



Report to Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director of Children, Young People and Family Services

Subject: Update on Destinations of Learners affected by the withdrawal of A Level Courses at Peaks Centre, and review of Post 16 provision.

Author of Report: Sam Martin, Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities.

Summary:

In August the Committee took a report from the Sheffield College on the college decision to withdraw the provision of A-Level courses at its Peaks campus in the South East of Sheffield. Thirty-four learners in Year 11 who had been offered a place at Peaks to take A-Levels were being helped by the college to secure an alternative course for September 2016. The committee requested an update once data had been received by the council on the final learning destinations of the affected learners. This report provides that update.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the contents of the report.

Background Papers:

None

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services **Destinations of Learners affected by the withdrawal of A Level** **Courses at Peaks Centre, and review of Post 16 provision.**

1. Introduction

1.1 In August the Committee took a report from the Sheffield College on the college decision to withdraw the provision of A-Level courses at its Peaks Campus in the South East of Sheffield. Thirty-four learners in Year 11 who had been offered a place at Peaks to take A-Levels were being helped by the college to secure an alternative course for September 2016. The committee requested an update once data had been received by the council on the final learning destinations of the affected learners. This report provides that update.

2. How the information has been collated

- 2.1 Sheffield City Council has agreement with all schools and colleges in the city to assist with the tracking of post-16 learning choices and destinations after Year 11. All pupils choose and apply for Post 16 courses (whether A Levels, apprenticeships or vocational courses) through a shared system called UCAS Progress. All learning institutions report through a data sharing agreement with the Council in the autumn term which courses learners have enrolled onto. The council uses this data to fulfil its statutory duties to support young people into education, training and employment.
- 2.2 The data in this report is correct at the end of November 2016. It should be noted that there are times when students enrol and start a particular course of post-16 learning, but subsequently drop out, or change to a different course. This could be for a range of reasons. Any students that drop out without moving to an alternative course would be supported by the council and its targeted careers advice provision to secure an alternative place.
- 2.3 Due to the low numbers of learners affected by the changes at the Peaks centre, data at individual learner level has not been provided in this report on order to respect learner confidentiality and data protection rules.

3 Destinations

3.1 All the learners have enrolled on an alternative course of learning. The table below shows the destinations of learners as at November 2016.

Type of Course	School 6th Form	6th Form College	Further Education - College	Total
AS/A2 Levels	13	4	9	26
Health & Social Care Level 3			1	1
Business BTEC L3			1	1
Games Development & Interactive Media L3			1	1
Science Applied (with Forensics) L3	1			1
Health & Social Care Level 3			1	1
Applied Science (Medical Science) L3			2	2
Sport Level 3			1	1
Grand Total	14	4	16	34

3.2 Further notes on the data:

- 6 learners chose alternative courses outside of Sheffield, including at Chesterfield College, Thomas Rotherham College and Eckington school. Due to the geography in the South East of Sheffield, these institutions are for many pupils closer than alternative institutions in other parts of the city and a number of students each year choose post-16 courses with them
- 26 of the 34 learners chose A-Level courses either at a school sixth form (including All Saints, King Edward, Tapton and Notre Dame schools) or outside Sheffield, or a College (either in or out of Sheffield).
- 5 Learners chose to stay at the Peaks Campus, choosing an alternative Level 3 course.

4. Post-16 planning

4.1 As highlighted in the subsequent report to the Scrutiny Committee in September, this issue in the South East of Sheffield has exposed the absence of an adequate planning dialogue between post-16 learning institutions across the city that might have gone some way towards averting or, at least, ameliorating this situation. As a result, it has been agreed to revive this planning dialogue, under the auspices of Learn Sheffield and with the support of the City Council, as part of a refreshed post-16 strategy for the city. This will be overseen by a strategic leadership group chaired by the Chief Executive of Learn Sheffield and with representation from all parts of the Sheffield learning community, including, schools, colleges and training providers. A leadership group will have met and finalised its work streams by February half term and it will be in a position to provide a more substantial update and some initial findings by Easter.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes this report.