

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 3 November 2016

Report of the Head of Participation Chris Millis

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All wards

Service Report Card for the 14-19 Service

Purpose of the Report

To present to Members the report card developed by the 14-19 Strategic Manager.

Executive Summary

The attached Service Report Card summarises the functions of the 14-19 service.

Background

The 14-19 Manager works with all secondary, special schools and the college in Neath Port Talbot. They also work as part of the Eastern Hub (Swansea & Neath Port Talbot) within the region of ERW (6 Local Authorities in South West Wales). For all of our young people 14-19 is a crucial age in their education. It is the point where they begin the examination studies that could lead to Higher Education or Employment. For many at age 16 there is also the transition to a new setting for their education.

The role of the 14-19 Manager is to oversee the curriculum offered by schools to ensure that it meets the needs of our young people. Within this

role is supporting schools in implementing new education policies from the Welsh Government. In recent years this has included; new GCSEs in many subjects including English and Math's, the introduction of the new Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, introducing a network aimed at helping pupils apply to the top universities (the Seren network). In the last year the 14-19 Manager has also worked on developing the Cynnydd project. This project has been funded from European money and is aimed at supporting young people who are most at risk of becoming NEET.

The 14-19 service is funded through the Education Improvement Grant. For the 2016 / 17 financial year the budget for the 14-19 service is £354,492. Over half of this expenditure is used to fund the role of Engagement workers within schools. Their role is to help and support young people who are in danger of failing GCSE courses due to circumstances both inside and outside of school. Of the rest of the budget a significant proportion is utilised to fund GCSE courses run by Neath Port Talbot college.

The 14-19 Strategic Manager undertakes a wide range of activities to support schools, which include:

- The coordination of network meetings between school and college staff. These include a curriculum group for Deputy Heads, a Learner Support Group for pastoral leads within a school, a Welsh Baccalaureate Network group for coordinators of the qualification and a network group for Engagement Workers
- Coordinating and organising a range of qualifications run by the local college to support pupils through their GCSE qualifications.
- Leading on the establishment and running of the Seren Hub. This has been set up with Powys and Bridgend to give guidance to the brightest students in the area in applying to Oxbridge and other top universities.
- Working with 11-16 secondary schools on helping to develop Super Curricular programs. These are academic opportunities that are outside the normal curriculum that pupils applying to top universities would be expected to participate in.
- Working to develop an understanding of the importance of the Seren Hub in all secondary schools in Neath Port Talbot.

- Developing training and resources to support our schools in the implementation of the new Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.
- Supporting 11-18 schools with their plans for sixth form provision and challenging them against current information on the needs of the labour market.
- Liaison with Careers Wales to develop and enhance careers advice and guidance to all young people 14-19.
- To work with the Senior Well Being Manager and her team in developing and implementing the Cynnydd project in Neath Port Talbot. This project is funded by the European Social Fund with the intention on targeting support at those most at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Financial Impact

The 14-19 Service is currently funded from the Education Improvement Grant. The funding for 2016/17 is £354,492. This is a 6.31% decrease on funding for 2015/16. However, funding in 2015/16 was boosted by a grant from ERW of £6,600 towards the embedding of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. From this grant the 14-19 Service is able to fund; Engagement Workers (£181,000 allocated in 2016/17), Courses provided collaboratively with Neath Port Talbot College (£107,212 allocated in 2016/17), Implementing of the Welsh Baccalaureate (£8,102 allocated in 2016/17), Careers guidance and information about apprenticeships (£4,000 allocated for 2016/17) and a the Managers Salary (£54,178 allocated for 2016/17)

Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality impacts associated with this report

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

There is no requirement for consultation

Recommendations

Items for monitoring only

Reasons for Proposed Decision

N/A

Implementation of Decision

N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1 – 14-19 Service Report Card

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