

Gate 1 Business Case

Date: 09/09/10

Project Title: Entitlement Curriculum

Directorate: CEF

Project Manager:

Strategic Leader, School Improvement, Learning & Skills

Business Owner:

Head of Learning and Universal Outcomes

Budget Holder:

Strategic Leader, School Improvement, Learning & Skills

Resource Requirements

Revenue funding in **existing** budget £ 20,020 (AA 124, 125, 126, 127, 128)

Revenue funding required – **new** £120,000 (plus the existing)

Phasing of expenditure 2011/12 £120,000

Full Year £120,000

Other resources required
(please specify)

Delete all text in red

Baseline/Context

Currently, most of the work done to develop the specialist 14-19 entitlement curriculum and prevent young people becoming Not in Education Employment or Training has been funded by grant, either directly from Government or from EEDA funds. During 2010/11, both the Area Based Grant and the previous EEDA funding for these activities have already been removed and, based on the new Government's changed priorities, further grant funding is unlikely in 2011/12. The core staffing for 14-19 and Youth Development was already subject to savings for the revised 2010/11 budget and these are proposed to go further for 2011/12.

Growth Justification and Evidence

Growth is needed to underpin the development of the 14-19 specialist/vocational curriculum in local schools and colleges. Although the relative significance of the development of the Diploma has been changed by the new Government, the Council still has a responsibility to ensure every school leaver has an offer of a suitable learning opportunity (the September Guarantee) and a participation entitlement so that every 17 year old and then 18 year old (in due course) can access appropriate learning. We will continue to target this through our yearly refreshed 14-19 Education Plan and the 14-19 Strategic Partnership. Evidence of impact of previous similar work is shown by the recent considerable improvement in GCSE results, both this year and last, and the continued reduction in levels of NEET – but there is still more to do to embed the improvement, as grants are withdrawn and we reduce directly employed staff in this area.

The types of activity that would be funded are exemplified in the current version of the agreed 14-19 Education Plan, available on InForm.

The proposal would see the funding directed in the following ways

- £60K to support the provision of additional personal advisors for this targeted group
- £30K to support re-engagement programmes to support individual students at risk of NEET by tailoring support to meet personal needs where motivation and self-esteem act as a potential barrier to engagement
- £30K to support re-engagement courses for targeted groups of young people

Risks

Thurrock was subject to a CAA red flag for educational attainment and aspiration. There has been a step change improvement in GCSE results over the last two years, supported by the Council through development work on the specialist curriculum and a targeted maths scheme. With the reductions in support from Council staff and grants from Government due to budget reductions, there is a significant risk that this hard-won progress may be reversed without this growth resource.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders are fully engaged through the 14-19 Strategic Partnership, which includes all colleges, academies, secondary and special schools. It is a sub-group of the Children's Trust. These resources would be deployed through the 3-year 14-19 Education Plan which is annually refreshed by the Partnership before formal agreement by the Children's Trust and the Portfolio Holder (as a delegated decision).