

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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**Date of Meeting:** 7 March 2012

**Subject:** INFORMATION REPORT  
Raising The Participation Age

**Responsible Officer:** Catherine Doran  
Corporate Director of Children's  
Services

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** None

**Section 1 – Summary**

From the summer of 2015 all young people must participate in education or training until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This information report sets out the duty on local authorities to promote Raising the Participation Age (RPA). This duty is already enacted but comes into force in June 2013.

Forum Members will receive a further report and be invited to comment on the ways that their constituencies can contribute to raising awareness of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) and on promoting this objective with the community and local employers.

## **Section 2 – Information Report**

### **1. Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

- 1.1 The Education and Skills Act (2008) places a duty on all young people to participate in education or training until their 18th birthday.
- 1.2 From summer 2013, young people will be required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. From 2015, they will be required to continue until their 18th birthday.
- 1.3 This is not the same as Raising the School Leaving Age (ROSLA) which occurred in the early 1970s. RPA does not necessarily mean staying in school. Young people will be able to choose how they participate post-16, which could be through:
  - full-time education, such as school, college or otherwise;
  - an Apprenticeship;
  - part-time education or training if they are employed, self employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.
- 1.4 The first year group to be affected by RPA are the current Year 10. They will be required to participate in education or training until they are 17. The current Year 9 will be the first Year that will be expected to participate in education or training until they are 18. Education or training must lead to a recognised qualification.

### **2. What Does This Mean For Local Authorities?**

- 2.1 The Education and Skills Act places duties on local authorities, in relation to RPA. Local authorities will be required to:
  - promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area; and
  - make arrangements to identify young people resident in their area who are not participating.

### **3. Current situation**

- 3.1 Harrow has one of the lowest numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) after 16. Harrow is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the country on this measure. Although we have few NEETs they may often be the hardest young people to reach so our strategy will need to engage with them as a priority. Our strategy will target families, schools and pupils in all phases to ensure that RPA is fully understood by all stakeholders.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 To date no new funding has been confirmed to cover the additional costs likely to be incurred in meeting the new duties placed on local

authorities, such as promoting Raising the Participation Age. The government may offer targeted advice and additional support in other forms. It is hoped that external funding will be made available. However if this is not forthcoming then the potential costs will have to be considered as part of setting future years' budgets.

## 5. Equality Implications

5.1 This government initiative will apply to all young people and will serve to promote the educational and economic well-being of all.

## 6. Corporate Priorities

6.1 These considerations will support the Council's Corporate Priorities for 2011-2012:

- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Emma Stabler



on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 22 February 2012

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

### Contact:

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### Background Papers:

None