

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	31 May 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Raising participation in the Post 16 offer for students from low income families
<b>Reference:</b>	3898
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The proposal is for a pilot that trials support for Hampshire students from low income families to access the Post 16 education and training offer in the context of Raising of the Participation Age (RPA). This should be seen as forming part of the post-16 policy statement.
- 1.2. The timing of the proposed introduction of this support coincides with changes in support for low income students and the expectation that by 2013 100% of 17 year olds will participate in Education, Training or Employment with training.
- 1.3. This report seeks to gain the Executive Lead Member's approval for the pilot in 2012/13, to be reviewed annually, that offers support to Hampshire students from low income families with their transport costs. Monies will be distributed through colleges and training providers following guidance provided by Hampshire County Council.

#### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The proposal is for a pilot that trials support for Hampshire students from low income families to access the Post 16 education and training offer in the context of Raising of the Participation Age (RPA). The timing of the proposed introduction of this support coincides with changes in support for low income students, particularly the withdrawal of the Education Maintenance Allowance with replacement by a more targeted national bursary scheme, and the expectation that by 2013 100% of 17 year olds will participate in Education, Training or Employment with training.
- 2.2. Monies will be distributed through colleges and training providers following guidance provided by Hampshire County Council. Students would apply to the college/provider that they attend for support with their transport costs and

so there would be no condition that they attend a certain college; this avoids restricting choice. Support would be dependent upon the learner having adequate attendance and completion of the course. There is other funding available to students, in particular the national bursary scheme. The guidance will make it clear that this other support should be accessed before any call on this support to ensure that there is no duplication.

- 2.3. Local authorities have a key role to champion the needs of young people in their areas and work with local partners to achieve full participation. In Hampshire other initiatives that align with the RPA include targeted work placements, work trials, developing a wider apprenticeship offer, a review of the post 14 LDD curriculum, the funding of other bodies such as Prince's Trust to provide training opportunities and targeted courses that improve qualifications in English and Mathematics.
- 2.4. The Education and Skills Act 2008 places a duty on local authorities to promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area; and to make arrangements to identify young people resident in their area who are not participating. This pilot will promote participation.

### **3. Finance**

- 3.1. The proposal is that, if ongoing, the total annual expenditure in this initiative would be approximately £247, 000. If introduced in September 2012, the cost in financial year 2012/13 of the pilot would be an estimated £73, 000 (based on 7/12ths of £125,000 only half the full year costs as students on continuing courses can access other support).
- 3.2. The expenditure will be reported within the Home to School Transport Service's budget. Money will be distributed to colleges and training providers who will then provide support to students directly and follow an audit process that allows the County Council to account for spending.
- 3.3. It is proposed that shares of the budget will be distributed to colleges, school sixth forms and training providers in proportions that reflect the intake of low income students admitted to the College. The Education Finance Agency can provide proxy measures for this and other deprivation factors can be considered for use in distributing the award. Any unspent money at colleges will be returned. Colleges/School Sixth Forms/Training Providers would be given strict criteria on which to base any award. In particular they would be directed not to duplicate support that can be accessed from other schemes such as the National Bursary. It is expected that the administrative costs, for the LA and post 16 providers, will be kept to a minimum.
- 3.4. This policy will be reviewed annually including the distribution mechanism. The transitional period to which the pilot can apply, with an annual review, is 4 years up to 2015/2016 when RPA applies to 18 year olds. An approach, over that period, might be to consider a sliding scale that allows for this support to be withdrawn.

#### **4. Other key issues**

- 4.1. Awards to students to support transport costs would include conditions around acceptable attendance and completion of courses. Whilst avoiding duplication of support is necessary it would be appropriate on occasions for the Hampshire fund to support travel needs whilst other support applied to learning resource needs. The fund would not provide support to apprentices with employed status.
- 4.2. Previous support with conditions of attendance, particularly EMA, was proved to have improved attendance and retention for those students. The link to participation was not proved but improved attendance and retention does lead to better outcomes.
- 4.3. Hampshire County Council must publish its Annual Post 16 Transport Policy Statement. If approved this new support stream will be included in the statement as one feature of the support available to students.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the introduction of a new feature of the post-16 policy statement and associated budget that provides support to low income students participating in post-16 education or training. The initiative will be reviewed annually.
- 5.2. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the requirement for the Director of Children's Services to compile terms for distributing monies to Colleges and training providers and for colleges to indicate particular awards to appropriate students. The terms will require conditions of attendance.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

DocumentLocation

None

**IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

**1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

1.1. This has been completed and is available on request.

**2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. n/a

**3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
  
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?