
To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 6th April 2015

Subject: Further Education Colleges

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide information to Scrutiny Board on the current position of Coventry's Further Education Colleges following the area review of post-16 provision.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Note the actions being taken and progress made by Coventry's Further Education Colleges following the area review.
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Information/Background

3.1 Post-16 education and training area reviews

- 3.2 The government's policy statement [Reviewing post-16 education and training institutions](#) sets out their approach to restructuring the further education sector through 37 area reviews of post-16 provision. The focus of the reviews is on FE and sixth form colleges.
- 3.3 The aim of the reviews is to help create more financially stable and efficient providers and improved collaboration across the different types of institution. A report for each area review will be published covering the recommendations that the steering group has agreed and which colleges are expected to implement.
- 3.4 The Coventry and Warwickshire Area Review took place in wave 3 between April and October 2016 and included:

FE colleges:

- City College Coventry
- Henley College Coventry
- Hereward College of Further Education
- North Warwickshire and Hinckley College
- Stratford Upon Avon College
- Warwickshire College

Sixth-form colleges:

- King Edward VI College, Nuneaton

Local authorities and LEPs:

- Coventry City Council
- Warwickshire County Council

- Coventry and Warwickshire LEP

3.5 [The Coventry and Warwickshire Area Review Final Report](#) was published in January 2017 and made the following recommendations for the Coventry colleges:

- A merger between City College Coventry and Henley College to create a single institution.
- Hereward College to continue to review options for collaboration (by end of January 2017) to deliver long term financial sustainability.
- Develop a joint venture apprenticeship company to serve the Coventry and Warwickshire area.
- The LEP and LA's to lead a group with colleges to:
 - facilitate wider discussions regarding curriculum rationalisation and specialisation
 - ensure a continued link between curriculum planning and the local economy
 - strengthen the links between decisions about devolved authority/LEP local growth and capital funding, European revenue streams and adult skills funding and implementation of area review recommendations
 - facilitate combined authority and LEP involvement in establishing the apprenticeships joint venture company to ensure coherence with local need and encourage involvement of employers who are new to apprenticeships.

3.6 **Henley College and City College**

3.7 In advance of the area review in which merger was formally recommended, both colleges had already begun to develop their thinking about uniting their resources to create a sustainable, vibrant new focus of training excellence for Coventry. The proposed name for the new organisation is Coventry College which will be created by the dissolution of City College Coventry and merger with Henley College Coventry. It is proposed that the legal merger will take effect on 1 August 2017. A proposed merger consultation has been launched from 22nd March to 3rd May with responses to the consultation published on 30th May. Information on this merger can be found at Appendix A.

3.8 Following the post-16 area review an [Ofsted inspection of Henley College](#) in November 2016 judged overall effectiveness as Requires Improvement. This was a decline from the previous judgement of Good for overall effectiveness in January 2014.

3.9 An [Ofsted inspection of City College](#) in January 2017 judged overall effectiveness as Requires Improvement. This was an improvement from the previous judgement of Inadequate for overall effectiveness in November 2015.

3.10 **Hereward College**

3.11 Following the post-16 area review an [Ofsted inspection of Hereward College](#) in October 2016 judged overall effectiveness as Inadequate. This was a decline from the previous judgement of Good for overall effectiveness in January 2015. A re-inspection monitoring visit took place on 20 December 2016.

3.12 The previous Principal has retired and an interim Principal, Geoff Draper, and a new chair of governors, Michael Lynch, have been in place since the end of November 2016.

3.13 The college is currently working hard to address the issues raised by Ofsted and are in the process of developing a positive vision for the future. The Safeguarding team has been strengthened and a review of the College has been undertaken by the FE Commissioner's office.

3.14 Hereward Corporation is now looking to appoint a permanent Principal and Chief Executive to continue the focus on immediate improvements in safeguarding, teaching and learning and student outcomes and to provide the college with the direction, leadership and strategic management it requires.

3.15 Other key priorities are the formulation of a strategic plan to address changes in high needs funding, the curriculum and estates, and the development, alongside the Corporation, of a new long term strategy for the College.

3.16 **Safeguarding**

3.17 The LA has a statutory duty to ensure that all children resident within the city are safe from harm and provides information, support and training to all providers, including our FE Colleges. For example, the LA audits activity and compliance, provides support and challenge and reacts to any concerns.

3.18 A senior leader from Henley College represents FE Colleges on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and reports back to FE Principals.

3.19 FE College Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) attend the local authority Safeguarding Leads Briefings.

3.20 The City Council has provided significant support to Hereward College for safeguarding. Hereward leaders have sought and received support from the local authority to develop the safeguarding policy. The policy has been revised to take into account current government guidance. Close links with the local authority designated officer (LADO) in particular, are providing the college's designated safeguarding lead with valuable support in determining suitable safeguarding thresholds for referring concerns.

3.21 **Partnership working**

3.22 The LA and Coventry FE Principals hold a termly partnership meeting with the Director of Education and Head of Service 11-19(25). Cabinet Member for Education provides city council updates at these meetings.

3.23 Following the area review recommendation, the LEP, Coventry and Warwickshire LAs and Coventry and Warwickshire FE Principals have established a group that meets to facilitate discussions and links as outlined in section 3.5.

3.24 Background information can be found at the following links:

- Government policy statement:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-training-institutions-review>

- Coventry and Warwickshire Area review Final report
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coventry-and-warwickshire-further-education-area-review-report>

- Ofsted inspection of Henley College
- <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/130472>

- Ofsted inspection of City College
- <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/130473>

- Ofsted inspection of Hereward College

- <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/130474>

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