

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

STEERING GROUP

16th May 2007

LSC –TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

This paper provides an update on LSC London Central's Partnership approach to tackle youth unemployment in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 2007/08.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Background

- 1.1 Tackling youth unemployment is a key priority for KCP which is supported by a number of strategies, plans and joint initiatives.
- 1.2 In 2007/08, LSC London Central will use its planning and funding leverage to deliver the following local priorities: i) improving educational opportunities for all young people; ii) tackling local and regional skills and employment gaps, and iii) integrating skills within economic development and regeneration.
- 1.3 As you know, the challenges are quite complex and we are clear that effective cross-sector partnership working is the only way forward.

2. Key Local & Regional Challenges

- 2.1 The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): - although the numbers of young people NEET in London is falling, it is still one of the highest in the country. In March 07, 8% (168) RBKC's 16-18 year olds were NEET (similar to the Central London Connexions (CLC) area average).
The LSC is committed to a 2 percentage point reduction in RBKC's NEET from 8% to 6% by March 2008
- 2.2 The most vulnerable young people: - Central London Connexions identify the following groups as being particularly at risk to becoming NEET: young mothers; young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities; looked after young people; and young offenders.
- 2.3 Fiercely competitive local and regional labour market, especially for unqualified young people: - labour market trends suggest a continual reduction in job opportunities for individuals without a Level 2

qualification and/or competencies (the basic measure of employability). The unqualified and unskilled are at serious risk of becoming permanently unemployed.

3. LSC's Response

3.1 *Preventive – capacity building*

Planned expansion of quality 16-18 vocational provision through: -

- The Further Education mainstream curriculum e.g. opening of Kensington and Chelsea College's new Construction Skills Transition Centre at Park Royal September 07
- The Expansion of existing Work Based Learning Apprenticeships and Entry to Employment provision; and commissioning new providers to improve choice and address employment sector gaps
- Implementation of RBKC's JAR recommendations on Level 1 & 2 provision through RBKC's 14-19 Education and Skills Area Partnership and specialised Diploma developments
- Supporting the voluntary and community sector learning and training infrastructure through consortia arrangements to lever in funds
- Education Maintenance Allowance and learner support funds to help 16-18 year olds stay in learning or training

3.2 *Engagement*

Commissioning borough-specific solutions to get young people back in learning and or employment through ward level targeting of pre-entry to Level 1+ provision and support e.g. funding secondment of a specialist 'Employability' Connexions PA; young mothers re-engagement initiative; Learning Mentor for potential NEETs aged 14+.

Engaging Employers

- Developing joint strategies with RBKC's Economic Development team, KCP's Learning Work and Business Theme Group and LSC funded Train to Gain brokerage to effect a step change in employer engagement (work placements, apprenticeships, and 'training in the workplace')
- LSC sponsored high profile Employability Fair in Spring 2007/08, targeting regional and local employers, learning and training providers, support agencies, and local residents

4. Next steps

- 4.1 The LSC to update the partnership on progress of the above initiatives at the next meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

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