



Birmingham City Council

Education and Skills Division

Children, Young People and Families

DRAFT V.4

16-19

Commissioning Priorities 2011-12

January 2011

Foreword

It has been a period of flux and transition for the post 16 sector. The general election in May 2010 resulted in a new Coalition Government being elected, and as result a change in emphasis in the direction of education and skills. However it must be remembered that prior to the election the previous government had announced significant changes to the education and skills landscape.

Gradually we are getting greater clarity about the priorities of the Coalition and the way in which the Post 16 system will now operate. Not all priorities of the previous government have been swept away. Therefore, the raising of the participation age to which all young people will be expected to participate in education to 17 by 2013 and then 18 by 2015 is still a commitment of the government; there will be continued support to the development of Apprenticeships for 16-19 year olds and ensuring clear routes to Apprenticeships; and reducing the gap in attainment between learners from different parts of society. However, there is also a new emphasis, language and challenges:

- Reduced bureaucracy and greater efficiencies
- A focus on teaching ,leadership and behaviour
- A new school system-Providing greater freedom and autonomy for institutions
- An overhaul of vocational qualifications
- Ending the disparity in funding between schools and colleges
- Extension of Academies programme and enabling the opening of Free Schools in response to demand

It is important to acknowledge the significant improvements that have been made in the post 16 education and training sector. 83 per cent of Birmingham's 16 and 17 year olds now participate in education and training, a figure that is now in line with the national average. The proportion of Birmingham young people attaining a level 2 and level 3 by the age of 19 has also shown steady improvements in recent years. However there are still discrepancies, as these figures are significantly reduced when we factor key client groups and geography. For example, the proportion of young people attaining a level 3 qualification is reduced by 20 per cent when free school meal eligibility is taken into consideration. Therefore a significant amount of work is still needed to address the gaps in participation and attainment by vulnerable groups.

The Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 outlined the financial challenges that will be the backdrop to efforts to make improvements over the next three or four years. However we can not afford to be overly pessimistic as our young peoples' futures demand that those of us who have responsibility for implementing the post 16 system do this to the best of our abilities irrespective of

the challenging circumstances. To do this will require creativity, imagination, co-operation and a determination to reconcile what are often competing demands upon us.

The Secretary of State Michael Gove has outlined the Local Authority's role in ensuring the sufficiency of provision for its young people over compulsory school but under 19 (over 16 but under the age of 25 for young people subject to a learning difficulty assessment). To achieve this requires us to be clear about the issues facing young people; the priorities and actions that we are confident will lead to effective change and positive outcomes for all our young people. Local Authorities must provide leadership, direction and coherence in this process. This will not be achieved solely by Birmingham City Council Officers and will require the input and ownership of priorities and actions by all stakeholders who have an interest in the progress and achievement of Birmingham's young people.

Therefore the Commissioning Plan is expected to be a point of reference for all stakeholders. Its development will be iterative and provide a rationale for how we prioritise and best use resources. It will also be subject to regular and continuous review.

I am pleased to present to you the Commissioning Plan and invite your comments in order to ensure that it is fit for purpose. To achieve this we propose to hold a stakeholder event and the 14 – 19 Strategic Partnership will be a key driver of ongoing developments. I and my colleagues in the local authority look forward to working with you on this key document and the resulting actions from it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Brammall', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Peter Brammall

Assistant Director - Education and Skills

Section 1: Strategic Context

1. The Education and Skills Act 2008 legislated to raise the age of compulsory participation in education or training until the end of year in which young people reach 17 years in 2013, and until at least age 18 by 2015. Achieving full participation of young people in education or training until 18 will require all parts of the education system to play their part. Ultimately it will be Local Authorities (LAs) and their partners that will be responsible for ensuring that young people in their area participate, ensuring appropriate provision is commissioned and for providing the support young people need to overcome barriers to learning.

2. The Apprenticeships, Children, Schools and Learning (ACSL) Act 2009, took forward significant reforms to post-16 education and training to improve the delivery to young people and adults. The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) responsibility for the planning and funding of all 16-18 education and training was transferred to LAs. Local Authorities now have responsibility for commissioning a place in education or training for young people up to the age of 19, and in the case of learners who have had a learning difficulty or disability assessment, up to the age of 25.

3. In effect, LAs now have responsibility for the strategic commissioning of all education and training for young people up to the age of 19, making them the strategic lead for all children's services from 0 to 19. The recent Schools White Paper 2010, *The Importance of Teaching*, strengthened the local authority role as "champions of choice", to:

- secure a wide range of education and training options for parents and families
- ensure the sufficiency of high-quality places
- co-ordinate a fair admissions process for schools
- promote social justice by supporting vulnerable children
- challenge schools which fail to improve

4. The YPLA published the *Statutory Guidance: Funding Arrangements for 16-19 Education and Training* in December 2010, setting out the local authority duties under the Education Act 1996 to secure the sufficiency and suitability of education and training provision. In addition, LAs also have a duty to secure sufficient education and training for young people subject to youth detention.

5. Birmingham City Council embraces the opportunity to bring together all elements of the Council's work, including schools and adult education, economic development, housing, health and social care and wider services for children and families in order to develop a holistic and integrated 14-19 Strategy and improve outcomes for residents, communities and our local economy.

6. The Local Authority's duty to prepare and publish a 14-19 transport policy statement has been strengthened by the ASCL Act to improve transparency and local accountability.

7. A separate legal designation for sixth form colleges (SFC) has been created by the ASCL Act. SFA have many features in common with Further Education colleges; however they have always maintained a distinct identity, which is now reflected in a separate legal

definition. The main difference between SFC and general FE colleges is that the former will have a closer relationship with their home local authority and a single commissioning and performance management relationship with that authority. The SFA is responsible for intervention with general FE Colleges, Apprenticeship and ESF funded providers.

8. The Coalition government has commissioned Professor Alison Wolf of Kings College, London to conduct a review of vocational qualifications with the objective of providing advice to ensure all young people are in education and training that supports progression to employment or further and higher education. A particular focus will be to ensure that education received by low-attaining pupils enables progression to further education and employment. Professor Wolf will make her recommendations in spring 2011. In order to achieve full participation of 16, 17 and 18 year olds in education or training, a diverse learning offer is required in Birmingham, including high quality vocational courses. It is expected that this plan will be refreshed following the recommendations of the Wolf review.

1.2 National Indicators related to 16-19 education and training

9. PSA 10 - Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people:

- Increase the percentage achieving 5A* - C GCSEs (and equivalent), including English and Maths at Key Stage 4 to 53 per cent by 2011.
- Increase the proportion of young people achieving Level 2 at age 19 to 82 per cent by 2011
- Increase the proportion of young people achieving Level 3 at age 19 to 54 per cent by 2011

10. PSA 14 – Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success:

- Reduce the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training by two percentage points by 2010¹

¹ The PSA targets and National Indicators listed here were set by the previous government and are subject to review

1.3 Funding and Implementation

11. Funding for 16-19 provision in this plan has been confirmed by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) in the *16-18 Funding Statement (December 2010)*². A national budget for education and training places of £7.8 billion has been agreed. This includes around £800 million for Apprenticeships and £310 million for young people with LDD. This is a 1.5 percent increase nationally, over planned 2010-11 budgets. Local funding is currently being calculated by the YPLA based on the national funding formula for Learner Responsive funding. The detail of how post-16 providers in Birmingham are affected by funding changes remains to be seen.

12. Despite a budget increase of 1.5 per cent, all post 16 providers are challenged to make greater efficiencies in order to maximise the budget, to continue to increase participation and achievement, protect provision for vulnerable groups and maintain their own financial stability through a very tight fiscal position.

13. Birmingham City Council will work closely with YPLA and neighbouring authorities to ensure that the priorities identified in this document are understood, disseminated and implemented through our provider partners including schools, colleges and independent providers. The objective is to achieve closer strategic alignment of shared priorities.

14. Birmingham City Council will also ensure there is a shared approach across LA departments and functions such as Planning and Regeneration, Housing and Constituencies, Adults and Communities. This will be supported by the implementation of the Procurement Policy Framework for Employment and Skills from April 2011. The objective is to harness the LA's buying power to achieve outcomes on jobs and skills. This approach was identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2026³

15. Through the Procurement Policy Framework, the LA commits to consider at every stage of the procurement process, the contractual relevance of clauses that stipulate a commitment to targeted recruitment and training initiatives for all major regeneration and developments and goods and services over a threshold value of £1m. Successful contractors and their supply chains will be expected to work with the LA to broker apprenticeships, work-experience placements, mentoring of young people and other socially beneficial initiatives.⁴

16. During January – March 2011, we will undertake stakeholder briefings and strategic commissioning dialogue meetings with all Post-16 providers either through

² YPLA 16-18 Funding Statement (December 2010), accessible through the following link: <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/news/latest/16-19-Funding-Statement-and-Statutory-Guidance-Arrangements-for-16-19-Funding-of-Education-and-Train.htm>

³ The Sustainable Community Strategy, Birmingham 2026 – *Our Vision for the future* states that “we much make better use of public sector procurement, ensuring that our purchasing power supports the local economy in an environmentally and socially friendly way”

⁴ A full copy of the Procurement Policy Framework will be available at www.birmingham.gov.uk

Networks and/or individual discussion with all providers of post 16 education and skills in Birmingham. The purpose of this process is to facilitate the alignment of provision with our shared strategic priorities.

17. It is expected that contracts for post 16 education and training will be let on behalf of Birmingham City Council as lead strategic commissioner, by the YPLA for Academies, Learner Responsive 16-18 programmes in FE Colleges, SFC and Independent providers. Birmingham City Council will continue to administer funding for School Sixth Form places. Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs) will continue to be funded via the YPLA for 2011/12 with transfer of the budget expected by 2012/13. Contracts for the Young Apprenticeship programme (YA) will be let by the local authority. European Social Funding (ESF) Co-financing will be let on behalf of the local authority by the Skills Funding Agency.

Section 2: Commissioning Context

2.1 Purpose

18. This Commissioning Statement sets out our emerging priorities for commissioning provision for young people⁵ in Birmingham for the academic year 2011-12. We see this as a major opportunity for partners and stakeholders to help influence local provision for 14-19 year olds in the city and the wider sub-region, taking into account the travel-to-learn patterns of our residents.

19. This document is very much a 'work-in-progress' and is intended to be used as a tool to initiate discussion among all our stakeholders and partners to identify trends, priorities and local intelligence. As such the production of this document is an evolutionary process to encourage all partners to work closely together in order to achieve our shared vision for all residents of Birmingham.

20. Birmingham City Council remains at the heart of the process as the strategic commissioner for young people; this document is an opportunity to outline the desired changes in local provision, to highlight the necessary directions of travel, plus the alignment of the curriculum and modes of delivery for education and training providers to implement. This is underpinned by the evidence base of the SRG Strategic Analysis, YPLA Data Packs, and other data we collect.

21. The Plan will be informed by the following:

Data returns from schools, colleges and other providers, the LA Economic Assessment, demographic trends, labour market analysis and local intelligence. This will be gathered throughout the consultation period with the final plan being published thereafter. The Commissioning Plan will be used as a tool to steer the on-going dialogue that schools, colleges and training providers have with council commissioners and to lead and influence the YPLA and SFA funding flows and processes.

⁵ In this document, the phrase young people refer to 16-18 year olds and up to age 25 for those with a learning difficulty or disability with a Section 139a Assessment.

22. This document highlights priority actions which the 14-19 Team will implement together with local schools networks, colleges, training providers and other partners during the year.

23. Following the 2009 scrutiny review "*Who Cares? Protecting Children and Improving Children's Social Care*" and the June 2010 Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspection on safeguarding and children in care services and the September 2010 Improvement Notice, the Birmingham Safeguarding and Children in Care Improvement Board has developed a robust Improvement Plan. The Improvement agenda is integral to the broader agenda to develop children's services in the city.

24. The Improvement plan identifies the following priorities for multi-agency activity:

- Protecting children from significant harm and improving children's social care
- Improving engagement in learning and achievement in education and skills
- Reducing health inequalities

2.2 Our Vision

25. Birmingham will be an inspiring place where all young people will enjoy living, learning, developing and achieving, and where they will feel secure in a child and family friendly city, within its diverse communities and neighbourhoods⁶

26. The following principles will guide our implementation and commissioning:

- make sure children are protected from harm and feel safe
- make sure services are integrated, delivered locally and focussed on what children and their families need
- work with children and young people who are at risk of not doing well to stop them developing problems or underachieving
- make sure the workforce has the training, skills and information to work effectively
- use evidence and research on what works in terms of prevention, early intervention and treatment to improve outcomes for children⁷

2.3 Our Mission

27. We will:

- Be guided by research and evidence about prevention and early intervention and the provision of specialist interventions to improve outcomes
- Be needs driven, and ensure that children, young people and their families are engaged in service development through consultation
- Make sure that our workforce has the training, skills and information it needs to deliver our vision
- Help people value the role and contribution of children and young people to society

⁶ Birmingham Children and Young People's Plan

⁷ Birmingham Safeguarding and Children in Care Improvement Plan , 6 December 2010

- Integrate our services, where appropriate, to make sure they meet the needs of our clients
- Protect children from harm and make them feel safe
- Support parents to bring up their children, go to work or contribute to communities

2.4 Local Priority Outcomes

28. We have agreed six local priority outcomes with our partners that will deliver improvements, within the context of the five national outcomes in Every Child Matters:

- Physical health
- Emotional health
- Behaviour
- Social literacy (the ability to relate to and get on with people)
- Literacy and numeracy
- Job skill

2.5 Demographics

29. Birmingham is the largest city outside London, with a population of over a million people. Located at the heart of the West Midlands, it is at the centre of England's road, rail and air networks. Over the last few years the City centre has been transformed into a thriving commercial and cultural centre. It is also a green city, with 3,400 hectares of park and open space and many miles of canals. Birmingham's economy has undergone a significant change over the past three decades with the service sector replacing manufacturing as the principal source of employment. Manufacturing continues to be a key element of the city's economy though, with an increasing focus on high technology production.

30. Birmingham has some of the most deprived areas in England where unemployment is high and people's health is quite poor. After years of population decrease, linked to the decline in manufacturing industries, Birmingham is growing again. The population is becoming increasingly diverse. More than a third of the population is now from black and minority ethnic communities, and by 2026 it is expected that no single ethnic group will form a majority of the city's population. Birmingham is a comparatively young city – in 2006, almost half of the population was under 30. But the over 85s age group is expected to increase significantly.

31. Levels of unemployment are very high in Birmingham, higher than similar cities. Birmingham has a smaller proportion of people who have higher level skills and qualifications than nationally. During the past year the unemployment rate of people without qualifications has risen twice as fast as those with qualifications. Given the importance of this issue to the economic success of the city, more needs to be done to create jobs and to ensure people in Birmingham have the skills to get them.

32. Standards achieved by children at the end of primary school, while in line with similar areas, are below national benchmarks. The attainment of Birmingham pupils has been rising at GCSE level and the significant gap that used to exist for pupils achieving five good GCSEs (including English and Maths) between Birmingham and the national

average is closing. But the city still faces a big problem with an overall lack of skills in the workforce, making it harder for people to get jobs and for the city's economy to grow and attract new business.

As can be seen from the table below, the proportion of young people in Birmingham achieving a full level 2 or level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (the level 2 and level 3 targets) is rising and is now closer to the England average. Attainment of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grade A*- C is also increasing, but varies considerably by school and ward.

Proportion of Birmingham young people achieving educational targets

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
5 GCSEs A*-C inc Maths and English (England average)	41.7% (46.3%)	45.5% (47.6%)	47.7% (49.8%)	48% (51%)
Level 2 at 16 (England average)	65.8% (73.7%)	70.2% (76.5%)	74.1% (78.7%)	
Level 3 at 19 (England average)	40.2% (48.1%)	43.3% (49.8%)	46.2% (51.4%)	

Source: DfE Performance Tables

33. In 2008/09, there were eight schools in Birmingham with less than 30 per cent of pupils achieving the national floor target. By 2009/10, all schools in Birmingham had exceeded this floor target, although with proposals in the Schools White Paper (2010) to increase the floor target to 35 per cent, based on 2009/10 results this would mean that four secondary schools in Birmingham would be below the floor.⁸ In 2009/10, the Birmingham average across all secondary schools was 55 per cent of pupils achieving five A*-C grade GCSEs including English and Maths. There are some 40 secondary schools across the city below the city average (excluding special schools).

Higher Education

34. The Table below shows a 10 per cent increase in Birmingham residents accessing HE between 2004/05 and 2008/09 across all ages. While it remains to be seen what the changes to HE funding will have on participation, Birmingham City Council remains committed to increasing access and participation in HE, including the development of new vocational pathways into HE .

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Birmingham residents	10,330	10,495	9,935	10,500	11,455
West Midlands Region	50,165	50,200	47,290	53,345	56,625
England	499,080	515,420	489,250	503,345	532,780

⁸ The Schools White Paper (2010) proposes that the secondary floor target will be made more challenging by including science and the floor standard will be raised over time. The English Baccalaureate (Five GCSEs grade A*-C including English, Maths, Science, Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities) will also be used as a measure.

35. The recession has hit the West Midlands hard and the city now needs to work better across the region with other areas to tackle the problems that are standing in the way of achieving economic success.⁹

2.6 Economic Assessment

36. The Birmingham Economic Assessment (July 2010) identifies that over the last decade Birmingham has seen a decrease in the amount of private sector employment in the city¹⁰. Birmingham's poor performance in generating private sector jobs has been highlighted in a recent report by Centre for Cities¹¹. This was principally the result of a further large fall in manufacturing employment in the city over the period as the local economy experienced the latter phases of structural readjustment.

37. Over the last decade this process saw the closure of MG Rover with the loss of 11,000 jobs directly and a further several thousand in the supply chain - including the loss of highly skilled manufacturing employment. Over the same period of time there was growth in private sector service employment in Birmingham.

38. Between 1998 and 2008 Birmingham's manufacturing employment declined sharply from nearly 99,000 to only 49,000. It should be noted that while manufacturing employment fell considerably over 1998 - 2008, now that the city's proportion of jobs based in manufacturing has fallen to the national average, there is little scope for further major contraction in manufacturing employment in Birmingham.

39. At the end of the 1990s Birmingham was the largest financial and business services centre outside of London. However, the growth of the sector in Birmingham during the 2000s has been subdued compared to its peer cities.

40. Birmingham is the financial and business services capital for the wider region, so it has undoubtedly been held back by the region's slow growth and manufacturing decline, which will have restricted the opportunity to service the business-to-business market.

41. The effects of the recession and cuts in public sector spending to reduce the government deficit are likely to result in very subdued employment growth in the city over the next decade. Using our Local Economic Forecasting Model (LEFM) we can see that employment in the city is forecast not to return to pre recession levels by 2020. The LEFM does show at a sectoral level what areas are likely to be generators of employment growth over the next decade; these include knowledge intensive sectors such as:

- Banking and Finance
- Other Business Services
- Health and Social Work – due to ageing population
- Childcare - changing nature of working households
- Retailing

⁹ Birmingham Area Assessment, dated 18 March 2010 Audit Commission, 1st Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London

¹⁰ See Chart 2.1 in the data appendix.

¹¹ *Private Sector Cities A New Geography of Opportunity*, Centre for Cities June 2010

42. Other sectors in which Birmingham is targeting growth in knowledge-intensive new industries including:

- Green Manufacturing and the low carbon economy
- Creative industries
- Medical technologies
- Advanced manufacturing including nanotechnology

43. In addition, the Economic Assessment identifies that Birmingham has a much greater specialisation than nationally in the following sectors¹²:

- Jewellery manufacture
- Insurance
- Automotive
- Activities auxiliary to insurance and pension funding
- Legal activities
- As well as the above Birmingham also specialises in the manufacture of various other products including metal forging, basic pharmaceuticals and glass production.

44. Birmingham has a greater proportion of its output than nationally in the following sectors:

- Manufacture of metal goods
- Banking and Finance
- Public Admin Education, Health and Social Work
- Insurance
- Hotel and Catering
- Electrical Engineering
- Communications

45. It is clear that despite the structural shift in the local economy and the fact that the city now has a similar proportion of people employed in manufacturing as the national average; it still retains a specialism in certain areas of manufacture. (automotive, metal industries).

46. Birmingham has a high proportion of its workforce employed in the public sector, specialising in areas such as healthcare; for example the recently-opened new £560m 'super hospital' is providing the latest in medical services to central England, as well as significant clinical Research and Development facilities.

47. Birmingham is also a centre for business and leisure tourism, and is a well established conference city boasting world-class facilities such as the International Convention Centre (ICC) and the NEC. The city has a diverse cultural offer and has developed a vibrant entertainment sector, seeing its creative industries sector grow significantly in size and importance in recent years¹³.

¹² Full details available in Chart 2.2 & 2.3 in the data appendix

¹³ *Why The Creative Industries Matter To Birmingham: An Analysis of the City's Creative Economy* BOP Consulting January 2010

48. Initiatives like Science City and the Central Technology Belt are designed to develop new growth sectors, exploiting areas in which the local economy has a particular strength or the ability to develop an advantage – these include:

- Medical Technologies & Life Sciences
- Transport Technologies – automotive, aerospace etc
- Nanotechnology
- Green technology and low carbon economy including:
 - Hydrogen fuel cells
 - Green automotive production

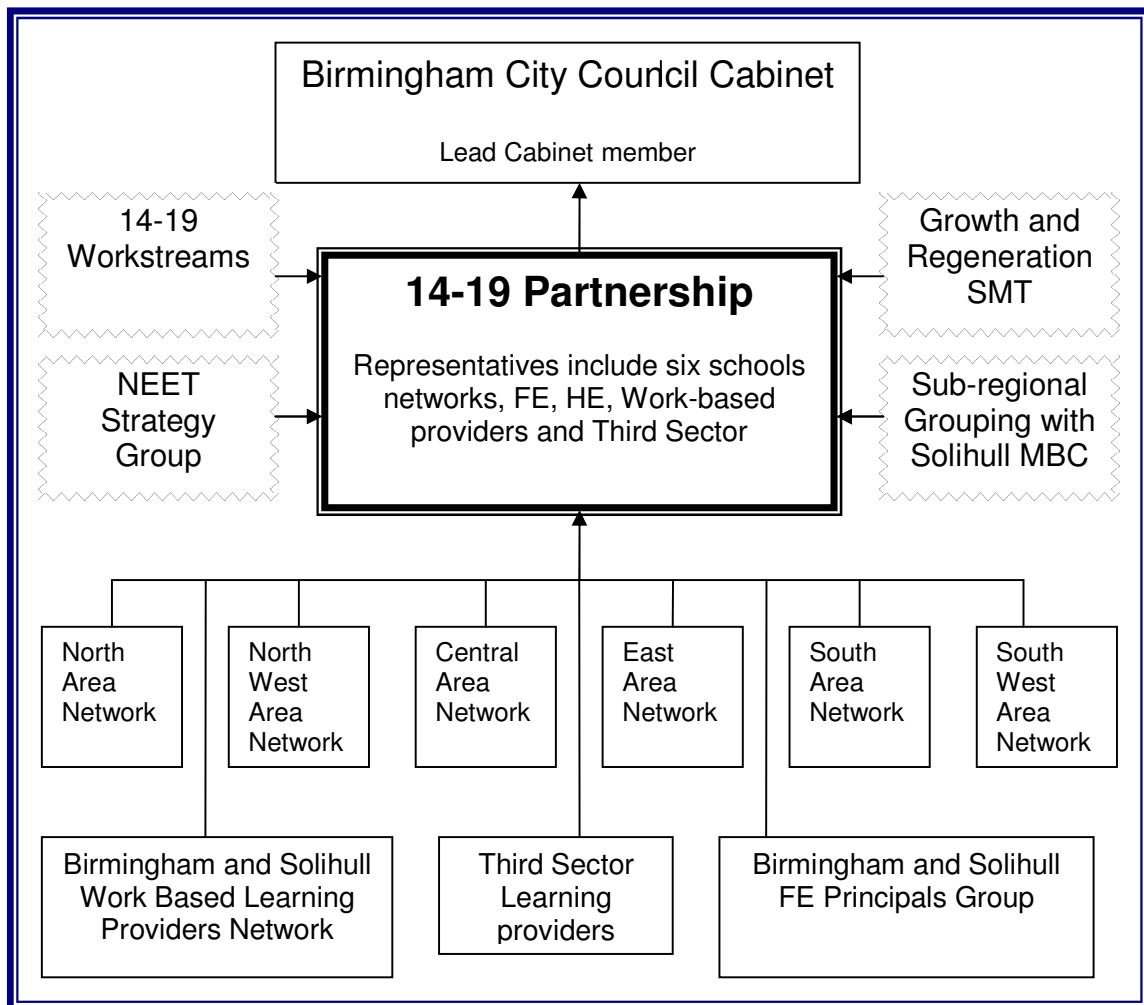
49. The commissioning process will facilitate further analysis of labour market intelligence, future projections of workforce and skills needs, and influence development of the post-16 curriculum. The LA will ensure that there is alignment between the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)¹⁴ strategic plans and the 16-19 Commissioning Plan.

¹⁴ The Birmingham and Solihull LEP also includes, Bromsgrove, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth. The Board consists of Local Authority and business leaders. The vision of the LEP is “to create and support a globally competitive knowledge economy, the natural home for Europe’s entrepreneurs and wealth creators. Reflecting our tradition for attracting innovators, risk takers, entrepreneurs and mavericks, within ten years the economic area will be renowned for being the easiest place in Europe in which to set up and run a business.”

2.7 Delivering the vision

50. The 14-19 Partnership is the decision-making body for planning and commissioning of education and training in Birmingham. The 14-19 Partnership reports to the Sub-Regional Group (SRG)¹⁵ for 14-19 Commissioning which also includes membership of officers from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

Figure 1: Governance arrangements:



2.8 Provider Landscape

51. A very wide range of post-16 provision is available in Birmingham. There are 43 schools with sixth forms (including seven selective grammar schools), eight independent schools, eleven special schools (which accept students up to 19 years of age); currently

¹⁵ Birmingham City Council and Solihull MBC will continue to meet as an SRG and jointly plan the commissioning of 14-19 provision, although there is no longer a statutory requirement to do so.

there are currently seven academies¹⁶ and one independent specialist college. The number of schools offering post-16 provision is increasing with the expansion of academies, offering greater competition for 16-18 year olds. There also are two large sixth form colleges.

52. There are nine Further Education (FE) providers in Birmingham including four general FE colleges and the Birmingham City Council Adult Education Service. One former specialist FE College is now in the HE sector. Over 50 independent training providers offer Foundation Learning from Entry Level to Level 1 and/or Apprenticeship programmes at Level 2 or Level 3.

53. The adjoining borough of Solihull is closely linked with Birmingham for travel to learn. Solihull has a large FE college, with a new campus in North Solihull, not far from East Birmingham, and a large sixth form college which also recruits learners from all over Birmingham.

54. Birmingham learners also travel to colleges in the Black Country sub-region, notably Halesowen, Sandwell, and Walsall Colleges; although Birmingham is a net 'importer' of learners from the Black Country.

55. Third Sector training organisations add to the diversity of provision available with both national and local providers operating within the Birmingham area. In particular, many have developed their expertise in working with NEET and vulnerable young people in many of the deprived neighbourhoods in Birmingham. Engagement with the Third Sector is particularly important in terms of the government's Big Society strategy and further work needs to be done to embed this into post-16 landscape.

56. In line with the new Government's policy on Free Schools, there will be further development of post-16 provision within the City and neighbouring boroughs during 2011-12 and 2012/13.

For the following providers, Birmingham are the lead strategic commissioner for young people:

FE Providers for who Birmingham are the lead strategic commissioner:

GENERAL FE COLLEGES:

Birmingham Metropolitan College
Bournville College
City College Birmingham
South Birmingham College

SIXTH FORM COLLEGES:

Cadbury Sixth Form College
Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) with FE Provision:

Birmingham City University
University College Birmingham

¹⁶ The exact number of academies in Birmingham is expected to increase with several schools having expressed an interest in converting to academy status.

SPECIALIST THIRD SECTOR PROVIDER:

Birmingham Rathbone Society

OTHER PROVIDER: Birmingham Adult Education Service

School Sixth Forms for who Birmingham is the lead commissioner:

SOUTH WEST AREA NETWORK:

Bournville School and Sixth Form Centre: Business Enterprise College
Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technology College
Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre
Lordswood Boys and Sixth Form Centre
Lordswood Girls and Sixth Form Centre
King Edwards VI Five Ways School
Shenley Academy
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

SOUTH NETWORK:

Baverstock School and Sports College
Bishop Challoner School and Sports College
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls
Kings Norton Boys
Kings Norton Girls School
Moseley School – A language College
Swanshurst School

NORTH NETWORK:

Bishop Vesey Grammar School
Great Barr School
Plantsbrook School
St Edmund Campion School
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
The Arthur Terry School
North Birmingham Academy**

NORTH WEST AREA NETWORK:

Broadway School
George Dixon International School
Hamstead Hall School and Sports College
Handsworth Grammar School
Handsworth Wood Girls School
King Edward VI Aston School
King Edward VI Handsworth School
Heartlands Academy
St Pauls Girls

EAST AREA NETWORK:

Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Technology College
Bishop Walsh Catholic School
Cockshut Hill Technology College
Fairfax School
John Wilmott School

Ninestiles Techonology College
Sheldon Heath School / King Edward 6th Academy**
The International School and Community College
Washwood Heath Technology College

CENTRAL AREA NETWORK:

Bordesley Green Girls Specialist Business and Education College*
Small Heath School – A Technology College
Birmingham Ormiston 14-19 Academy**

*New post 16 provision ** New Academy with sixth form

SPECIAL SCHOOLS WITH POST 16 PROVISION:

Baskerville School
Braidwood School
Calthorpe School
Fox Hollies School
Hallmoor School
Hunters Hill Technology College
James Brindley School Media Arts College
Lindsworth School
Mayfield School
Oscott Manor School
Queensbury School
Selly Oak Trust School
St Paul's Community School
Victoria Special School and Specialist Arts College
Wilson Stuart School and Sports College

Foundation Learning Providers (former Entry to Employment providers) for whom Birmingham are the lead strategic commissioner within the SRG:

Archway Academy
Birmingham Rathbone Society
Employment Needs Training Agency (ENTA)
Gordon Franks Training
Greenspring Training
Heart of England Training
JAC Training and Development
JHP Employability Training Group
NACRO
Pertemps People Development Group
Platinum Training and Advice
TBG Learning

* Kingshurst Training and Bellis Training also offer Foundation Learning across the SRG.

2.9 Travel-to-Learn

Local Authority Resident Provider Participation				
	Birmingham	Solihull	Outside SRG with	Outside Region
General FE	12275	2589	1747	77
School 6th Form	6789	325	439	5
Apprenticeships	2135			
Totals	21199	2914	2186	82

Source: YPLA SRG Data Pack 2010*

* NB – participation in HEIs and ESF NEET engagement programmes are excluded from this data

Section 3. Commissioning priorities

3.1 Participation in education and training

Continuing the momentum to increase participation of 16 and 17 year olds as we prepare for the raising of the participation age (RPA)

57. As we prepare for full The YPLA *December 2010 16-19 Funding Statement* states that in 2011/12, it is expected that nationally 98 per cent of 16 and 17 year olds should be in education or training. Looking at 16 year olds, Birmingham is in alignment with the National projection. The situation for 17 year olds (or the second year of education or training post 16) shows that Birmingham is inline or above the national averages (latest data 2007); we will need to achieve steeper increases to reach 92 per cent by the end of 2010/11 and 98 per cent in 2011/12.

58. Participation is in line with regional and national averages. In Birmingham, 83 per cent of young people aged 16 and 17 are in education and training¹⁷. This has increased by four percentage points over the last three years. This is mainly due to increasing proportions of young people attending General FE colleges (a rise of 7 per cent in three years).

59. However, this still means that an estimated 17 per cent of young people aged 16 and 17 are not in education or training. Of those, eight per cent are known to be NEET, the activities of a further five per cent are unknown, and the remaining four per cent are thought most likely to be in employment without training or other activities. Although, Jobs without training are lower in Birmingham and Solihull than the regional average (5.2 per cent) and national average (5.7 per cent).

¹⁷ DCSF SFR12/2009 - Progress in participation levels amongst young people can be measured by using Statistical First Releases (SFRs) on post-16 participation in education, training and employment.

60. There is also an issue with drop-out at 17 within the sub-region. Birmingham drop out occurs from all post-16 providers. There is a need to develop greater collaboration between the pre and post 16 parts of the system, to improve impartial Information, Advice and Guidance provided to young people so that young people enrol on the appropriate programmes at 16. A process for 'managed moves' in post-16 needs to be developed and implemented.

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 1** To work with all post-16 providers to increase participation of 16 and 17 year olds to 98 per cent during 2011/12.
- **Action 2** To continue to identify the destination of the five per cent of young people aged 16 and 17 who are 'unknown' to Connexions
- **Action 3** To promote Apprenticeships and Foundation Learning programmes for those young people in employment without training
- **Action 4** To work with providers and Connexions to develop a strategy for reducing drop-out at 17 through improved Information, Advice and Guidance, identifying issues at institution level and facilitating better collaboration and information sharing/ referral between providers to implement a system for 'managed moves' in post 16 settings
- **Action 5** to develop a strategic approach to developing pathways for learners with LDD 16 – 25, particularly those who are NEET

3.2. Reducing NEET and the September Guarantee

61. In August 2009, 92 per cent of Year 11's in Birmingham stated their intended destination to be either full time education or training/Apprenticeship. Just over 2 per cent said they wanted to enter the labour market. Birmingham had nearly 4 per cent of destinations for Year 11's as unrecorded.

62. In September 2009 approximately 92 per cent of Year 11s in Birmingham were offered a place through the September Guarantee¹⁸. The Birmingham offer percentage is below the regional and national average of 95 per cent. Of those without an offer the

¹⁸ The September Guarantee is a process that helps local authorities to meet their statutory duty to secure enough suitable education and training places for 16- to 19-year-olds in their area. Under the September Guarantee, local authorities provide all 16- and 17-year-olds with an offer, by the end of September, of a suitable place in education or training. The offer should be appropriate to meet the young person's needs and may be in a school, college or in work-based training.

main reasons were that the young person had made an application and an outcome was awaited; additionally in Birmingham three per cent could not be contacted to establish a destination because they had moved or could not be contacted for other reasons.

63. The proportion of NEET has fallen from 8.1 per cent to 7.7 per cent based on the official DfE count for both 16 -18 year olds¹⁹. However the proportion of 18 year olds who are NEET has increased. Those 'not known' in Birmingham has been reduced to 3.2 per cent. Both the number of NEET and the number of young people 'Not Known' to Connexions are above the regional average as shown in **TABLE 1** below:

TABLE 1 NEET (Adjusted) November - January Average

	December 2009		December 2008	
	16-18 yr olds NEET	16-18 yr olds Not Known	16-18 yr olds NEET	16-18 yr olds Not Known
Birmingham	7.7%	3.2%	8.1%	5.3%
West Midlands	6.6%	3.9%	7.0%	4.3%
England	6.4%	n/a	6.7%	n/a

Source: DfE 2009

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 6** To continue to embed the September Guarantee process as part of the business cycle for all 14-19 providers to ensure all 16 and 17 year olds have an offer of a place in education or training
- **Action 7** To achieve a goal of 95 per cent of 'offers' made to Year 11s for the academic year 2011/12
- **Action 8** To continue to reduce the numbers of young people who are NEET and those 'Not Known' to Connexions.
- **Action 9** For the NEET Strategy Group to continue to shape and inform interventions for young people who are NEET through the development and implementation of the refreshed NEET Strategy
- **Action 10** To strategically commission European Social Fund (ESF) funding through the Skills Funding Agency Co-financing Plan 2010-13. Funding will be targeted towards evidence-based interventions for NEET prevention (14-16 year olds) and NEET engagement and intervention (16-18 year olds and up to age 25 for LLDD learners)

¹⁹ NCCIS December 2009 figures. The DCSF/ DfE count records those who are NEET between November and January each year.

3.3 Closing the gap in participation across different groups

64. The proportion of young people who are NEET varies by ethnicity, but this needs to be contextualised against the overall size of the cohort for each ethnic group. For Birmingham, official data²⁰ suggests that the following groups are over-represented in NEET figures against their proportion of the 16-18 cohort size:

- Ten per cent of NEET in Birmingham are from the White ethnic group, which is higher than the England and West Midlands average (eight per cent)
- At 14 per cent the mixed - White Asian group is higher than the England average (six per cent) and the West Midlands average (eight per cent) although the cohort size is small

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 11** To work with Connexions as part of the NEET Strategy refresh to understand barriers to participation for these specific groups and others and the adequacy of existing provision
- **Action 12** To conduct an Impact Assessment of current NEET Interventions through ESF and other mainstream provision. The assessment will examine whether the specific needs of vulnerable groups are being addressed, in order to remodel mainstream provision and/or shape future commissioning

3.4 Increasing participation in Apprenticeships

65. The coalition government has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the growth and availability of Apprenticeships as a pathway for more young people to develop the skills and competencies required for employment and future career progression²¹. Drop-out rates from Apprenticeships are lower than other post-16 programmes²². Residency learner participation data from NAS at Period 12 2009/10, shows an increase of 576 starts on an Apprenticeship from 2008/09 figures to a total of 2,338 young people starting an Apprenticeship, an increase of 33 per cent.

66. There are 1815 (77%) learners undertaking the Level 2 Apprenticeship and 522 (23%) undertaking the Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3). Research²³ suggests that qualifications at Level 3 and above have a higher currency with employers and increase the future earning potential and career progression of employees. The growth in Apprenticeships is largely at Level 2 and progression to Level 3 needs to be increased.

²⁰ *ibid*

²¹ NAS Ref to be inserted

²² NAS

²³ Education for All, Nuffield Review (2009)

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 13** To continue to work closely with the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) to promote awareness among young people and parents of the Apprenticeship option at 16 and 17 and as a progression route from Foundation Learning
- **Action 14** To develop a 'Pre- Apprenticeship' offer for young people below Level 2 who have the potential to progress to an Apprenticeship at Level 2 through mainstream Foundation Learning, other available funding streams and through facilitating closer partnership development among the provider base
- **Action 15** To work with NAS and Connexions to provide targeted support to young people who have been unsuccessful in applying for an Apprenticeship place through the Apprenticeships On-Line system
- **Action 16** To work with NAS and the provider base to increase progression from Apprenticeships to Advanced Apprenticeships at Level 3 and access to HE and Level 4 programmes.
- **Action 17** To develop a city-wide Apprenticeship Growth Plan for Birmingham in partnership with NAS and our provider base. To utilise our procurement, development control and the leverage of major regeneration schemes in order to stimulate demand among employers for Apprenticeships²⁴.

3.5 Increasing participation in Young Apprenticeships

67. Working closely with our schools, the Young Apprenticeship (YA) programme provides a two-year vocational programme at KS4 up to Level 2 for young people aged 14-16. YA started in 2004 with approximately 32 learners on programme in Birmingham. By 2010/11, this has grown dramatically; we have 185 learners in the seventh cohort.

68. Currently the programme is managed sub-regionally for Birmingham and Solihull learners, offering courses in six subject sectors, delivered by the providers below:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Construction | Birmingham Metropolitan College |
| • Business Administration | Gordon Franks Training & Performance Through People |
| • Engineering | Birmingham Metropolitan College |
| • Health & Social Care | Crackerjack Training Ltd |
| • Hairdressing | Reflections Training Academy |
| • Sports Leadership and Management | Lordswood Boys School |

²⁴ We have developed the Procurement Policy Framework for Jobs and Skills – harnessing Birmingham City Council's buying power to achieve outcomes on jobs and skills

69. The appeal of the programme is that it enables young people to learn in different environments to the traditional school classroom setting. The learners complete three days at their school studying English, Maths and Science. The remaining two days a week are spent on the YA programme, completing a Level 2 qualification including 50 days work experience, which is completed over the two year duration of the programme.

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 18** To continue to promote the Young Apprenticeship programme through the Schools Networks to widen access and participation (subject to funding) in cohort eight
- **Action 19** To commission cohort eight of the Young Apprenticeship programme (subject to funding) and broaden the vocational areas available to learners
- **Action 20** To continue to monitor and improve the outcomes and destinations of young people completing the Young Apprenticeship programme

3.6 Increase access to Foundation Learning

70. Foundation Learning (FL) encompasses all courses and learning below Level 2. An FL programme utilises qualifications from the Qualifications and Credits Framework (QCF) and includes the core components of:

- Personal Social Development
- Functional Skills (Maths, English and ICT)
- Vocational learning

Foundation Learning programmes also include initial assessment and ongoing review, as well as continuing mentoring, and careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG).

71. Data analysis has identified the level of need across the six network areas across the 14-16 age group. Using Fischer Family Trust SX Model, which takes into account pupil's contextual factors, three bands of pupils have been determined:

- 5-10 per cent chance – high probability of not achieving level 2
- 10 – 20 per cent chance – medium probability of not achieving level 2
- 20-40 per cent chance – low probability of not achieving level 2

TABLE 2 below illustrates the estimated percentage of 14-16 FL cohorts in 2011/12 across the six networks.

NETWORK	High	Medium	Low
Birmingham LA	8.5%	6.6%	11.8%
North	9%	6%	10.6%
North West	5.4%	5.3%	10.8%
Central	7.8%	10.2%	15.2%
East	8.4%	6.9%	13.1%
South West	12.8%	6.3%	12.2%
South	6.1%	6.7%	10.2%

72. The LA and networks have produced and are implementing an FL implementation plan for 2010/2013. The LA has identified potential FL learners across the city at network as in TABLE 2 above and at individual school level. Each of the Schools Networks have utilised the LA learner data to target FL learners and have developed and implemented FL Action Plans for 2010/11. Many schools and providers took part in the FL pilot in 2009/10. The good practice developed during the pilot period is now part of a CPD programme in 2010/11.

73. The DfE have confirmed funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for FL at KS4 in the EIG grant which will support targeting of vulnerable children and young people.

74. CEIAG is essential in underpinning FL developments. Schools and providers have access to a Diploma in Careers Education from February 2011 delivered in partnership with Nottingham Trent University. An annual one day introductory/refresher course is available to careers coordinators as well as FL training events for Connexions Personal Advisers. Ongoing support is provided by the CEIAG Champions that offer consultancy and training support to schools and providers.

75. In 2011/12, each Network will increase access to FL to appropriate learners at age 14.

76. Post 16 FL providers will continue to broaden and improve the quality of their provision by ensuring that the development of functional and employability skills are at the heart of their offering. Post 16 providers will continue to collaborate to secure progression opportunities, such as access to employment, apprenticeships and FE.

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 21** To continue to refine and implement the actions in the LA and Network Foundation Learning Plans
- **Action 22** To support Schools Networks and post 16 FL providers to increase access, participation and outcomes for all FL learners
- **Action 23** To ensure the development of FL addresses the needs of LLDD learners and provides access to for all learners to identified progression routes

- **Action 24** To facilitate the development of agreements and partnerships between providers to improve the curriculum offer, learner choice, transition, progression and achievements
- **Action 25** To facilitate the dissemination of good practice in FL delivery
- **Action 26** To support the development of effective Individual Learning Plans (ILP's)
- **Action 27** To support schools and other 14-19 providers to provide high quality CEIAG to FL learners

3.7 Diplomas

77. The Diploma provides a new qualification rooted in key pedagogies including situated, experiential and connective learning. At its core it engages young people by applying general learning in context and particularly engaging with employers to show the relevance of learning to the world of work. Consortia which delivered the Diploma in its first phase showed that the experience for both learners and teachers was very positive. However concerns have been raised over the bureaucracy and assessment of key components of the Diploma.

78. It is important to recognise the value of applied learning and to pursue this engagement with live contexts. Strategies may involve full Diploma delivery and/or the delivery of components of the qualification (eg Principal Learning, Project) which are self standing accredited qualifications. There is recognition that the Diploma provides progression routes into sectors (eg Engineering, Manufacturing, Construction) which are otherwise not clear.

- **Action 24** To build access to Diplomas for learners aligned with key sectors of local economic activity
- **Action 25** To integrate the pedagogical practice exemplified in Diplomas into other study programmes

3.8 Travel to Learn

79. Birmingham has a complex travel to learn pattern. Overall Birmingham is a net exporter of learners to other local authorities by a factor of nearly two to one (over 4,400 learners outflow for over 2,300 learners that inflow). Solihull is a net importer of learners primarily from Birmingham (nearly 3000 learners). Birmingham is a net importer of learners from the Black Country with 2030 learners inflowing verses an outflow of 1530 Birmingham learners.

80. The importance of the interdependency between Birmingham and Solihull is illustrated by the East area of Birmingham, which remains a 'NEET Hotspot'²⁵ with public transport routes enabling easier access to provision in Solihull.

²⁵ Ref to be inserted

81. 14-19 Transport policy – *info to be inserted*

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 26** To continue to work with Solihull MBC through the Sub-Regional Grouping (SRG) to ensure the achievement of coherent commissioning of 14-19 provision
- **Action 27** To continue to work with Black Country local authorities to understand the impact of infrastructure and curriculum changes on travel to learn patterns, particularly with the opening of the new Sandwell College campus in West Bromwich in September 2011.
- **Action 28** To understand other infrastructure changes such as the opening of new Academies, Free schools and changes to post -16 provision in travel to learn with our bordering authorities (*not clear what this means?*)

3.7 Geographic Issues

82. The size and complexity of the geography and corresponding demographics of Birmingham manifests many anomalies in post-16 provision. Through the commissioning process and strategic dialogue with providers, we expect to target interventions on the following local issues, particularly 'NEET Hotspots' and the sufficiency of provision:

- East - area of Birmingham contains four wards which have higher numbers of NEET young people than the City average. There is a corresponding lack of post-16 provision in the East area of Birmingham, covering the Yardley, Stechford and Shard End areas of the City. This follows the relocation of City College from Garrets Green to Fordrough Campus, Bordesley Green and withdrawal from The Pump and Hart Centre in Shard End.
- Central – NEET hotspots in Washwood Heath and Nechells
- North area of Birmingham – NEET hotspots in Kingstanding, Tyburn and Erdington; the Falcon Lodge estate in Sutton Coldfield
- North West – parts of Ladywood and communities in Newtown and Lozells are NEET Hotspots
- South – Northfield, Frankley and Kings Norton
- South West – Neighbourhoods within the ward of Quinton such as Welsh House Farm

3.8 Work Related Learning

83. The work of the Birmingham and Solihull Education Business Consortium (EBC) is co-ordinated via the 14-19 Team in the city council. The consortium commissioned the services of EBPOs through a competitive tendering process using its budget (approx £650k in 2010-11) provided via the YPLA. The EBPOs offer Work-related Learning (WRL) and work experience programmes (including employer Health and Safety Checks) to schools.

84. The Education Business Forum is an overarching consultative group made up of employers, council (Birmingham and Solihull) officers plus representatives from schools, colleges and work-based learning providers. Forum members are mostly volunteers committed to WRL and they advise the EBC on policies and procedures as well as taking an active part in the commissioning process.

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 29** To establish more coherent and productive relationships with employers across all LA functions to increase work experience opportunities

3.9 Vulnerable Young People

85. Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD)

The LA has a duty to secure enough suitable education and training to meet the reasonable needs of 16-19 year olds as well as all learners aged 19-24 who are subject to a learning difficulty assessment (section 15ZA of the Education Act 1996). The DCSF guidance supporting people with learning difficulties to participate and progress (2010a) sets out the way it expects the arrangements to operate. All GFE colleges in Birmingham receive Additional Learner Support (ALS) to offer local provision for LLDD learners in supported learning centres, with attendance from age 16 up to 25. School sixth forms also receive ALS funding to provide for LLDD learners as required, where learners attend until the age of 19.

86. Section 46 of the Education Act also provides LAs with the power to procure learning provision for young people aged 16-25 (who are subject to a learning difficulty assessment) at an Independent Specialist College (ISP), of which there are approximately 50 in England, offering a mix of day and residential support.

87. Applications for provision delivered by an ISP are approved by the YPLA, which has funding responsibility until 2012-13. The recommended ISP should have been identified to the YPLA by the young person's home LA and a learning difficulty assessment undertaken in accordance with the DFE 2010A guidance.

88. ISP's will only be considered where the provision and learning support required to meet a young person's needs are identified as only being available through such a specialist provider and where other local provision can not meet the learning needs of that young person.

89. Whilst the LA will make the commissioning decisions, for 2011/12 the YPLA will hold the budget and manage the contracts. There is a limited budget available to the local authority (for an ever increasing number of applications) to secure places via this route and wherever possible other local College provision will have been considered. Selection for ISPs will be made in accordance with published guidance '*Placement Information: learners with Learning Difficulties and / or Disabilities at Independent Specialist Providers 2011/12*'. (YPLA)

90. Currently Birmingham has 116 learners attending ISPs with 71 based at Queen Alexandra College in Harborne. Other learners are placed at ISPs located across the West Midlands and beyond. Some ISPs tend to specialise in a particular type of disability, e.g. the Royal National Institute for the Blind at Hereford, where there are currently three Birmingham learners.

91. Birmingham is committed to working closely with special schools and main stream providers to widen provision and support collaborative transition pathways between school and college. The LA wishes to see the further development of specialist LLDD support centres within its existing provider network.

92. There are already some excellent partnerships between colleges and schools with link activity commencing in some cases from year 9 onwards. At Bournville College there is a satellite centre of Baskerville Special School operating within the college. South Birmingham College is working closely with Fox Hollies special school and Birmingham Metropolitan College recently completed an LLDD development project involving a number of taster days at the college with more than 200 learners being transported in to the college over a two year period. However the LA recognises that much more needs to be done in this area for colleges to be able to accommodate learners with the more specialist needs. The challenge that the LA sets the colleges is to extend their provision further to create innovative learning solutions for learners that the LA currently commissions through ISPs.

93. From 2010 onwards, an '*Improving Choice*' budget will be available to Colleges and Foundation Learning Providers to support their current ALS Allocations. This additional fund is learner centred and helps to allow specialist LLDD services to be provided to learners as an alternative to them using an ISP.

Emerging priorities for Birmingham:

- **Action 30** To develop our local LLDD Strategy to provide a more integrated approach to 16-25 provision.
- **Action 31** To increase the availability, flexibility and quality of local provision for LLDD learners
- **Action 32** To improve the transition at 16 of LLDD learners into post 16 provision and to adult services at age 24.

94. **Young Offenders**

The number of young people receiving some form of supervision order has reduced by 25 per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09²⁶. There is a need for suitable Foundation Learning programmes for young offenders either in custody or in the community.

95. The LA will utilise the Procurement Framework to increase employment and training opportunities for young offenders and other vulnerable groups as part of the contracting process. For young offenders, lessons learnt from previous programmes highlight the need for:

- short courses that are focused on vocational skills which young people feel are relevant to the workplace, ideally with a 'sponsoring' employer
- Opportunities for entrepreneurial skill development / business planning and start-up training
- Incentive schemes (such as Training Allowances) to encourage employers (including social enterprises) to take on a vulnerable young person. Employment opportunities provide young people with self-esteem and valuable work experience to learn generic employability skills for future career progression
- Utilise third sector organisations to ensure engagement of young offenders by providing intensive support and mentoring
- Greater flexibility in the provision of learning (for example this might include e-learning or distance learning)

96. **Looked After Children -**

** To be inserted following consultation with thematic groups

97. **Young Parents -** to be developed

** To be inserted following consultation with thematic groups

3.10 Provider Participation

98. Further analysis is required to demonstrate evidence to suggest that learners within Birmingham and Solihull are consciously choosing subjects that reflect what is happening within the local labour market.

99. **Apprenticeships**

In Birmingham the most popular sector frameworks were 'Child Care Learning and Development' (which rose by 15 per cent in participation between 2007/08 and 2008/09), Hairdressing (which fell 4 per cent during the same period) and Business Administration which also fell 4 per cent year on year. The only increases in numbers were for Health, Social Care and Beauty Therapy which both rose 44 per cent respectively to 79 and 72.

²⁶ Source: YPLA SRG Datapack Table 19 – Youth Justice Board

Birmingham	N	%
Child Care Learn & Dev.	611	22%
Hairdressing	362	13%
Business Administration	275	10%
Construction	220	8%
Engineering	154	5%
Customer Service	121	4%
Electro technical	107	4%
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	100	4%
IT & Telecoms	93	3%
Others	799	28%
Total	2,812	100%

Source: ILR/NAS 2008/09

3.11 Learner Outcomes

100. Overall general FE resident success rates have improved over the last three years in both Birmingham and Solihull. However FE success rates in Birmingham still remain below regional and national benchmarks, whilst FE success rates in Solihull are now above these benchmarks. Apprenticeship Framework success rates for Birmingham learners are well above regional and national averages.

101. FE Success Rates 2008/09

The proportion of young people attaining the level 2 and 3 threshold by the age of 19 has improved year on year in both Birmingham and Solihull. However, Birmingham may not achieve the 2011 PSA target.

102. Full Level 2 FE success rates for Birmingham residents stand at 73 per cent in 2008/09. There are below the national average of 76 per cent and regional average of 75 per cent.

103. Full Level 3 FE success rates for Birmingham residents in 2008/09 are below national and regional averages at 68 per cent. National average is 72 per cent and regional average is 73 per cent.

- **Action 33** Work with SFA and YPLA and through strategic dialogue with colleges and providers, interrogate underperformance and identify barriers and strategies to address under-achievement.

104. School Sixth Form achievement

Further info / data to be added

105. **Apprenticeship Framework Success Rates 2008/09**

The overall Apprenticeship success rate in Birmingham stands at 73 per cent. This is higher than the national (70 per cent) and West Midlands (71 per cent). Apprenticeship (Level 2) Framework success rates are at 72 per cent which is higher than the regional average of 70 per cent and the national average of 68 per cent.

106. Advanced Apprenticeship Framework Success rates (level 3) have increased to 77 per cent over the last three years in Birmingham and now stand slightly above the regional average (76 per cent) and well above the national average (74 per cent).

107. **Progression rates in former Entry to Employment / Foundation Learning**

Progression rates in former Entry to Employment (e2e) programmes was low at 43.3 per cent in 2008/09 for Birmingham residents. This is below the regional average of 47.8 per cent and 48 per cent nationally. Providers will continue to track the destination of learners on Foundation Learning programmes but will not be incentivised through the funding system. However, our strategy for Birmingham young people is for FL to be a catalyst for future learning and/or career progression.

- **Action 33** To work with FL providers to monitor and improve progression rates to the national average.
- **Action 34** To increase progression to Apprenticeships to 12 per cent from a baseline of 6.8 per cent in 2008/09.

108. **Outcomes for LLDD learners**

To be added

3.12 **Provider Quality**

109. There is currently one post-16 provider under a Financial Notice to Improve. Through case-conferencing with the sponsoring agencies, the local authority will continue to challenge and support to ensure that access to provision for learners and local employers is not destabilised.

110. **School Sixth Forms**

The Education White Paper (2010) states that school sixth form courses below minimum levels of performance (MLP) for all post 16 provision will be subject to improvement action, which could result in the removal of provision. MLPs have not been applied to school sixth form provision before, however the DfE are currently investigating it's application. The local authority is currently developing a strategy to improve sixth form provision.

Emerging Priorities for Birmingham:

For school sixth forms the council will:

- **Action 35** Continue to monitor school sixth form provision and outcomes for students

- **Action 36** Continue to challenge underperformance in school sixth forms
- **Action 37** Work with schools to produce appropriate improvement plans if required
- **Action 38** Continue to provide or broker support to schools with sixth form provision is below expected levels
- **Action 39** In school sixth forms where provision remains low (typically over a three year period) then a formal improvement notice will be issued

111. The local authority will continue to work in collaboration with school sixth forms to improve value for money through partnership delivery and the rationalisation of courses with low numbers.

3.13 Infrastructure Changes

Further Education Colleges

Significant efforts have been made to improve the teaching and learning facilities in the city. This has been important for a number of reasons:

- To ensure learning is happening in facilities fit for the 21st Century
- Learning facilities that reflect industry standards
- Facilities that motivate teaching and learning
- Learning facilities being at the heart of the regeneration of areas and communities

112. Investment has been particularly evident in the General Further education sector with several rebuilds and relocation of colleges over the past five years:

- Matthew Boulton College relocation to the learning Quarter at Eastside and the subsequent merger with Sutton Coldfield College to create Birmingham Metropolitan College
- The rebuilding of the South Birmingham College campus at Digbeth
- The rebuilding and new location of Joseph Chamberlain College
- The rebuilding and relocation of the City College East Birmingham site to the Fordrough Campus at Bordesley Green
- The new City College, Ladywood Skills Academy serving one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Birmingham
- The creation of the South Birmingham College Construction Centre at Bordesley Green

113. This list will soon be extended with the completion of Bournville College's new £66 million campus to open for the new academic year in September 2011. The new campus in Longbridge will be a cornerstone in the regeneration of the area following the collapse of MG Rover in 2005. Bournville's new location will provide modern spacious premises and will enable the college to introduce new courses such as motor vehicle maintenance and electronics. The new campus will also feature excellent training facilities for hairdressing, beauty, floristry, catering, construction, motor-vehicle and sport.

114. Provision in other Local Authorities

The Geography of Birmingham, its proximity with other bordering authorities and transport networks enable local learners to access provision outside of Birmingham. The reverse is also true with learners coming into Birmingham. It is therefore important to recognise the impact of the development of learning infrastructure in adjoining authorities. Travel to study patterns with Solihull are well established. The new Sandwell College campus in West Bromwich is due to open in September 2011 and good transport links with the Metro and Bus services will make the new facility highly accessible to Birmingham learners, particularly in the North West.

115. Schools

The Building Schools for the Future programme was the focal point of the regeneration of schools in England and Birmingham had extensive plans for its schools. However the decision of the Coalition government to stop the programme has resulted in only the schools earmarked in phase 1 (a) being completed. The government intends to review capital spending in order to establish a less bureaucratic process and one that achieves better value for money.

116. Academies and Free Schools

Birmingham's learning landscape is diverse and will increase further with the development of New Academies. Of the first wave of academies that have post 16 provision – North Birmingham Academy, Harborne Academy and Sheldon Heath Academy. In addition to these will be two specialist Academies – Ormiston Academy opening in September 2011; Aston Engineering Academy opening in September 2012. However the government's New Schools Systems policy seeks to increase the number of academies and free schools and it is likely that of those schools choosing to take up this opportunity, some will be schools with sixth form provision or may seek a change in their designation to become an 11-18 school.

117. The number of schools offering sixth form provision has increased over the past two years. Schools with high performing status have partnered with existing sixth forms to pilot sixth form provision and having requested a change in designation they have been granted the change to 11-18 status. There is an increased interest in more schools enquiring about the possibility of providing sixth form provision. While the availability of provision is a key element of meeting the RPA requirements there is a need to reconcile an institution's ambitions to provide sixth form provision with what is required in order to achieve a coherent post 16 system for the city. To achieve this will require a number of considerations:

- Capacity to deliver post 16 provision
- Quality delivery of post 16 provision
- Whether the development of a sixth form would result in displacement of learners from another institution

118. Independent Training Providers

It is recognised that the learning accommodation for many independent providers particularly those delivering Foundation Learning is at best 'adequate' and in some cases in need of significant improvement. Unlike other parts of the post 16 sector the opportunities for capital support for independent training providers has been limited. When the LSC attempted to address this through the Regional Skill Capital Development Fund many organisations were subject to State Aid restrictions. As a consequence the adequacy of the facilities of many providers remains an issue, particularly as many of them specialise in working with vulnerable young people including those who are NEET.

Emerging Priorities:

- **Action 40** To review Birmingham's Post 16 capital estate in order to respond to future capital funding opportunities
- **Action 41** To provide more local provision in colleges and training providers for learners with a learning difficulty and/or disability using Improving Choice funding
- **Action 42** To provide joint sub regional provision where appropriate
- **Action 43** To decommission provision that does not meet quality standards and where appropriate commission alternative provision/providers