



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING 5 June 2007

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Retrospective approval for a bid to the 14-16 Engagement Fund

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To agree to the use of LSC (Learning and Skills Council) funding to support the establishment of a 14-16 Engagement Programme in Derby City.
- 1.2 To approve, retrospectively, a bid which has been made to the LSC for £137,000 to support the programme.
- 1.3 To approve the commencement of the programme if the bid is successful.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The establishment of a 14-16 Engagement Programme will provide alternative educational opportunities for young people in the 14-16 age range who are likely to become excluded, thus improving their chances of staying in education and gaining qualifications.
- 2.2 The LSC invited bids with a very short deadline for response. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, a bid was submitted which now requires cabinet member approval.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The 14-16 Engagement Programme is part of the wider 14-19 reforms which the DfES are implementing. In 2006/07 21 pilot LAs (Local Authorities) established the Programme and the DfES now want to rollout the programme nationally in September 2007. The initial feedback from the pilot authorities has been very positive.
- 3.2 The Derby 14-19 Partnership has endorsed bid, and agreed that no individual institutions would submit competitive bids.
- 3.3 The funding will enable the Complex Case Team at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Behaviour Support Service to establish a service, to be known as "Junction 16," which will be an innovative approach committed to re-engaging KS 4 students.
- 3.4 The Programme will use the LSC funding for the initial set up costs. From that

point the programme will be sustained through funding from schools. The programme will be monitored and evaluated in order to measure success and impact.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 To establish the programme through existing PRU funding. This is not possible.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The majority of costs will cover annual contracts with external organisations that will provide alternative learning routes. There is a danger that future funding from schools is not sufficient to sustain the programme. In this case we would not be able to renew contracts after September 2008, and the programme would close.
- 1.2 There is no direct financial risk to the Council.

Legal

- 2.1 There is a risk that external organisations will not provide services in line with service level agreements. In this case, legal services support would be required.

Personnel

- 3.1 As additional services will be provided externally, there are no personnel implications.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The programme will give better access to educational opportunities to vulnerable young people who are at risk of exclusion.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal furthers the Corporate Plan priority of supporting everyone in learning and achieving, focusing on the outcome of providing learning opportunities to raise skills levels for all.