



ACCELERATE

Engaging employers across the region

Welcome to the last edition of Accelerate in 2008!

First, some good news – the Challenge sponsors have agreed in principle to fund the programme beyond March for a further year, allowing the important work that has been done this year to continue.

The programme will, in future, see an increased focus on employer engagement. This has been an important theme from the start of the Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge, and has risen rapidly up the agenda in recent weeks. Earlier this month, the Department for Children, Schools and Families published two new documents under the banner of "Building Better Partnerships", one geared to employers and the other to schools and colleges. Both versions stress the value and benefits of good links between employers education. As the Secretary of State, Ed Balls, said, "employers can make a real difference to children and young people by helping them to see the relevance of what they are learning, building motivation, improving attendance and behaviour and giving them higher and broader aspirations".

From a Challenge point of view, "Building Better Partnerships" could not have come at a better time. We have found that despite the current economic climate, employers are keener than ever to support schools and colleges, and the Challenge has secured the backing of several major employer networks including the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce across the region. They will provide access to their networks of small, medium and large employers, who all see the benefits of supporting and influencing young people.

With their support, we will shortly be publishing a succinct guide, and a supporting presentation, setting out how employers can get involved, and the benefits that can be gained. To support this work, we have started planning a regional employer engagement event, bringing together schools, colleges, employers, Challenge partners and education business partnership organisations – further details will be issued shortly.

The Young People's Enterprise Forum is managing the £2.4 million 'Embedding Enterprise' programme on behalf of Yorkshire Forward. The programme aims to provide progression for every child in enterprise and skills development at every stage of the education process, with employer engagement being one of the key strands.

The 'Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge' work on enterprise education, employer engagement and progression complements and adds value to all the key themes in the Programme. Executive Director, Suzy Alderson said, "We have to encourage employers to get involved in a real and sustainable way. The 'Yorkshire and Humber 14-19 Challenge' programme will show them how simple it can be to engage and have a meaningful impact on young people - their future workforce."

Families of Schools – pilot workshop

In the summer, we commissioned an analysis of school data from the team who carried out the same work in London, Manchester and the Black Country. This enabled us to group all secondary schools into one of 19 "families", based on the prior attainment of their pupils and the relative deprivation of their catchment areas.

Last month, we held a pilot workshop for heads and deputy heads of schools in two of the families, together with representatives of local authorities. We discussed the main themes of the Challenge – attainment, progression and employer engagement – and heard at first hand how families of schools have chosen to work together in London. The workshop received excellent feedback, and arrangements are being made to enable a small number of the schools to take part in a learning visit to other schools in their family in the Spring term. The full statistic analysis has been made available to the schools that took part in the workshop and will be shared more widely in the new year.

Adding value to careers advice and guidance

Having listened to the views of a wide range of partners working in the field of careers information, advice and guidance, the Challenge is currently seeking funding to support a regional 'search' facility, which will help find the information most closely geared to a specific job, career or learning opportunity. We hope that by the time we next write to you, plans will be in place to move this work forward.

Meanwhile, we have been working closely with colleagues at AIMHIGHER in the Yorkshire and Humber area. The Aimhigher programme supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with the potential to progress to Higher Education to enable more of them realise their potential.

The programme consists of a series of activities with learning outcomes now codified nationally as a learner progression framework and is focused on raising aspiration, awareness, attainment and progression at year 11 and on into Higher Education. Activities are delivered by partners including Higher Education Institutions and are evaluated as part of an overall monitoring and evaluation strategy. Schools and colleges with large numbers of young people from the relevant background are target institutions and within that, cohorts are selected based on the above characteristics.



If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Challenge in more detail, please contact either David Harbourne on 07738 167106 or email dharbourne@tiscali.co.uk, or Janette Gudgeon on 0113 383 0205 or email janette.gudgeon@ypcf.org.uk. Alternatively, visit the website – www.yh14-19challenge.co.uk.



Alternatively, if you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please email 'Accelerate unsubscribe' to kate.woodcock@ypef.org.uk. YPEF is also leading on the roll-out of the 'Enterprising Yorkshire – Inspiring Young Minds' campaign across the region.

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