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Policy paper

Reviewing post-16 education and training institutions: indicative area reviews

Updated 19 April 2016

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1.

About the reviews

The government's policy statement [Reviewing Post-16 Education and Training Institutions](#) set out our approach to facilitating a restructuring of the further education sector. This will be done through a series of area based reviews of provision.

We have published [details of the colleges and stakeholders involved in the first 3 waves of the review process](#).

This statement sets out the indicative phasing of the final 3 waves of the reviews which will start later in 2016. We will publish specific details and timings at the start of each wave.

We will consider where some local areas may seek to change the timing of their reviews and the individual circumstances at some colleges may change.

Together the 2 waves set out in this document cover all of the areas in England not covered in waves 1 to 3.

Each review will start by assessing the economic and educational needs of the area, and the implications for post-16 education and training provision, including:

- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- further education colleges
- independent providers

The reviews will then focus on the current structure of further education and sixth form colleges, although there will be opportunities for other institutions (including schools and independent providers) to opt in to this stage of the analysis. Regional school commissioners will consider the implications of the first stage of the analysis for school sixth form provision.

The reviews will be led by steering groups made up of:

- college chairs of governors supported by their college principals
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and local authorities
- FE and sixth form college commissioners
- regional schools commissioners

2.

Aims

This approach aims to move towards fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient providers, and more effective collaboration across institution types. It will be important to create greater specialisation by establishing institutions that are genuine centres of expertise. These will be able to support sustained progression in professional and technical disciplines, alongside excellence in other fundamental areas – such as English and maths.

This will ensure that we have the right capacity to provide good education and training for our young people and adults across England. In the longer term, the greater specialisation resulting from a review will facilitate the creation of a new network of prestigious Institutes of Technology. These new institutions will work collaboratively with other colleges and providers, including National Colleges, to deliver high standard technical and professional education at levels 3,4 and 5.

Indicative information on wave 3 to 5 is provided below. Please send any questions to area.reviews@education.gsi.gov.uk.

3.

Wave 4

Areas currently proposed:

- Leicester and Leicestershire
- Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire
- North East
- Dorset
- Greater Lincolnshire
- Lancashire (east of M6)
- Lancashire (west of M6)
- York, North Yorkshire and the Humber

Indicative timing for this wave: starting September 2016.

4.

Wave 5

Areas currently proposed:

- Essex
- Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
- Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Hertfordshire
- South East Midlands
- Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough
- Norfolk and Suffolk
- Kent

Indicative timing for this wave: starting November 2016.

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