White Paper '*The Importance of Teaching*' announced that a simple, fair and transparent funding methodology would be introduced to support RPA. Following the review of 16-19 funding, a system of funding per student will be introduced in August 2013. The new 16-19 funding formula will cover all those aged 16-19 and all high needs

students up to age 25 (those with a Learning Difficulty Assessment or Education and Health Care Plan). Independent specialist providers and non-maintained special schools will be funded for high needs students via the national 16-19 formula for the first time.

12. This new formula introduces funding at a basic rate per student per year. This is adjusted for retention, programme costs, disadvantage and area costs. In October EFA sent each school and college a Shadow Allocation to show how the funding formula is calculated against data used in the 2012/13 allocation and hosted a briefing session locally.
13. The key change is to introduce a single basic funding rate per student per year regardless of where and what they study. This will fund on average a programme of study for around 600 hours for all students. The basic funding rate per student will be expressed in cash terms. It will be set annually and announced in spring each year. Students whose planned hours are recorded as 540 or more will be treated as full-time.
14. EFA expects a cluster at around 280 hours of part-time students who are also in work, and the numbers of other part-time students to reduce. As now the qualifying period to receive any funding will be set at six weeks for full-time programmes and part-time programmes of more than 24 weeks, and two weeks for all part-time students whose programme is planned to take less than 24 weeks. EFA will no longer fund programmes of less than two weeks.
15. Further guidance for local authorities from EFA is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/studentsupport/funding/a00203196/16-19-funding>

### **Funding high needs students (HNS)**

16. The SEND Green Paper, *'Support and aspiration: A new approach to supporting special educational needs and disability'*, published in March 2011, and the Government's response, *'Progress and next steps'*, set out the policy context for a new approach to funding for those with special educational needs (SEN) or learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD).
17. The new system for funding all pupils and students aged 0-25 also comes into place for all institutions to be funded by EFA (including sixth forms in schools or academies, special academies, non-maintained special schools, colleges, independent specialist providers and private providers) or maintained by local authorities (including school sixth forms and special schools) for the academic year 2013/14. Local authorities will be both commissioner and funder with a single high needs budget to cover their education and training funding and commissioning responsibilities for high needs children and young people (age 0-25) resident in their area. There will be a basic allocation to institutions for each high needs place and the local authority will allocate top-up funding.
18. EFA wrote to all mainstream funded providers in August 2012 explaining the HNS reforms, the implications of the reforms and the need to liaise with the home local authorities for their high needs students, and with EFA, to ensure that the information on which allocations to local authorities and providers will be made is as accurate as possible.

19. The Green Paper and related documents of the new system are available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send/a00213564>

### **Other Options Considered**

20. The report is for noting only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

21. This report is provided for information to Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the report be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (NDR 15/11/12)**

24. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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