

# MEDWAY COUNCIL

## CABINET

13 DECEMBER 2005

### 14-19 EDUCATION SCRUTINY REVIEW ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio holder: Councillor Les Wicks, Children's Services  
Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Education and Leisure  
Author: Rosie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

#### 1. Summary

1.1 This addendum report outlines the views of the Education and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the 14-19 Task Group Scrutiny Review.

#### 2. Further comments and observations

2.1 At its meeting on 6 December 2005, the Education and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report of the 14-19 Task Group.

2.2 The Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning) explained that within the last few days the DfES had agreed the post inspection action plan that will trigger £184,000 of additional funding for Medway to address the recommendations of the 14-19 area inspection. £100,000 of the money was specifically for developing consortia plans.

2.3 He then referred to a working group of Headteachers that had been set up with the aim of standardising the entry criteria across the provision so that young people in Medway will be able to access the same courses in the same consortia.

2.4 A brochure entitled "Your choice in Medway" had been compiled setting out all the available courses from all providers in the area including Mid Kent College and the University College of Creative Arts (formerly Kent Institute of Art and Design). This brochure will be sent to all year 11 pupils in Medway over the Christmas period. There will also be an online version which will be regularly updated.

- 2.5. It was reported that all five consortia have agreed to take part in a pilot where an electronic application form is available and it was hoped that this could be set up by January/February 2006. This should make it easier for young people to apply for courses and help Connexions to track their progress.
- 2.6. Officers reported that Mid Kent College, having recently obtained planning permission to build on the Lower Lines in Gillingham, had agreed to dedicate part of the new building to work with schools both for 14-16 and 16-19 age groups. It was hoped that this will increase the amount of vocational courses available and that this will assist in a rapid move towards a common timetable. A representative of the Local Authority had been asked to chair the group.
- 2.7. The Committee agreed to continue the work of the 14-19 task group for a further two years and expressed the need to meet again in January to consider progress. This will include visits to other areas to identify areas of good practice.
- 2.8. There was some discussion about recommendation `B' of the task group report and Members agreed to put forward the view to Cabinet that, if it was not possible for them to agree for two Personal Advisers to be appointed, then at least one be appointed. There was a unanimous view expressed across all groups that the momentum of the work to develop 14-19 provision should be at a rapid pace for the benefit of all students aged 14-19 in Medway.

### **3. Director's comments**

- 3.1. The additional resources mentioned in paragraph 2.2 of this report have no implications for the resources sought by the task group from the Council. The DfES money is targeted at implementing the action plan, which has now been approved by the minister. The recommendations of the task group are not covered in the post-inspection action plan and therefore the resources from DfES cannot be used to implement them.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1. As set out in the original report taking into account the comments set out in paragraph 2.8 above.

### **Lead officer contact**

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