

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 November 2011	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Update on Southwark College courses and the preferential opportunities for looked after children/school leavers	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee notes that:
 - Southwark College has an agreement in place that all looked after children and care leavers will be guaranteed an interview for an appropriate course at the College.
 - Significant development has taken place at the college to develop a vocational curriculum that has been co-designed with local employers to better meet local employment needs.
 - A specialist dyslexia centre for post 16 looked after children has been opened at the college in partnership with the council.
2. The Committee invites the Principal of the College to attend the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting next year to report back on the impact of these changes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Preferential Opportunities for Looked After Children

3. Southwark College has agreed to offer all looked after children an interview for any course from the college prospectus.
4. This is not a guarantee of a place on any particular course as allowing young people to enroll on a course for which they are not qualified will almost certainly result in them not completing the course.
5. In instances where this occurs the college will endeavour to match the young person with an appropriate course.
6. Connexions advisors will offer all looked after young people intensive training in interview techniques prior to application to Southwark or other colleges.
7. The Education Business Alliance will work with the college to ensure that all looked after children will be able to access a high quality and appropriate work experience placement.

8. It is hoped that this scheme will result in at least twenty additional young people accessing provision at Southwark College.

Demand lead Vocational Curriculum

9. The College offers a range of curriculum provision from 'entry level' to 'level 5' in a variety of areas.
10. The focus of the curriculum is a vocational offer to provide learners with sustainable jobs.
11. Nine new vocational curriculum areas developed since January 2011, which include:
 - Hair
 - Beauty
 - Sports Academy (Millwall - Football/basketball/boxing),
 - Construction trades,
 - Hospitality/Catering Apprenticeships,
 - Sports (massage) Therapy,
 - Personal Training/Sports Leadership and Management,
 - Cleaning Services,
 - Security Services.
12. Over 60% of the course file is new for 11/12, including a wide range of short (QCF) unitised programmes and new apprenticeships
13. The college has developed an innovative approach to targeted business development to raise the profile of college:
 - £1.9m Shard S.106 monies - half a million spent on new real work environments to support new curriculum, rest will be received when Shard opens (2012)
 - Daimler/Mercedes senior team partner with Southwark College students - now annual programme
 - Shard is a vertical city likely to house 10000 employees with another 4000+ in a new building next to it (London Bridge Quarter) – A deal is in place for all contractors/service providers to LBQ to interview 75% of all applicants College puts forward for jobs
 - Construction forum and training on local building sites (Mace, Travis Perkins, Lend Lease).

Super Reader Dyslexia Centre

14. Working with the college, the Specialist Education Services Team have developed a new teaching approach to tackle the high incidence of Dyslexia linked to a lack of engagement with learning in the post 16 looked after children cohort. This is based on two separate strands of education research.
15. "Super Reading" is a new teaching technique that has proved to be very successful in tackling Dyslexia in young adults.
16. Research has shown that commercial gaming technology can have a big impact on engaging those who have previously been disengaged with learning.
17. The centre will work with a cohort of between ten and fifteen looked after young

people who have been identified as being dyslexic.

18. The target for the first cohort is that at least 80% of the cohort progress to full time learning after completing the course.

Community impact statement

19. This scheme supports some of the more vulnerable young people in the community and aims to narrow the gap between them and the general population.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Deputy Director Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Report Author	Darren Coghlan, Head of Specialist Education Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 October 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date report sent to Constitutional Team	26 October 2011	