

Raising the Participation Age Strategy

Hertfordshire

2013-2015



Hertfordshire's 'Raising the Participation Age' (RPA) Strategy 2013-2015

Vision/Mission

The overarching purpose and challenge of the Hertfordshire RPA strategy is to secure the **right provision in the right place at the right time for all Hertfordshire young people** aged 16 and 17 years old in order for them to progress towards economic independence. Our aim is to enable young people to make an informed choice of the **education and training opportunities** on offer. Young people can participate in any one of the following ways. They can:

- Remain in full-time education on a **16-19 Study Programme** at school or college or in home education
- Choose work-based learning, such as a **Traineeship** or an **Apprenticeship**
- Be in part-time education or training if they are **employed, self-employed or volunteering** for 20 hours or more a week.

The Local Authority's statutory duty

As a local authority, our statutory duty is to:

- Promote and track participation in education and training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in Hertfordshire
- Work with partner organisations to identify young people in the county who are not participating and shape provision in the area to meet the needs
- Identify gaps in provision and find sufficient and suitable quality education and training opportunities for all 16 and 17 year olds.

The government expects RPA to be introduced in two stages:

- From Summer 2013, young people without a level 3 qualification and resident in England will be required to stay in education and training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and
- From Summer 2015, this will be until their 18th birthday.

RPA and the arrangements for supporting school improvement

The Ofsted Handbook for the inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement includes three clear references to 'Raising the Participation Age' under the effectiveness descriptors. These pick up the statutory duties and are as follows (LA rag ratings in brackets):

- Elected members and senior officers exercise their duties in relation to securing sufficient suitable provision for all 16-19 year olds and in respect of raising the participation age (RPA) requirements. (Green)
- The LA promotes the effective participation of all 16- and 17-year-olds in education and training and makes arrangements identify young people who are not participating. (Amber)
- The LA provides a comprehensive range of performance data, including data about the local performance of different pupil groups, local benchmarking and post-16 destinations comparative data. Schools and other providers have high regard for this, which is influential in helping them to identify school based performance priorities. (Green)

Towards 2015

The Hertfordshire RPA Strategy with seven identified priorities complement and enhance the county's strategic plans for Apprenticeships, NEET (Not in education, employment or training) and the SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) Pathfinder. A continuing programme of research and evaluation will inform the gaps in provision to address the changing profiles and needs of 16-18 year olds and take into account Hertfordshire's economic growth and youth employment opportunities.

Appendix A illustrates the national timeline 2012-2015 to which we are working.

We will focus on the following:

1. Strategic ownership and partnership delivery, including communication on policy and guidance and continuing professional development
2. Early intervention, using local intelligence and the complementary skills and expertise of partners to co-ordinate preventative support
3. Supporting vulnerable groups, particularly young people with LDD (Learning Difficulties and Disabilities) children looked after, care leavers and the hard to reach
4. Retaining 17 year olds in learning and training especially those who are not secure at level 2 (i.e. those not achieving GCSEs Grades A*-C in five or more subjects including English and Maths). The requirement to continue with English and Maths if Level 2 is not achieved will be a high priority.
5. Destinations for 18 year olds, including those with LDD up to 25 who want to enter the workplace
6. Employer engagement to meet the local skills agenda and create high quality work experience opportunities, e.g. to meet the requirements of the Traineeship programme and 16-19 Study Programmes
7. Agreement on data and tracking systems and protocols that allow for the timely and secure sharing and exchange of data.

Appendix B illustrates aspects of each priority strand which we could focus on.

Targets

We are setting ourselves the following targets for 2015 when the second phase of RPA implementation comes into effect.

By 2015:

- **98%** of young people in Hertfordshire opt to stay in education and training and are participating at 16 (96.5% in 2012)
- **4.5%** of young people (16-17) undertake an apprenticeship pathway (3.5% in February 2012)
- **95%** of young people who have had a statement of SEN (Special Educational Needs) in Hertfordshire opt to stay in education or training at 16 (89% in 2012)

Success measures

The impact of the RPA strategy will be measured by:

- The participation of underachieving groups
- The number of young people aged 16-17 participating in education and training
- The LA to retain the knowledge of activities of 98% of all young people aged 16-18 year olds

To enable us to achieve these targets we will:

- Engage all stakeholders in the joint ownership of the strategy and its implementation
- Secure provision that reflects the needs of the young people and the economic growth of Hertfordshire building on existing best practice and creating new education and training opportunities
- Provide opportunities that all young people can access at 16 and 17 which prepare them for progression at 18, including work-based training and all levels of apprenticeships
- Up-skill all the workforce in education and employment through a relevant and accessible programme of continuing professional development
- Have in place systems and processes that gather qualitative and quantitative data to measure impact and inform strategic development
- Provide young people with access to independent, impartial, comprehensive and up-to-date Information, Advice and Guidance and work-related learning experiences.

Implementing RPA

The strategic lead for RPA in Hertfordshire County Council is the **14-19 Education and Skills Strategy team**, Directorate of Services for Young People.

The key responsibility of this team is to build strategic partnerships across all sectors working with 14-19 year olds (25 for LDD) to secure full participation and destination-led outcomes to support all young people into employment, supported employment, community care or independent living.

Appendix A

Raising the Participation Age - Timeline

LAs report on September Guarantee	LAs report on September Guarantee	LAs report on September Guarantee	LAs report on September Guarantee
<p>Local Authorities planning for RPA. (2011 – 2013)</p> <p>Destination Measures are published – showing education, training and employment destinations of each school and college's students (Spring 2013). Experimental data published in 2012 can be accessed here.</p> <p>Schools become responsible for securing impartial careers advice and guidance for their students (Sept 2012)</p>	<p>Second cohort of young people begin their first year of compulsory post-16 education or training (Summer 2014)</p> <p>All young people required to continue in education until their 18th birthday. 'Second cohort' of young people is the first to be affected by this. (Summer 2015).</p>	<p>First cohort of young people is required to continue into post-16 education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. (Summer 2103)</p> <p>Young people required to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. (Summer 2013-15)</p> <p>Schools and colleges (and other learning providers) become legally responsible for promoting good attendance of 16 and 17 year olds, and for informing local authorities if a young person drops out of learning. (Summer 2013 onwards).</p> <p>Local authorities become legally responsible for promoting participation and for making arrangements to identify those not participating, in addition to current duties around young people. (Summer 2013 onwards).</p>	<p>Summer 2012</p> <p>Summer 2013</p> <p>Summer 2014</p> <p>Summer 2015</p> <p>All young people required to participate in education or training until their 18th birthday. (Duty to participate until 18 from summer 2015. Cohort already participating until 17 under first phase of RPA introduction)</p>
<p>Summer 2012</p> <p>First cohort of young people is in Year 11. (Sept 2012 – Sept 2013)</p> <p>Second cohort of young people is in Year 10. (Sept 2012 – Sept 2013)</p>			

Key

If you are a **young person in Year 11** then the bright green shapes indicate important information for you.

If you are a **young person in Year 10** then the light green shapes indicate important information for you.

If you are a **school, college or other learning provider** then the pink shapes indicate important information for you.

If you are a **local authority** then the yellow shapes indicate important information for you

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Appendix B

'The RPA priorities for Hertfordshire 2013-2015'

Priority	Examples of components we will focus on. IAG will feature in 2, 3 and 4.
1. Strategic ownership and partnership delivery	1.1 Securing ownership of the strategy and implementation to grow the breadth of knowledge and expertise across Services for Children and Young People and beyond 1.2 Challenging and supporting stakeholders to communicate a consistent and clear message regarding RPA
2. Early Intervention	2.1 The importance of a skilled workforce through continuing professional development 2.2 Local intelligence combined with use of risk indicator tools 2.3 Careful targeting and timely support for young people that is co-ordinated
3. Supporting vulnerable groups	3.1 Filling gaps in provision identified through a systematic and consistent process countywide 3.2 Supporting and creating a range of post-16 provision that is destination-led with progression 3.3 Co-ordinating the funding streams to ensure transparency and equality of access 3.4 Coherence within local provision e.g. pathways between short- and long-term programmes and from pre- to post-16 and beyond
4. Retaining 17 year olds in education and training	4.1 Sharing knowledge and awareness of different factors as to why young people at 17 are not engaging 4.2 Providing alternatives in work-based learning and training that include continuing with Maths and English to level 2 4.3 Allowing experimentation as part of the decision-making process for young people 4.4 Youth labour market related to work-based training and the Youth Employment Training Initiative (YETI) 4.5 Challenges presented by the long-term NEET 4.6 Engaging with the breadth of young people's support services
5. Destinations of the 18+	5.1 Sourcing and communicating appropriate pathways post-16 and 18 linked to IAG 5.2 Opportunities in the workplace for young people from vulnerable groups including those with LDD and care leavers e.g. supported employment 5.3 Developing the links with Job Centre Plus
6. Employer engagement	6.1 The work experience component of 16-19 Study Programmes including Traineeships and low level 2 work-based learning 6.2 Supported employment for young people with LDD 6.3 Recruitment of young people to fill apprenticeship vacancies 6.4 Supporting employers to create jobs with training
7. Data and tracking	7.1 Robust systems to ensure data is accurate and up-to-date and shared across all providers/partners including cross-boundary working 7.2 Use of integrated e-systems for managed moves and consistent referral processes 7.3 Data sharing protocols 7.4 Sharing of historical data and trends including KS4 Destination Measures to inform curriculum 7.5 Using the September Guarantee to inform gaps in provision

RPA Strategy produced by:

14-19 Education and Skills Strategy team
Services for Children and Young People
Hertfordshire Local Authority

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For RPA Frequently Asked Questions go to:
<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/1419/participation/index.shtml#herts>

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