

Plymouth City Council's Education Purpose



In order to move with the pace of change in education, Plymouth City Council has been taking a radical look at how the City's Education, Participation and Skills Department operates.

It has reviewed its purpose and recognised:

- Everything we do is about:
 - Facilitating partnerships so that all children, young people and their families in Plymouth have the best access and opportunities

- It is therefore exploring how working in a model of partnership with schools will best meet the needs of children in the City over the next generation

The compelling case for change



- The Education, Participation and Skills Department of Plymouth City Council has faced some significant financial pressures and, whilst these are largely resolved for 2017/18 and 2018/19, there is a risk for the future
- This has led to a significant reshaping of the Department with a reduction to statutory functions in many areas; there is little scope left for cost savings
- Dividing or reducing the current comprehensive offer without understanding the value in more detail would represent a risk to schools
- If the long-term sustainability of the EPS Department can't be resolved, the Council will have to reduce services to match budget and this will directly impact on schools

What Does 'Partnership' Mean?



We are using the term 'Partnership' to distinguish how we might work in the future from other models, such as the Council creating a trading entity owned and run by the Council to supply services.

By partnership we mean

- A venture in which both the Council and Schools who are interested have a stake in the ownership and where we agree how to share the full costs, risk, liabilities and any potential surplus or income
- An example of a partnership we already have would be CaterEd where the Council owns 51% of the venture and Schools own 49%, but the structure of the Board sees far greater influence for schools. It isn't the only example of course!
- We are happy to explore any form of partnership model with different shares of ownership to reflect the risk and opportunities we agree to share and critically where we agree what outcomes we are seeking and the purpose of the shared endeavour