

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
16 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**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 The Working Group reviewing the development of 14-19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest and giving consideration in particular to the introduction of new Diploma qualifications from September 2010, has now met on nine occasions. During the course of its meetings the Working Group has:

- been briefed in respect of the development of the new 14–19 years education entitlement 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 Head Teacher of Sandhurst School and the Principal & Chief Executive and Deputy Principal for Curriculum of Bracknell and Wokingham College to discuss Diploma provision;
- received a presentation from the Berkshire Connexions Manager in respect of young people not in education, employment or training;
- met the Council's Teenage Pregnancy Project Manager to discuss how young mothers may be assisted to access education, employment or training;
- met a representative of the East Berkshire Education Business Partnership to consider the role of employers in Diploma delivery;
- discussed issues associated with delivery of the new 14-19 entitlement with the Department for Children, Schools and Families' South East Regional 14-19 Adviser.

- 3.2 The Working Group is currently seeking information by way of a questionnaire from leading local employers to ascertain whether they wish to become involved in the delivery of the new 14-19 entitlement such as offering apprenticeships, work experience to Diploma students or work placements to Diploma graduates.
- 3.3 Members are proposing to visit another secondary school in September before concluding their review and preparing a resulting report with recommendations in the autumn.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283
e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Andrea Carr – 01344 352122
e-mail: andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk