14-19 Reform Conference Series

31 March 2009

Transforming Outcomes through Strategic Commissioning

John Freeman CBE

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The transformation agenda

The 14-19 transformation agenda is about much more than the technicalities of funding:

- new curriculum

  (GCSE/A, Diplomas, FLT, apprenticeships)

- RPA (17 by 2013, 18 by 2015)

- local authority commissioning

- meeting economic needs

- information, advice and guidance

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Relationships …

Local authorities are now building and developing new relationships with partners:

-school sixth forms

-academies

-sixth form colleges

-GFE colleges

-independent providers

-third sector providers

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Commissioning Principles

‘Local authorities should commission whichever provider is best placed to deliver sustainable high quality outcomes for young people concerned, regardless of governance.’

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Commissioning Principles (2)

-quality provision

-learner demand

-economic need

-2013 entitlement

-provider neutral

-independent of residence

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Commissioning Principles (3)

-value for money

-access

-transport

-stability vs. flexibility

-community impact

-local partnership

-‘Every Child Matters’

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The new architecture

-14-19 Partnerships

-**Sub-Regional Groupings**

-Regional Planning Groups

-YPLA and SFA

-local delivery consortia

Partnership adding capacity and challenge at every level

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The key tactical issue

For April / September 2010 we need to ensure that the 16-19 provider sector has stability, implying minimal change;

but

we need an system that can develop flexibly to meet new needs and circumstances.

Strategic commissioning plans need to find an appropriate balance for localities.

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The key strategic issue

Bearing in mind the given factors, including demography, funding constraints and existing plant and provision:

How do local authorities decide the best configuration of 16-19 provision for their area? What configuration will deliver the best outcomes?

Sixth forms or colleges? Tertiary or mixed? GFE, Tertiary or SFC? Stand-alone or consortia? Schools or academies? Economies of scale or local provision? Small local provision or distant larger provision?

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Relationships

It is vital that relationships between local authorities, providers and employers are secure, in particular those with whom local authorities have worked less closely.

Local authority operations and decision-making must be open, transparent and consistent.

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