



Skills Funding
Agency



Education
Funding
Agency

Education Funding Agency
2 St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 2FJ

Tel: 0114 274 2250

www.gov.uk/efa

Email enquiry form:

www.education.gov.uk/contactus/efa

Date: 1 November 2016

Dear Stakeholder,

York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull Post 16 Area Review

I am writing to invite you to submit your views in regard to the area review currently being undertaken in York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull.

On 8 September 2015 the Government published a plan to carry out a national programme of area-based reviews of post-16 education and training institutions. This will be focused in particular on creating more financially stable and efficient colleges but also on improving collaboration across different types of institution. The policy document can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-training-institutions-review

and the detailed guidance on area reviews can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-training-institutions-area-based-reviews>

Reviews are designed to deliver:

- Institutions which are financially viable, sustainable, resilient and efficient, and deliver maximum value for public investment
- An offer that meets each area's educational and economic needs
- Providers with strong reputations and greater specialisation
- Sufficient access to high quality and relevant education and training for all
- Provision which reflects changes in government funding priorities and future demand.

Overall, the reviews are likely to result in fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient colleges but as part of the review the availability, quality and relevance of all post-16 provision will be considered.

An area review for York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull was launched on 6 October 2016 and will result in recommended options by March 2017. A local steering group has been established to oversee and steer the review's work, including analysis and consideration of options for change.

The steering group is composed of the following colleges:

- Askham Bryan College
- Bishop Burton College
- Craven College
- East Riding College
- Hull College Group, including Harrogate College and Goole College
- Scarborough Sixth Form College
- Selby College
- Wilberforce College
- Wyke College
- York College
- Yorkshire Coast College, part of the Grimsby Institute Group

They are joined by representatives from the four local authorities and the three Local Enterprise Partnerships that represent the area. The Further Education Commissioner, Sixth Form Colleges Commissioner, the Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency are also represented on the steering group, and the Regional Schools Commissioner will work jointly with the local authority representatives to ensure that the schools perspective is reflected in the discussions.

This is an important opportunity to shape FE provision for learners and employers in York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull and to ensure clear, high quality technical routes to employment, alongside robust academic routes, and better responsiveness to local employer needs delivered by strong, high status, and where relevant specialist, institutions.

We are particularly interested in how young people progress through the system from one provider to another, the effectiveness of those progression routes, and how they align with local economic need.

While the focus of area reviews is on college-based provision, the challenges facing the post-16 sector apply across the board and impact across age ranges and we need all providers to engage proactively with the review.

I would therefore welcome your views on this review, particularly in relation to the following questions, together with any supporting data or information which you wish to share with the review team:

1. What are the strengths of post-16 provision in your area? How can those strengths be capitalised on further? (Please ensure we are clear about which geographic area you are discussing).
2. What are the weaknesses of post-16 provision and how should they be addressed?
3. Are progression routes to both academic and the full range of technical education provision post-16 clear to your students? If not, how could they be improved?
4. Is there sufficient breadth and quality in the post-16 offer to young people in your local area?
5. Do you have collaborative links to local colleges? How could these be improved, for the benefit of young people?

6. Any ideas for the improvement of provision in your local area e.g. consolidation or further specialisation?
7. Do you believe that local school sixth form provision is sustainable in your area?
8. Any other comments you wish to make on the review?

Your views will be kept confidential but used to inform the thinking and recommendations for the review.

Please send these to the area review mailbox: Area.REVIEWS@education.gsi.gov.uk with the title "YNYER&H Area Review (stakeholder)" by Friday 11 November.

Many thanks,

Anne-Marie Edwardes

On behalf of the Area Review team

EFA/SFA Joint Intervention Team – Northern England