

Coventry and Warwickshire Travel to Learn Forum

Date of issue	25 June 2008
LSC office	Coventry and Warwickshire
Publication intent	Internal

Background

The Travel to Learn Forum was established in 2003 following the LSC 14-19 Warwickshire Strategic Area Reviews which identified travel as a barrier to learning. In May 2005 the Forum aligned itself with the requirement from DfES to establish a '*Local Authority Partnership for Transport Support Arrangements for students aged 16-19*' and agreed to extend the Forum to include Coventry. The partnership is responsible for agreeing annual transport policy statements and spend of the LSC Transport Partnership Fund. It is a collaborative initiative which relies on input from a number of agencies.

The Forum addresses travel issues for all learners including adults and young people.

Process

The forum meets twice a year and is currently chaired and facilitated by the LSC. Representatives on the forum are from:

- Connexions
- LSC
- Warwickshire County Council
- Coventry City Council
- 14-19 Co-ordinators
- FE Colleges
- WBL
- Wheels to Work Project

The aim of the forum is 'To produce an integrated travel to learn strategy for Coventry and Warwickshire to meet the needs of learners and providers and minimise travel as a barrier to learning'.

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Progress, impact and outcomes

Notable progress to date has been the following:

- Annually agreeing School post 16 Transport Statements, Coventry current Post 16 transport policy statement endorsed, policy can be accessed: <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/content/education-%26-libraries-directorate/management-services/school-benefits-and-transport/post-16-transport-policy.en;jsessionid=bf1HsCES51gf>

The City Council places high importance on ensuring maximised access by young people to further education opportunities. The City Council is in strong partnership with the local Learning and Skills Council to secure appropriate breadth and diversity of provision to meet the needs of students. The overall policy aim is to encourage more young people to remain in education and/or training to age 19 in order to raise their skill and qualification levels.

The City Council has a range of objectives designed to meet this priority and actively works with partner providers to secure provision best matched to learner needs and aspirations and promotes high levels of achievement and success. This includes specific arrangements, where required, to enable students with specific and additional education and access needs to obtain their desired courses.

In pursuit of these objectives, the City Council works hard with partners to improve services in areas such as transport links and improvement, and safer routes to school.

- Endorsing changes to the Warwickshire charging policy, including statutory changes in 2007;
- Development of a travel to learn website, incorporated into the Area Prospectus site; website address www.travel2learn.co.uk , Area Prospectus www.route14-19.co.uk/links ;
- Support for accessibility planning, March 06;
- Support of Independent travel training;
- Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities Strategic Area Review transport issues & national consultation response;
- Local project updates – Wheels to Work (sub-regional), WRASP (Warwickshire Rural Access to Services Programme); Routeforward (Coventry), on going.
- Cross boarder issues;
- Addressing transport issues across schools and colleges concerning the movement of learners during the school day accessing alternative vocational curriculum (14-16), collaborative provision (16+) and diploma developments;
Diploma delivery begins in Coventry in September 2008, schools don't perceive transport as an issue and the costs have for transport are being

agreed, there will be 120 pre 16 pupils starting engineering diplomas in September;

- Undertaking transport research in November 2007 entitled '*Education Developments for 14-19 year olds and Transport Issues in Warwickshire*'. There are currently 700 learners accessing provision other than in their home institution across the county during the school day; report available from sophie.thompson@lsc.gov.uk.
- Joint responses to consultations including Sustainable school travel strategy, LLDD transport, Diocesan transport. Reporting of progress into AWI action plan and CYPP.
- Transport issues have become increasingly important within Coventry and Warwickshire being raised regularly at a variety of Partnership groups,

What are we doing next?

- Statutory policy for Transport of post 16 learners is expected to change as the leaving age is rises to 18 in 2015. This is expected to have a significant impact on the funding of transport. This will continue to be considered by the Forum.
- Continued support for diploma transport.

Coventry Issues

- There is no current lead for Post 16 transport in Coventry due to staff changes. The LA will receive £71,669 in 2008/09 from the LSC through the 'Transport Partnership Fund'.

Coventry (residents) 16-18 Learners, 2006/07

	Coventry	
General FE College	3,701	50.0%
Sixth Form College	19	0.2%
School Sixth Forms	2,955	39.9%
WBL Providers	737	9.9%
Total Learners	7,412	

Source LSC 14-19 Regional Planning and Commissioning Framework

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Date created	23 June 2008
Document ref.	\\sc.local\User\$cwk\thompssr\2007-2008\Travel to Learn\caw-coventryandwarwickshiretraveltolearnforum-paper-25jun2008.doc