

## **CHAMPION FOR THE 14-19 DIPLOMA COUNCILLOR PAUL ROCHFORD**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2010.11**

#### Summary of activity

There are regular monthly meetings between myself, the council's Children's and Young People lead member and Diploma Champion, and key local authority officers. Also, I have undertaken a series of joint visits with the Head of Learning & Achievement to a variety of Alternative Providers and School Sixth Forms.

- 2010-11 has been a significant year for 14-19 developments in Havering, not least of which has been the expansion of our diploma programmes.
- Foundation Learning was launched from September 2010.
- The transfer of LSC staff to the local authority to manage the process of commissioning post 16 provision went smoothly.
- Havering's 14-19 partnership actively developed a strategy to ensure that Raising Participation Age targets are fully achieved.

#### Diploma Update

Below is a summary of the progress being made in implementing each of the new Diploma qualifications in the London Borough of Havering. In general, schools, staff and students have spoken very positively about the diploma experience they have been receiving. Most schools have recognised the value of the qualification but logistics, the current uncertainty around the future of vocational qualifications (including Diplomas) in light of the Wolf Review into Vocational Education and the subsequent Government response, the significant reduction in entitlement funding and the announcement that there will no longer be additional funding for Diploma qualifications means it is unlikely that many, if any, schools will continue to provide this opportunity, although the numbers of students have grown significantly with 149 students across 8 schools and Havering Sixth Form college now following the Diploma qualification in 2010/11.

#### **Creative & Media**

This is our most popular Diploma line of learning with 77 students following the qualification in 2010/11 across 5 schools and Havering Sixth Form

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college. The schools delivering the qualification pre-16 are Abbs Cross (3), Bower Park (17), Brittons (15), Frances Bardsley (13) and Marshalls Park (5). Havering Sixth Form College are delivering the qualification post-16 to 25 students.

Delivery and quality assurance at level 2 pre-16 is working well and student feedback is positive, particularly around the variety of skills and techniques and processes being explored. Staff feedback is generally positive, however the organisation of students and travel between sites can sometimes be difficult, although any issues are swiftly and positively dealt with.

At level 3 post-16, Havering Sixth Form college continue to deliver an exciting programme of study that has seen the students get involved in borough wide projects including the *Apprenticeship Roadshow*. All feedback from this was very positive and they are also now planning to engage with young learners throughout the borough using drama workshops to actively promote the *Raising of the Participation Age*. Students are benefiting greatly from an enthusiastic and professional delivery team that use 'live' briefs and positive employer engagement to expand the experience for learners.

There will be no new pre-16 students on the Creative and Media Diploma in 2011/12, but at post-16, Havering Sixth Form college anticipates a new cohort for this coming academic year.

### **Information Technology**

This is our second most popular line of learning with 38 students following the qualification in 2010/11 across 3 schools. The schools delivering the qualification are Chafford (24), Marshalls Park (10) and Sanders Draper (4).

Delivery and quality assurance at level 2 is working well. Staff have liaised positively with Havering Business Education Partnership and have used several employer engagement activities to enhance and improve delivery of specific units. Learners are enjoying the course and there is positive feedback all round.

There will be no new pre-16 students on the IT Diploma in 2011/12.

### **Business Administration & Finance**

There are 13 students following the qualification at Chafford in 2010/11.

Delivery and quality assurance at level 2 is working well. Staff have liaised positively with Havering Business Education Partnership and have used several employer engagement activities to enhance and improve delivery of specific units. Students are enjoying the course and there is positive feedback all round.

There will be no new pre-16 learners on the BAF Diploma in 2011/12.

## **Hair And Beauty**

This was our only Diploma line of learning from last year (2009/10) and there are 10 students across 2 schools continuing their qualification this year at Chafford (9) and Emerson Park (1). There are a further 11 new students following the qualification from Chafford in 2010/11.

The level 1 diploma continues to be well received and feedback from both Havering College of Further and Higher Education and participating schools is very positive. Feedback from moderation visits has high praise for the learners and the work they are undertaking. Staff are happy with the progress of learners.

There will be no new pre-16 learners on the HAB Diploma in 2011/12.

## **Manufacturing and Product Design**

Havering Sixth Form College are offering the MPD diploma to a group of Level 3 post 16 students for 2011/12. Interest has been positive and a group are expected to start in the next academic year.

## **Sports and Active Living**

Due to the current uncertainty around the future of vocational qualifications (including Diplomas) from central government, the SAL group have decided not to begin diploma delivery in 2011/2012 but have committed to continuing with induction, employer engagement and sharing good practice events between post-16 providers across a wider range of vocational qualifications, including BTEC's. It is hoped that when the future of vocational education is a little clearer, a good rapport between institutes and some working models will be able to be transferred to the SAL diploma initially at post-16 and then hopefully pre-16.

## Havering 14-19 Partnership and RPA

Current year 9 students will be in compulsory education until age 17, current year 8 students will be in compulsory education until 18. The 14-19 partnership has actively developed a strategy and curriculum that enables Havering to meet this demand. An outline of this strategy is as follows:-

- Work with parents, schools and local parents to tackle the causes of disengagement in the earlier stages of education – through primary and secondary phases and with a particular focus on Key Stage 3.
- Deliver the September Guarantee and make available quality, flexible and part-time provision to meet the needs of the more vulnerable – and those wishing to study part-time alongside full-time occupation.
- Work with the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) to engage with and assist employers to support more young people into an Apprenticeship; to ensure young people in employment are able to

access accredited training' and to further develop good education – employment partnerships

- Ensure guidance services meet the needs of all young people in their area, including challenging stereotypes and delivering effective IAG for those wishing to study part-time alongside a full-time occupation.
- Use the opportunity of the 16-19 funding transfer to ensure the knowledge and expertise of all local providers and agencies inform commissioning, through the 14-19 Partnership and 14-19 plan.
- Ensure the 14-19 plan includes participation trajectories to 2013-15 and informs the mix and balance of all 14-19 provision and services to be commissioned.
- Ensure the local workforce has the skills, knowledge and behaviours to deliver full participation
- Deliver tailored communications to the wide range of local audiences about RPA.

A full RPA media campaign has been developed and starts in May 2011, this includes a series of Roadshow events taking place at schools, events for parents and employers, drama based workshops for students, as well as targeted press releases using local and social media.

#### Future 14-19 developments

The 14-19 education phase remains a key element of government thinking and strategy, in order to take education in the UK into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Government's response to the Wolf Review confirms that vocational education is immensely valuable for two, crucial reasons.

Firstly, it is an essential part of a broad curriculum. Just as much as academic education, vocational learning provides invaluable opportunities for young people to develop their potential and expand what they know, understand and can do; and to gain recognition for that learning which allows them to progress as they move to adulthood.

Secondly, vocational education is a vital underpinning for the economy. The development of young people's skills in areas of immediate relevance to employers and business is a central part of the Government's plans to boost economic growth, and to support higher levels of youth employment.

The Government has committed to put in place reforms to address the long term weaknesses in practical learning and Professor Wolf's review establishes the principles on which they can do that.

In addition to the various curriculum changes; such as a revised secondary curriculum, apprenticeships, foundation learning, as well as for GCSE's and A levels, by far the biggest change in education facing the current generation is the challenges of Raising Participation Age.

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Therefore the main objectives for Havering in the next 12 months are to respond to the various reforms being planned by the Government for the 14-19 phase, including vocational education and to prepare our students, parents, schools, colleges and providers for the *Raising of the Participation Age*. This later challenge may be assisted by having in place an RPA Council Champion at elected member level.