

engage

January 2010

Issue One

The Newsletter for Stockton-on-Tees 14-19 Partnership

stockton on tees
14-19 partnership

Welcome to Engage



Over the last 12 months the 14-19 Partnership has worked hard to develop a coherent vision and strategy enabling Stockton to start successfully implementing the 14-19 reform.

In our strategic plan, '14-19: Planning for Success' our vision reads: Working together the Stockton-on-Tees 14-19 Partnership is committed to providing exciting learning opportunities that will encourage and embed a culture of lifelong learning for all. Our aim across Campus Stockton is to empower learners so that they may confidently develop skills, attributes and talents to succeed and prosper in their working and adult lives. We recognise and value

each individual learner and will ensure that our collaborative offer places no limit to their learning and potential.

We would all agree that one of our collective aims is to

increase the range of opportunities available to all learners post 16 and 19 years.

This may involve widening the range of provision available in schools,

colleges and across training providers which will have a positive impact on the engagement and involvement of Stockton's young people as well as our teaching institutions and local businesses.

Improved outcomes in terms of results will in turn help widen the opportunities for courses, training or employment. Good teaching, mentoring and guidance will also support further progress and increase learner ambition.

Engage is our new 14-19 newsletter which will help inform and involve all partners of our agenda and future developments. We hope this first issue offers an understanding of three areas which underpin the aims of the 14-19 Partnership from employment engagement and diploma developments to CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance).

Future editions will provide similar insights into other key areas of development, including foundation learning, functional skills, quality assurance, workforce development and apprenticeships.

Allan Mansfield
Senior 14-19 School
Improvement Adviser



Engaging Employers

The present education reform agenda, and Stockton's focus on transforming teaching and learning, means there has never been a greater need for employer support. There is already a range of practical employer engagement within educational organisations but with a suitable strategy we can widen our engagement with employers further and achieve even better results for our young people.

Our Employer Engagement Strategy encourages a greater and more sustainable level of employer involvement in the design and delivery of the curriculum. It is designed to ensure sufficient and appropriate employer engagement is created, with more employers from a variety of sectors becoming further involved. It will also support the continuous professional development of teachers, trainers and advisors to maintain and increase industrial understanding.



At the heart of the strategy will be developing mutually beneficial relationships that are creative and flexible between employers and educational institutions, and a richer dialogue between education, young people and businesses. Watch out for a special leaflet that will provide more information on the strategy and how to get involved.

A key area, which this strategy is already assisting

with, is the development of diplomas. Each diploma will have its own employer champion, in the form of local businesses. Each employer champion will have the opportunity to help shape the diploma's curriculum and form part of its delivery. Employer champions already selected, include Cleveland Police, Job Centre Plus, Adessi Marketing and Aker Solutions.

A survey conducted by A4E, the education business partnership for Tees Valley, saw 70 Stockton businesses express an interest in getting involved with the Partnership through work-related learning activities, apprenticeships or diplomas.

At a breakfast workshop, currently being arranged, these businesses will be given the opportunity to learn how they



can shape the learning prospects of the borough's young people. Stockton companies involved in the Investors in People programme will also have the chance to attend to see how they can support their communities.

To support the 14-19 Employer Engagement Strategy it is vital that an appropriate policy is in place in each school and college to ensure all organisations are fully aware of what is expected and to guarantee that the experiences of all involved, including students, are positive.

To form this policy, we are asking Stockton schools and colleges to complete a questionnaire on employer engagement through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Alongside Best Practice examples from other Local Authorities, the data collected will help us create an appropriate model Employer Engagement Policy. If you have not already done so please complete the questionnaire at

<http://vle.stocktonclc.co.uk/course/view.php?id=302>

"I was very keen to get involved with the Engineering diploma. Many youngsters think all engineers are mechanics, but this diploma focuses on what engineering really is. This is great for both the students and companies involved, as we can begin building relationships with the people who may one day work for us."

**Margaret Mason – Aker Solutions E&C Ltd
Employer Champion for the Stockton Engineering Diploma
Steering Group**



Diploma Updates

Through the 14-19 Partnership, Stockton will offer eight diplomas to the borough's young people. Since their introduction the diploma preparations have made excellent progress – especially during the 2009 autumn term. Engage diploma updates will keep you informed on how each diploma is evolving.

The **Business, Administration and Finance** diploma plan has made outstanding progress. With a number of schools expressing an interest in hosting it, alongside existing lead school Grangefield, it will be offered to Year 10 and 11 students and post 16.

The implementation of the **Sport and Active Leisure** diploma, which is based at Blakeston School, is currently being developed and will be offered through Years 9 to 11 at Blakeston School and The Norton School. Congratulations to Blakeston School which is blazing ahead nationally with its approach to younger diploma pupils.

Led by Stockton Riverside College, **Society Health and Development** is supported by Skills for Health, Sector Skills Council for Health and Skills for Care. Its implementation plan is currently being finalised – the first task being the work with its employer champion.

The **Construction** diploma offers exciting links with employers, allowing learners to spend time in the workplace. This approach will be carefully incorporated into lesson plans, several of which will highlight how the approach will be used and its benefits.

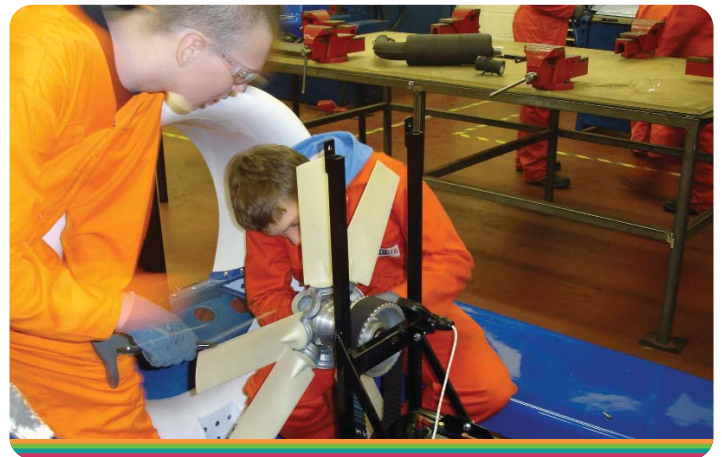
One of the most exciting aspects about the new **Hair and Beauty** offer is the opportunity to experience the entire industry. Work has been completed to provide training for a number of the new areas that the diploma will cover, such as Afro Caribbean hair styling.

The **Engineering** diploma is in a particularly advantageous position thanks to its strong partner network and its excellent employer links. Neta, the network lead, is delighted with the partner contribution and is anticipating a successful delivery run in 2010.

The **IT** diploma is preparing for its second year of delivery. Existing learners have been involved in a variety of projects and participated in the Diploma Roadshow, sharing course experiences with potential new students. The young people also recently finished supporting an IT installation in aid of North Tees Hospital's radio team.

The **Creative and Media** diploma is recruiting for students and is being led by Stockton Riverside College with support from Conyers School. The employer champion is working well with the diploma network allowing it to explore employer links and opportunities.

The crucial underpinning skills for diplomas are Functional Skills in English, Maths and ICT. The Functional Skills Building block, led by Conyers School, is undertaking the final stages of the Functional Skills preparation audit ensuring training needs are identified and supported by the Partnership.



For more information on the 14-19 Partnership diplomas email lorna.mclean@stockton.ac.uk or alternatively for:

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Engineering – jan.marciniak@neta.co.uk

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Sport and Active Leisure – wrightk@blakeston.stockton.sch.uk

Functional Skills – john.downs@stockton.gov.uk

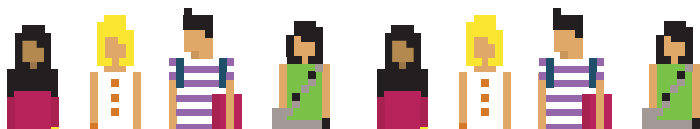
CEIAG Update

An important element of our 14-19 Partnership work is the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), which plays a crucial role in many aspects of the Partnership's strategic and operational planning and delivery. Its main aim is to ensure learners make a successful transition and are confident in their choices at each stage of their learning and progression.

CEIAG is designed to arm learners (and their parents/carers) with impartial information about all learning routes, from GCSEs, A Levels, Diplomas, Foundation Learning and Apprenticeships through to Higher Education and/or employment opportunities. It intends to help learners make the right choices for their future success, by enabling them to make informed choices so they are fully aware of their options and the impact on their future progression.



A key element of our CEIAG development is the Area Wide Prospectus (AWP) www.campusstockton.org. By April, the AWP will be a fully operating one-stop-shop of provider and course information available to 14-19 learners. We are undergoing an intensive training programme to ensure providers have the ability to maintain the site and keep information current and relevant for present and potential learners. It will allow learners to research learning opportunities across Stockton, the Tees Valley and beyond.



The interactive website will be a powerful aid in the CEIAG strategy and will help us reach a significant number of young people and their families, helping to boost aspirations and promote increased progression and participation.

Much of the strategy is developed to support the newly released DCSF Statutory Guidance for Schools on Impartial Careers Education and also the document Quality, Choice and Aspiration: A strategy for young people's information, advice and guidance. Young people need high-quality impartial CEIAG to help them through complex choices. Impartial IAG must promote the interests of students and provide them with details on the full range of options open to them.

Further to the above - things to look out for emerging from our work will be:

- The **'Stockton Wall'** – a website detailing all aspects of Stockton's development and regeneration. It will be designed to inspire young people in Stockton's future and its potential for future living, learning and earning.
- Increasing support from **Business Ambassadors** – these are key employer champions identified from a wide industry range to work alongside teachers and students to promote key skills, attributes and requirements for success in the workplace and the economy.

