

## TORBAY 14-19 STRATEGY - WAY FORWARD

### Outcome of the consultations on the draft strategy and way forward

#### 1. Background

The Council is required to have a 14-19 Strategy.

The draft Torbay 14-19 Strategy was published in May 2004. The document was produced by the Torbay 14-19 Strategy Steering group through discussion with key partners. The vision of the group, stated at the beginning of the document, is that *'by 2008, all young people up to the age of 19 in Torbay will participate and achieve in learning through programmes appropriate to their needs'*. Response to the Strategy from organisations or individuals with an interest in developing learning opportunities for people in Torbay was invited.

#### 2. Summary of consultation responses

2:1 A total of 28 responses was received

Breakdown:

18 Students

7 Providers (schools and colleges)

3 Organisations

2:2 The seven responses from Providers were from five different institutions.

2:3 The responses received supported the desire to move forward the 14-19 agenda and acknowledged that there is real and extensive work to be done.

2:4 It is difficult to draw conclusions from a small number of responses. There was a real spread in the replies in the sections on the form ranging from 'strongly agree' to 'disagree' in the majority of sections.

2:5 In the section requesting identification of the top five actions perceived to have the greatest impact, the following themes appeared –

- i. Expansion of the vocational curriculum and post 16 provision below level 3
- ii. Work on common elements of timetabling across providers
- iii. Provision of necessary funding
- iv. Celebration of student achievement in all areas at all levels.
- v. Development of the use of QA / Self Evaluation by providers and stakeholders

2:6 Some feelings which were repeated in various forms were –

- The action plan is too lengthy and over-ambitious
- Time scales are not always realistic
- There needs to be a real drive for collaborative work
- There is a real need to look closely at vocational provision and to improve it dramatically
- The lack of provision of qualifications below level 3 post 16 is a serious gap
- Funding and resources will be needed for a real move forward
- There could be work done on common timetabling, but it needs to be realistic in terms of scale and extent

- Transport is an issue for real collaboration to happen
  - Certain practical things could be done, for example the production of a clear directory of learning opportunities and celebration of student achievement in a whole range of areas
  - Self evaluation of effectiveness of delivery should be encouraged
- 2:7 Some detailed comments on wording will result in a few adjustments to be made for the sake of clarity
- 2:8 Responses from students were all from boys following the same Motor Vehicle Course and ranged across all of the possible answers. A common statement following question 4 was that little or no advice had been received about progression having left school.
- 3. Recommendations for Action.**
- 3.1 Production of a **Revised Strategy** in response to the consultation comments which formulates the Action Plan within a realistic framework. (ongoing work this academic year)
- 3.2 Set up the **Working Group** to lead on the implementation of the 14-19 Strategy which will really drive the work forward and which will also address the Self Evaluation process and preparation for the Area Inspection. (Dec 2004)
- 3.3 Establish clear channels of **Communication** between the working group and all stakeholders (Dec 2004)
- 3.4 Draw up an **Implementation Plan** with a three year overview and detailed action plan for the first year to include the following key objectives –
- i. To increase collaboration between providers
  - ii. To improve the range of provision
  - iii. To improve the quality of provision
  - iv. To engage learners and thus improve participation and retention
  - v. To provide independent advice and guidance
- (Dec 2004)
- 3.5 Begin the **Self Evaluation** process which is structured in line with the six aspects and seven questions of the Area Inspection framework. (to be completed March 2005)

The above recommendations will enable the LEA and the LSC jointly to meet the requirement for the Council to have a 14-19 Strategy. They will enable the LEA to address the criticisms in the LEA OfSTED Inspection and also to prepare effectively for an Area Inspection of 14-19 provision expected in Summer or Autumn 2005.