



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET  
9 NOVEMBER 2004

Report of the Director of Education

## 14-19 Area-wide Inspection

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the report relating to the Ofsted 14-19 Area Inspection of Derby
- 1.2 To refer the report to the Education Commission

### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The 14-19 Area Inspection covers a number of responsibilities of the City Council. The report is therefore submitted as part of the monitoring function.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Area inspections evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of education and training provision to meet the needs of 14-19 year olds, employers and the community.
- 3.2 The Ofsted inspection analysed statistical and documentary evidence, considered the views of learners and providers, and interviewed:
  - officers of Derby Education Service, Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council – DLSC, Connexions-Derbyshire and Derby City of Learning Partnership
  - senior staff in schools, Derby College and training providers
  - the Council Cabinet Member, school governors, parents and young people.
- 3.3 Inspectors visited schools, the college and training providers and also took account of the self-evaluation report prepared by the Education Service, DLSC and Connexions-Derbyshire, and the evidence of findings from previous relevant inspections.
- 3.4 The overall judgement of Ofsted for the 14-19 Area Inspection of Derby was **satisfactory**.

3.5 The Ofsted report identifies strengths that should be built on and recommendations that need to be addressed. The Education Service, DLSC and their key partners are preparing a detailed response in the action plan for the further development of 14-19 activities in Derby. The full report can be found on the Ofsted website at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/servicereports/629.htm>

3.6 Strengths in current provision include:

- clear commitment to improving partnerships, raising standards and widening access
- a draft strategy for 14-19 education which sets out a clear entitlement for all young people
- effective leadership by the Education Service and the local LSC of recent 14-19 developments, with effective actions to improve the quality of provision
- effective promotion of equal opportunities
- collaborations amongst schools offering a range of alternative programmes at Key Stage 4, which have been successful in providing more opportunities for young people
- good targeted support for vulnerable groups
- good personal support and effective mentoring for young people
- improved attainment at key stage 4
- good achievements in special schools
- substantial additional resources for schools.

3.7 Key recommendations arising from the inspection are to:

- continue to develop a coherent 14-19 strategy
- develop joint quality assurance arrangements for sixth form provision and joint programmes and the introduction of common value-added measures for traditional, vocational and work-based learning post 16
- utilise a city-wide curriculum analysis to aid planning by providers of 14-19 provision
- reduce the numbers of young people excluded from schools pre-16 and those not in employment, education and training post-16
- ensure all schools allow sufficient time for personal, social and health education, citizenship and careers guidance
- ensure the provision of appropriate advice and guidance for all young people

- address ways in which accommodation can be improved in special schools
- 3.8 The Cabinet previously agreed the 14-19 strategy for education and training in Derby. This document sets out a vision for distinct and affordable 14-19 quality provision, which will be cost effective. The strategy has now been shared with key participants, including schools, Derby College, training providers, University of Derby and employers with a view to developing activities that reflect the principles, entitlement, provision and quality assurance arrangements outlined in the strategy.
- 3.9 Local Learning and Skills Councils are responsible for leading Strategic Area Reviews. Strategic Area Reviews aim to meet learner, employer and community needs, and to improve the choice and quality of post-16 education and skills provision. They will cover all LSC-funded provision for learners of all ability levels aged 16+. This activity will help to strengthen the links between 14-19 providers and achieve greater choice and improved progression – further supporting 14-19 activities. The Government expects Strategic Area Reviews to be completed by 31 March 2005. The outcomes will feed into the strategic planning process for 2005/06 and beyond, taking into account how best to support a coherent, well-balanced 14-19 phase of learning.
- 3.10 The Ofsted report identifies issues for improvement that will form the basis of an action plan, prepared by the Education Service and Derbyshire LSC in partnership with schools, training providers, Derby College and other partner organisations, to address areas for development and build on strengths. The action plan will be brought to Cabinet and full Council and submitted to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for approval by the end of January 2005.

#### OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. No other options were considered, as this is a report on an external inspection. However, options for addressing the recommendations will be considered as part of action planning.

**For more information contact:** Kevin McCann, 01332 868371, [kevin.mccann@derby.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.mccann@derby.gov.uk)  
**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
---------------------

**Financial**

1. Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council has received an allocation of money to support post-inspection activities designed to address areas of concern and build on strengths identified by Ofsted. All providers of education and training in the 14-19 phase have been invited to submit expressions of interest to Derbyshire LSC. An executive group comprising Derbyshire LSC, Derby Education Service and Connexions-Derbyshire will consider and approve funding for activities.

**Legal**

2. The Area Inspection Framework, effective from September 2003, meets the requirements of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 as amended by the Education Act 2002 to include 14-19 education. It ensures that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools is informed about:
  - the quality of education and training
  - the standards achieved by those receiving that education and training
  - whether financial resources made available to those providing that education and training are managed efficiently and used in a way that provides value for money.

**Personnel**

3. None arising directly from this report.

**Equalities impact**

4. Area inspection, the subsequent action plan and DLSCs strategic area review will impact on the 14-19 curriculum resulting in improved collaboration that increases choice and puts the learner first. Opportunities to follow traditional, vocational qualifications at entry, level 1, level 2 and level 3 will allow pupils to participate in programmes that match their individual needs and aspirations.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objective of **education**
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priority of **tackling under-achievement in schools**.