



SHD Stoke City Employer Case Study

Stoke on Trent Consortium on track for successful delivery of SHD Diploma

Employers, schools, colleges and University build dedicated team to deliver learning paths in the workplace.

There are currently robust collaborative arrangements in place within the Stoke on Trent Consortium, with a team dedicated to achieving successful delivery of the Society, Health and Development Diploma in September 2008.

Partnership working

The partnership is building on its existing excellent relationships and successes, having delivered the Young Apprenticeship programme involving the schools, the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent College and Newcastle-under-Lyme College. Other successes include collaboration with Staffordshire University via development of Foundation degrees, the BTEC consortium which exists across the city and the School link and Increased Flexibility programmes with 700 – 1,000 pupils per year attending college for one day per week.

The team recognised that effective systems and working arrangements were needed to facilitate the successful delivery of the SHD Diploma. This involved fortnightly meetings of the leads of each diploma line in the City and regular meetings of the SHD strategy group, attended by the University Hospital of North Staffordshire and Staffordshire University. An agreed common timetable across the city using a 3-2 model was also developed.

Objectives

- Enable advanced planning of curriculum delivery through awarding body specification, initially Edexcel
- Raise aspirations of learners to HE in the disciplines covered by the diploma
- Complete a mapping of current staff and explore unit delivery in terms of areas of school expertise, and where input from Colleges, University and Employers will be required to deliver the curriculum.

Employer Links

There are very strong employer links within the Stoke on Trent Consortium. The University Hospital of North Staffordshire has played a key role in the development of the diploma and been funded to provide a learning facility on the hospital site to facilitate student learning in a specialist environment.

The University Hospital of North Staffordshire has a new work experience policy in place that has removed the barriers to placements due to age. Currently a mapping exercise is being undertaken to plan placements, supporting the diploma at each level of learning and progression. It will support the skills and knowledge gained taking the learner through a planned and progressive path of learning in the workplace.

The Centre of Vocational Excellence in Care at Stoke on Trent College is a key link within the social care workforce and therefore ensures the consortium's relationships with employers from small to large organisations. The CoVE is currently placing students and assessing in:

- 167 Independent Care Homes
- 100 Early Years Settings
- 80 Health Placements (16 – 18 years)

Criteria for successful placement opportunities for Diploma students

- Current work based learning programmes within Stoke on Trent College will be used to extend current placement offer.
- Well established arrangements with employers and schools across the healthcare sector will also be used to ensure suitable placements are mapped to encompass the breadth of the diploma line.
- Via the Public Services Provision within the College and the links with Local Youth Offending Teams, placement opportunities will be explored.
- Best practice models from other regions via learning visits will be explored and disseminated to all partners involved.

The Future

Many challenges have been identified for the future – such as city wide movement and monitoring of pupils, management and coordination of placements, funding to follow the learner. But with such successful working

partnerships and a strong track record of success within the consortium, the future is looking promising for the young people of Stoke on Trent.

“Schools are potentially identifying much larger groups for September 2008, and accommodating this larger demand will require careful planning and adequate resourcing. We are continuing to develop robust plans, exploring sources of funding to support delivery of the programme and pathways to Higher Education.”

Carol Thomas Head of Faculty, Caring and Service Industries, Stoke on Trent College

Success for the SHD Diploma

The Society Health and Development Diploma is an integrated programme for 14-19 year-olds which combines in a unique way essential skills and knowledge, hands-on experience and employer based learning. Its success will be driven by engagement with employers who are willing to help schools and colleges make the curriculum as exciting and relevant as we know it can be.

If you would like to play a part in delivering this exciting qualification, find out more online at www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/diploma or contact us on diploma@skillsforhealth.org.uk