

Cabinet - 22 March 2006

Further and higher education post compulsory education (discretionary) awards

Portfolio: Councillor Eddie Hughes, Children's Services

Service Area: Education Walsall

Wards: All

Forward Plan: No

Summary of report

This report seeks a renewed determination by Walsall Council in respect of its discretionary powers to make awards to students in Further or Higher Education.

The Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/229) require Authorities to make an annual determination as to whether it will exercise its powers to make available grant funding for students participating in post compulsory education .

Walsall has not exercised this power in accordance with these regulations for many years and no longer makes any provision within budgets for such awards.

The introduction of Educational Maintenance Allowances, Learner Support Funds and the Adult Learner Grants (pilot scheme) which are funded by the DfES and The Learning Skills Council now means that the majority of students who would have benefited from a Post Compulsory Education award now have access to financial support from other government sources.

Recommendations

The LEA determines that it will exercise its power under The Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 regulations and NOT make such awards in the 2005/06 financial Year.

Resource and legal implications

There are no resource obligations as a result of the approval of the above recommendation. The recommendations above are in compliance with the requirements of the regulations mentioned.

Citizen impact

There are no citizen impact implications arising from this report as new funding streams are now in place.

Community safety

There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

Environmental impact

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Performance and risk management issues

There are no performance and risk management implications arising from this report.

Equality implications

The new funding streams target low income and disadvantaged young people to allow them to choose to remain in education post-16.

Consultation

Not the subject of consultation.

Vision 2008

The new replacement funding mechanisms are better able to support young people to continue in learning and become the workforce of the future.

Background papers

The Local Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/229)

Contact officer

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Signed:



Executive Director: David Brown

Date: 13.03.06

Signed:



Portfolio Holder: Councillor Eddie Hughes

Date: 13.03.06

Signed:



**Managing Director, Education Walsall
Helen Denton**

Date: 13.03.06