



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
MEETING  
18 JULY 2006**

Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People

**Learn to Work Vocational Skills Centre – 14-19 Area-wide  
Inspection Funding 2006-07 Bid**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. To approve the bid for Learning and Skills Council - LSC - funding of £165,000 to upgrade the existing Learn to Work vocational skills centre workshop facilities on Grampian Way in Sinfin.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Corporate Asset Management Group have agreed in principle for the use of the Learn to Work Centre for educational purposes, subject to the submission of a satisfactory business plan and revenue funding being available.
- 2.2 The development of a vocational workshop facility meets five out of the six criteria required by the LSC and outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 This venture fulfils DfES expectations that local authorities establish alternatives to permanent exclusion by working collaboratively with schools.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The bid is to fund the first stage of redevelopment of the vacant Learn to Work workshops on Grampian Way, Sinfin. The facility will provide vocational courses, primarily for disaffected pupils, in the first phase, with a proposed later stage of development providing a new youth centre base on site.
- 3.2 The Pupil Referral Unit – PRU – has submitted the bid on behalf of the following partners:
  - PRU
  - the Youth Service
  - Sinfin Community School and South Derby Partnership schools.

The Partnership will invite Derby College to become a partner in the development. These groups will form the management panel to oversee the development, organisation and operation of the facility.
- 3.3 Securing the appropriate funding will allow for the upgrade of the existing workshops to provide vocational courses for disaffected pupils at KS4. In addition, the funding is required to re-roof the buildings, some redecoration. The upgrade is basic

because the accommodation is fit for purpose as workshops. The three available workshops at the centre would provide up to 300 pupil places a week.

- 3.4 The courses provided will improve the skills of young people to enable them to access post-16 education and to enter employment, thus reducing the numbers not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 3.5 The objectives of the partners are to reduce exclusions, improve attendance, develop the range of accreditation in KS4 vocational areas and reduce the number of school leavers with no, or few, qualifications. This proposal further supports the Derby City 14-19 strategy by extending the opportunities and improving progression routes for vulnerable pupils in vocational areas.
- 3.6 The long-term development plan for the site includes provision for a new youth centre. The Youth Service is pursuing funding for this as a second phase of development. The local community has lost two youth centres and currently has no other provision. The vocational and Youth Service work would enhance each other and allow the resources on site to be used throughout the school day, evenings and weekends.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Sue Bradley Head of PRU and Behaviour Support 01332 711380
<b>Background papers:</b>	<a href="mailto:sue.Bradley@derby.gov.uk">sue.Bradley@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Expression of Interest Proforma

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 The LSC has £500,000 to support developments as an outcome of the 14 – 19 Area-wide Inspection. An initial expression of interest and provisional bid has been made for the sum of £165,000 to do the upgrade work as described in 3.3 based on a survey completed by Evans Vettori Architects – advised by Asset Management. This has already been submitted in order to meet the LSC deadline.
- 1.2 The partners would provide the revenue costs to manage the site and deliver the curriculum from existing budgets and from other funding sources. The running costs will be contained within the existing service budgets. The PRU currently funds vocational placements with outside providers and this part of the budget would be re-directed. Sinfin Community School is involved in initial discussions with South Derby Partnership and Derby College. The management group will produce the business plan.

**Legal**

2. Any necessary consent will be obtained.

**Personnel**

3. It is expected that staffing can be met from existing PRU, school and Youth Service provision and resources.

**Equalities impact**

4. The base will provide opportunities for young people who have difficulty maintaining mainstream school and College placements and finding employment. The Youth Service provision will offer a service in the community where currently there is none.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5. The proposal is consistent with a number of priorities in the Corporate Plan, that is:
  - improving the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods
  - encouraging lifelong learning and achievement
  - building healthy and independent communities.

# 14-19 Derby City Area-wide Inspection 2006-07

## Expression of Interest Proforma

Activity name	Development of Learn to Work Vocational Skills Centre, Grampian Way, Sinfen
Lead organisation	Pupil Referral Unit - submitting bid on behalf of the partners listed below
Contact name	Sue Bradley
Contact telephone	01332 711380
Contact email	Sue.Bradley@derby.gov.uk
Collaborative partners	<p>Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).          Youth Service.          Sinfen School and South Derby Partnership schools.          The Partnership will also invite Derby College to become a partner in the development.          The PRU is also working on a collaborative plan with all Derby City schools on developing alternatives at KS4 and would envisage their involvement.</p>
Which criteria does activity match against? (delete if not appropriate)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promotes collaborative clustering arrangements across 14-19 stakeholders in Derby City.</li> <li>2. Fills gaps in provision:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pathways below Level 2</li> <li>• develops Y9 taster sessions for 14-19 options</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <i>Not applicable</i></li> <li>4. Improves the quality of careers education and guidance</li> <li>5. Develops the 14-19 Area Prospectus</li> <li>6. Targets vulnerable groups:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disaffected / PRU.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Overview of activity	<p>The plan is twofold: to upgrade existing workshop facilities to provide vocational courses primarily for disaffected pupils and to provide a Youth Service base in a community which currently has no other provision. Both developments would enhance each other and the resources would be used throughout the school day and during the evening.</p>

	<p>Funding of £165,000 is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to re-roof the existing buildings, including new guttering/fascia</li> <li>• do a basic upgrade of decoration and provide additional electric and ICT access.</li> </ul> <p>This funding would allow full use of three workshops by groups of young people - ten sessions a week, maximum ten in group, providing for up to 300 - with basic office facility to support this. The partners would provide the funding to manage the site and deliver the curriculum from existing budgets and other funding sources.</p> <p>Partners expect to secure funding from other sources for further development of the site including the Youth Service provision.</p>
Objectives for activity	<p>Improve attendance of pupils at KS4.  Reduce permanent and fixed term exclusions.  Develop the range of accreditation in vocational areas particularly at Level 1.  Reduce the number of pupils leaving school with no or few qualifications.  Reduce the number of NEET by reengaging disaffected young people and improving their skills to enter employment.  Widen the choices available for young people particularly at Level 1.  Provide a facility for young people to engage in positive activities in their own community giving them 'things to do' and 'a place to go'.</p>
Success criteria for activity	<p>Improvement in attendance figures.  Reduction in exclusion figures.  Reduction in NEET statistics.  Improved accreditation/pass rates.  Increased number of young people engaged in after school activity.</p>

Completed proformas should be returned (preferably by email) by **5 June 2006** to:

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