

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

14 July 2011



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Grants to Tamar Education Partnership to support work experience

1. Context

- The Tamar Education Business Partnership, a Plymouth City Council business unit, has over the years received income from a variety of sources which have gradually reduced and disappeared
- Two grants are no longer available from this financial year 2011-2012:
 - i. The grant from the Department for Education, based on the number of 14-19 years in Plymouth
 - ii. The grant from PCC

2. Value of grants over the past few years

Financial Year 2004-2005

- Department for Education grant: £201,513.00
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £10,000

Financial year 2005-2006

- Department for Education grant: £199,548.00
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £8,000

Financial year 2006-2007

- Department for Education grant: £147,328.00
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £8,000

Financial year 2007-2008

- Department for Education grant: £139,229.00
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £8,000

Financial Year 2008-2009

- Department for Education grant: £147,662.00
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £8,000

Financial year 2009-2010

- Department for Education grant: £130,682.00
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £8,000

Financial year 2010-2011

- Department for Education grant: £127,122
- Lifelong Learning Grant: £8,000

3. Education Business Partnership Services Funding withdrawn by DfE

- The Department for Education confirmed on 28th March that, from the end of this financial year, the funding for Education Business Partnerships would be withdrawn.
- The decision had been made by the Secretary of State in the context of the spending review settlement. Substantial savings were needed and Ministers had made it clear that the priority for education expenditure would be front line services in schools. Funding for Education Business Partnership did not come within that category. Therefore the £25m a year for commissioning and funding Education Business Partnership was withdrawn at the end of the last financial year on 31st March 2011.
- From now on, it is for schools to decide whether or not to buy in services from Education Business Partnership Organisations locally.
- Schools remain responsible for ensuring that any work experience which takes place meets the current child protection and health & safety requirements.

4. Lifelong Learning Grant

- Historically, the Tamar Education Business Partnership was allocated a small grant by PCC. More recently, this grant was funded through the Department of Education Standards Funds grant, allocated to Local Authorities in order to support the local implementation of the 14-19 reforms
- This Standards fund grant which was made available from the financial year 2006-2007 was withdrawn from this financial year
- There are no other grants available to draw from.

5. Implications (see June briefing paper)

- The Tamar Education Business Partnership will now need to operate on a full cost recovery basis. This is a situation that all Education Business Partnership Organisations are facing nationally.
- The two grants used to subsidise the cost of the work experience.
- Up to March 2011, the cost of the Work Experience Service per pupil was £48. Schools paid £26 per pupil and £22 per pupil was subsidised by the above grants
- In order to help schools manage the financial impact of the loss of government funding, Tamar Education Business Partnership has confirmed that, in the short term, the charge per pupil will be £38. This has been achieved through paring down staff costs and reducing central costs, as a result of the planned move out of Seymour House premises.

6. Future plans (see June briefing paper)

- The government plans to remove the statutory duty to provide every young person at KS4 with work-related learning from September 2012.
- The imperative will be to encourage work experience for 16-19 learners

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Date paper written

30th June 2011