

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**10 JUNE 2009**

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**WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT**  
**(Lead Working Group Member)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the Working Group of the Panel reviewing 14-19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest.

**2 SUGGESTED ACTION**

- 2.1 **That this update report be noted.**

**3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In March 2009 the former Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel established a working group to undertake a review of 14-19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest. The members of the Working Group are set out below:

Councillors Mrs Birch (Lead Member), Kensall, Mrs McCracken and Mrs Ryder and Parent Governor Representative Dr Josephs-Franks.

- 3.2 The purpose of the Working Group is to review the development of 14-19 years education in the Borough giving consideration in particular to the introduction of new Diploma qualifications from September 2009. The review scoping document is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.3 The Working Group has met on seven occasions to date and, having agreed its terms of reference, has:

- been briefed in respect of the development of 14–19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest, including the Diploma 'Gateway' application process, by the Council's 14-19 Advisor;
- discussed Diploma provision in Reading, one of the first local authorities in the country to introduce the qualification, with Reading Borough Council's 14-19 Advisor;
- attended a meeting of the Bracknell Forest 14-19 Partnership as observers;
- met the Principal & Chief Executive and Deputy Principal for Curriculum of Bracknell and Wokingham College to discuss Diploma provision; and
- received a presentation from the Berkshire Connexions Manager in respect of young people not in education, employment or training.

- 3.4 The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for 2 June 2009 when it will meet the Council's Teenage Pregnancy Project Manager, a Teenage Pregnancy Support Worker and a young pregnant mother to discuss how young mothers may be assisted to access education, employment or training. Future meetings of the Working Group will involve visits to the secondary schools in Bracknell Forest to discuss Diploma provision and a meeting with a representative of the East Berkshire Education Business Partnership to consider the role of employers in Diploma delivery.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283

e-mail: [richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

Andrea Carr – 01344 352122

e-mail: [andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

**BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**17 December 2008**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2008 – 2009**

Terms of Reference for:

**14-19 YEARS EDUCATION PROVISION WORKING GROUP**

**Purpose of this Working Group / anticipated value of its work:**

The purpose of this Working Group is to review the development of 14-19 years education in Bracknell Forest. (This will be done in two stages. The first stage will consider the introduction of Diploma qualifications which are rapidly approaching and the second stage will look at the remaining aspects identified below.)

**Key Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding of the 14-19 Education Plan 2008-13.
2. To consider methods to ensure successful future partnership working both within the Berkshire sub-region and with the wider region, providers and employers.
3. To look at the range, quality and entitlement of provision available to young people with regard to 14-19 years education and training opportunities.
4. To ensure that sufficient high quality, comprehensive and impartial Information, Advice and Guidance is available to support learners.
5. To look at the development of the workforce providing the new Diploma qualification and determine whether further training of staff is required to support the learning need for the new qualifications in the 14-19 Education Plan.

**Scope of the work:**

1. To gain an understanding of the national 'Gateway' process, determine how well the Bracknell Forest application to provide Diplomas meets with the national criteria and monitor the success and implementation of the application.
2. To consider the Department for Schools, Children and Families 14-19 Partnerships and Planning guidance document.
3. To review other local authorities' Diploma applications and implementation with a view to identifying sources of experience and best practice for possible application in Bracknell Forest.
4. To review the protocols and logistics involved with working in partnership with a large number of different parties.
5. To look specifically at children who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to determine why they may be in this position and if the reforms in 14-19 education are likely to encourage them to return to education or training and prevent other young people becoming NEET in the future.

**Not included in the scope:**

The funding and cost effectiveness of the reforms in 14-19 education as these are high level decisions that are taken nationally and subject to legislation.

**Terms of Reference prepared by:** 14-19 Years Education Provision Working Group

**Terms of Reference agreed by:** 14-19 Years Education Provision Working Group

**Working Group structure:** Councillors Mrs Birch, Kensall, Mrs McCracken & Mrs Ryder and PGR Dr Josephs-Franks

**Working Group Lead Member:** Councillor Mrs Birch

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Alan Kendall

**Departmental Link Officer** Martin Surrell, Senior Secondary Advisor

**BACKGROUND:**

1.	At its meeting held on 2 July 2008, the Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered its 2008/09 work programme and agreed the addition of an item concerning 14-19 years education provision owing to rapid developments in this area. Subsequently, at its meeting on 17 December 2008, when much of its outstanding review work was nearing completion, the Panel established a working group to commence a review of this topic.
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**SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL TO ADDRESS:**

1. -

**INFORMATION GATHERING:**

**Witnesses to be invited**

Name	Organisation/Position	Reason for Inviting
Howard O'Keeffe	Principal and Chief Executive of Bracknell and Wokingham College	To gain a perspective on 14-19 years education and ascertain the extent to which the Bracknell Forest 14-19 Education Plan has influenced and impacted on the plans of schools and colleges. Also, to discover how schools and the College are becoming involved in the provision of the qualifications.
A selection of head teachers	Bracknell Forest secondary schools	As above.
A selection of heads of 6 <sup>th</sup> Forms	Bracknell Forest secondary schools	As above.
A selection of curriculum managers	Bracknell Forest secondary schools	As above.
Lesley Heale	Chairman of the 14-19 Years Partnership	To gain her perspective on 14-19 years education and the Bracknell Forest 14-19 Education Plan.
Martin Surrell	Senior Secondary Adviser, BFC	To gain information on the 14-19 Education Plan and related education reforms.
Janet Hughes	Berkshire Connexions Manager	

Representative	Education Business Partnership	As above.
Representatives	Appropriate Local employers	As above.

### Site Visits

Location	Purpose of visit
Some Bracknell Forest Secondary Schools	To meet with staff and pupils affected by the 14-19 Years Plan.
Bracknell and Wokingham College	To meet with staff and pupils affected by the 14-19 Years Plan.
Reading Borough LEA staff and College	To look at Diploma qualification best practice and discover how the Diploma qualification is working in Reading.

### Key Documents / Background Data / Research

1. Bracknell Forest 14-19 Education Plan (2008-2013).
2. Summary of Providers, 2008 examination results and recent trends.
3. Terms of reference for 14-19 Partnership and minutes of meetings 2008/09.
4. Examples of Post-16 collaborative delivery information for students.
5. 14-19 Progress Check summary reports in 2006, 2007 and 2008.
6. Relevant sections of the Annual Performance Assessment 2008.
7. 14-19 Diploma Gateway application sections A and C.
8. Machinery of Government changes – stage one report submitted for approval by the Council's Executive.
9. Machinery of Government changes – stage two report and selected appendices submitted to the Government Office for the South East for consideration.

### TIMESCALE

Starting: March 2009

Ending: Stage 1 (Diplomas) September 2009

### OUTPUTS TO BE PRODUCED

1. Report of review with findings and recommendations.

### REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Body	Date
Report to Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel	2009
Report to Overview and Scrutiny Commission	2009

### MONITORING / FEEDBACK ARRANGEMENTS

Body	Details	Date
Reporting to the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel by the Executive Member	Oral or written report	2009