

16-19 FUNDING TRANSFER

Summary of Key Issues:

- In April 2010 the local authority assumes responsibility for the commissioning of learning provision for young people aged 16-19 (and up to the age of 25 for learners with learning difficulties or disabilities).
- The Children's Trust board will be asked to oversee commissioning arrangements on the basis of details provided by Oxfordshire fourteen to nineteen strategy group (OFSG).

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill currently going through parliament makes alterations to the arrangements for the commissioning and funding of learning for those aged 16-19 and up to age 25 for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) are changing. These alterations are often referred to as the Machinery of Government change or the 16-19 transfer.

The current functions of the Learning and skills council (LSC) are being divided across a range of organisations – the Skills Funding agency (Adult learning), the National Apprenticeship Service (Apprenticeships), the Young Persons Learning Agency (overview of young persons learning) and Local Authorities (the commissioning of learning provision for those aged 16-19 and up to the age of 25 for learners with LDD).

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is working with LSC colleagues, representatives of the local learning providers and national support organisations to prepare for these changes, which come into effect in April 2010.

To date these preparations have consisted of:

- An acceptance by Government office that Oxfordshire will operate as a single 'sub region', rather than have to commission provision across a larger area.
- Links with neighbouring Authorities to cater for the commissioning of out of county provision and to understand the needs of young people living outside Oxfordshire but accessing Oxfordshire provision.

- Communication with learning providers about the changes.
- Planning for the arrival of eight staff who will transfer to OCC from the LSC in April 2010.
- Away day of OFSG members to consider the issues arising from the commissioning of 16-19 learning.
- Information gathering from, and shadowing of LSC commissioning processes.
- Identification of existing contracts for novation to the Council.
- Process mapping to identify roles needing cover from the date of transfer.
- Development of commissioning principles (alongside OCYPT Commissioning sub group).
- Outline of consultation activities with young people over the issue.

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