

Post 16 Developments

Background

Harrow Council and partners have been working together to increase opportunities for 14-19 Learners. The 14-19 Advisory Group was established in October 2003 including representatives from the High Schools, Colleges, Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Connexions, Government Office for London (GOL) and the Local Authority. The Advisory Group have contributed to the London West Learning and Skills Council Strategic Area Review, and undertaken a self assessment in accordance with the previous OfSTED inspection framework. Schools and Colleges have increased opportunities for 14-19 Learners through Government initiatives including Pathfinder and Increased Flexibilities projects and in September 2006 the Central Consortium of six schools and Harrow College will provide a range of AS courses.

Harrow Council and the Learning and Skills Council have liaised with Senior DfES Officials to explore potential routes to increase 14-19 opportunities. At a meeting on 27 July 2005, Lord Adonis requested work be done on two possible ways forward: an Academy model and a non-Academy model which establishes a borough-wide Sixth Form Collegiate, including all high schools.

During his visit to Harrow on 30 September 2005 Lord Adonis expressed how impressed he was with the collaboration and partnership working among key partners in Harrow. He was particularly interested in the possibility of establishing a whole borough post 16 collegiate. This visit was followed by an exchange of correspondence culminating in a letter from Lord Adonis to Javed Khan dated 1 November 2005 in which the minister stated his support for Harrow to be fast-tracked in submitting an application to the Learning and Skills Council for an allocation from the 16-19 Capital Fund for the Collegiate model.

16-19 Capital Fund

In August 2005 the Learning and Skills Council issued Consultation Guidance on proposals to combine DfES and LSC school sixth form capital funding into a new 16-19 Capital Fund from 2006-07 onwards. Available funding nationally totals £120 million in 2006-07 and £180 million in 2007-08. Consultation Guidance was also issued on proposals to establish a competition process for applications to this fund.

On 15 November the London West Learning and Skills Council (LWLSC) decided that the work already done in Harrow meant that the specification for applications to the 16-19 Capital Fund should not be opened up to the competition process in the London West region. The LWLSC agreed an Outline Specification for Expanding Post 16 Provision in Harrow, and has invited Harrow to make a proposal in response to the specification by 31 January 2006. The aspiration is to have 100% of 16-18 year olds participating in education and training by 2010.

Key points in the specification include:

- Harrow Council is to submit the proposal on behalf of all the providers in Harrow

- the proposal should have the support of all post 16 providers in Harrow working as a single collegiate
- approximately 1000 additional places to be made available for 16-19 year olds
- some post 16 provision to be delivered in schools
- a better balance of provision, offering increased vocational and work based options
- avoid unnecessary duplication, and fill gaps
- to raise participation of Harrow residents in Harrow institutions
- to raise attainment at level 2 and 3 at 19 years
- provision for learners with Special Educational Needs to be included
- to cement a collaborative arrangement for all 14-19 year olds living or learning in Harrow

As part of the process to develop a response to the invitation, clarification is being sought on a range of points including:

- the Harrow School Organisation Committee should have published proposals for any school redesignation by 31 January 2006
- assurance that planning consent has been gained, or is likely to be gained, for any school wishing to expand its accommodation
- Harrow submit a full capital bid (though the final guidance may clarify the detail required)

Clarification received from LWLSC confirms:

- The intention is that Harrow School Organisation Committee are aware of the bid as the School Organisation Committee may need to determine Statutory Notices to change the character of schools.
- LWLSC are not expecting detailed planning consents by 31 January, but confirmation that the proposals have been discussed with Planners and are likely to be acceptable with any planning issues resolvable. The principles have been agreed with the Chief Planning Officer.
- The expectation is to submit an In Principle bid (i.e. Design Stage C RIBA as stated in the guidance), and for a more detailed capital bid to be considered later on. It is accepted that specific details may change as a result of consultation processes, etc.

Post 16 Collegiate Core Group

The 14-19 Advisory Group has agreed that a collective bid will be submitted to LWLSC responding to the invitation and seeking to secure the necessary capital. In order to facilitate the submission of a high quality and timely bid, the 14-19 Advisory Group established the Post 16 Collegiate Core Group to steer the development of the Collegiate and the preparation of the bid. The Core Group consists of the three college principals, a headteacher representative from each of three of the school/college groupings (consortia), and local authority officers. The Director of Learning and Community Development chairs the Group with input from the Director of Strategy and other officers as required. The special school headteachers are not represented on the Core Group, though they are fully supportive of the work and will be involved when appropriate.

The Core Group started meeting on 3 October, and has progressed the following work:

- A bid work programme with lead responsibilities and dates for completion
- Developed a Compact which states collective commitment to submit a joint bid, and which has been signed by all the relevant provider institutions in Harrow
- Commissioned a feasibility study of all the high school sites (also incorporating feasibility for 11+ Transfer to assist with longer term strategic planning)
- Shared detailed information on work already undertaken that may contribute to the bid
- Developed a definition of the Harrow 14-19 Collegiate
- Commissioned work on demand and demographics
- Developed a draft bid template
- Facilitated the achieving of agreement among high schools of the ratio for post 16 places at high schools
- Progressed work on the Collegiate curriculum offer to be provided by schools and commissioned work on related curriculum development including the provision of Information Advice and Guidance, Quality Assurance and the Learner Offer

Collegiate Definition

The Collegiate will be established in September 2007 with 1000 Learners by 2008. The definition of Collegiate incorporates the vision and details of the provision that will offered to the Learners. It also outlines how the Collegiate will be managed by the key partners:

1. The Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate is a group of 14-19 providers working in partnership to ensure a high level of participation and success rates for students living in Harrow.
2. The coordinated work of the Collegiate will ensure that:
 - a. There are high participation and success rates for students living in Harrow.
 - b. Students living in Harrow have access to a wide range of curriculum and pathways.
 - c. Opportunities for students in Harrow are maximised and unnecessary duplication avoided.
 - d. Appropriate information, advice and guidance are provided for students at transition stages of education.
3. The Collegiate will form a management group that will consist of representatives of the current educational groups within Harrow, including the four consortia of schools and colleges and Harrow Council. The management group's brief will be to ensure that the Collegiate will:
 - a. be comprehensive and inclusive, recognising the aspiration of all learners and their families, and provide access to a wide curriculum choice at 14 and post-16 in Harrow that :

- b. build upon existing provision and further develops pathways at 14-19 in vocational areas and skill sectors, including improved integration of apprenticeships;
 - i. sustains and further develops a wide range of AS and A level choice;
 - ii. continues to strengthen provision for students working at and below Level 1 and to support appropriate routes at 19;
 - iii. targets provision to those not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of NEET;
 - iv. enables students to access a wider range of curriculum and pathways than available presently in any single setting;
- c. include all institutions, in an equal partnership as one collective group recognising the interests of all learners and their families, and building upon the schools' and colleges' specialisms and individual distinctive characteristics;
- d. formalise the collaboration across high schools, special schools, colleges, skills centre(s) and work-based learning providers in order to facilitate access and progression;
- e. be underpinned by a collaborative management that will seek to co-ordinate aspects of provision including:
 - i. learner entitlement
 - ii. curriculum offer
 - iii. applications for places at post-16
 - iv. timetabling
 - v. transport
 - vi. funding
 - vii. information, advice and guidance for students submission of applications for additional funding and other projects.

Curriculum Planning and Learner Numbers

The Collegiate Curriculum is being developed in terms of general and course specific elements. The High School Headteachers have agreed proposed AS and A Level courses to be available at each school. This work is at a planning stage as there will need to be further work to ensure that duplication is avoided and that courses are viable and sustainable once the applications have been received. Work is also being undertaken on vocational courses and pathways. It is expected that the vocational area will be led by the Colleges, particularly 16-18, where there is expertise and experience. There is a key role for both the Schools and Colleges in relation to 14-16 vocational provision to ensure that there are appropriate developmental pathways.

The High School Headteachers have also agreed a ratio to allocate the 1000 post 16 places across all schools. This will inform the feasibility studies, including Planning Issues. The provisional Learner numbers for each School are in Appendix 1, based on the application of this ratio to 1000 places across the borough. The numbers are across two year groups, Year 12 and Year 13, and include an expansion of the Skills Centre which will also be included in the capital bid.

School Site Development

An initial benchmarking exercise for capital development on all high school sites was completed early in December based on 200 post-16 places, and also considered the

future possibility of Year 7 transfer. The exercise shows how all schools can accommodate up to 200 places in building terms. As part of this exercise, initial outline proposals were discussed with the Planners. On the basis of the information provided, the discussions with Planners and Architects raised minor considerations that will assist Architects to develop outline proposals further. This exercise also demonstrated that there will still be scope for transfer of Year 7 into high schools, although there will be a range of capacity issues to address.

Following the work to agree the curriculum offer and allocation of places across the schools, Architects have been engaged to undertake more detailed work for each school to develop the outline schemes.

Revenue and Capital Funding

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for capital and revenue funding of post 16 provision. Financial arrangements will ensure that revenue funding follows the learner. However there is a risk that there is a shortfall and if this is the case then schools will need to find this from within their existing school budget shares. On behalf of the Collegiate Core Group, a sub-group is working on the development of a business case for each school to ensure revenue costs to schools are not higher than the funding allocated, and that sufficient revenue funding is available for the Collegiate to be sustainable.

The capital funding will be secured from the LSC 16-19 Capital Fund if the bid is successful.

Information and Communication Technology

The ICT infrastructure is crucial to the successful implementation of the Collegiate for Learners, Administration and Management. The infrastructure needs to facilitate communications, collaboration, shared resources, virtual learning environment, information sharing, assignments and assessments, monitoring and reporting, etc. A sub-group is working to establish the principles, consider models, and scope costings for the bid.

Applications and Admissions

A system will be established to manage Collegiate applications. Admissions will be the responsibility of institutions within the Collegiate, and the current admissions responsibilities will apply. This system will only deal with applications from pupils at Harrow schools (about 2500). Other applicants will apply direct to the institutions. External college applications will not be part of this system. Institutions will act within a code of practice, which will include timelines.

Statutory Process and Indicative Timetable

To enable the changes, Statutory Notices will be published to increase the age range of the schools from 12-16 to 12-18. An indicative timetable is as follows:

February 2006	Report to Cabinet with options for consultation outlining proposals, including pupil numbers for each High School
April 2006	Report to Cabinet outcomes of consultation and propose publication of Statutory Notices

June 2006 Determination of Statutory Notices by Cabinet or School Organisation Committee. (Note Cabinet can determine Notices if there are no Objections)

Central Consortium Developments from September 2006

The proposed Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate will be established in September 2007. From September 2006, the Central Consortium, of six High Schools and Harrow College, will be offering post 16 Learners AS provision at their High Schools. The courses are offered through a franchise mechanism with Harrow College and the Schools, and the Learners will be enrolled with Harrow College. The Consortium arrangements will allow Learners to study courses at the Schools or College. The closing date for applications is February. Further information will be available on the applicants and their course choices, which will inform planning for September 2006.