

## **Area: West Kent (Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks)**

### **LCPA Self-Evaluation 2024-2025**

#### **Key impact** made in the academic year

- The profile of PfA has been raised significantly. There are now regular discussions of post-16 issues in the West Kent Headteachers' meeting and several headteachers have attended the PfA Sector Wide Conversation. Many grammar sixth form centres and the college are running at capacity and cannot further expand. Non-selective schools have reviewed their offers in light of capacity and changing offer ie LAT on moving to IBCP.
- A significant piece of work has been undertaken by the local co-ordinator to create a clearer understanding of the local offer, this was delayed due to collaboration between North Kent and West Kent being slow but has now been resolved. Further information needs to be sought to understand the local demographic reasoning for being NEET.
- Much improved understanding of the local offer – leading into different careers processes. There is now more emphasis on ensuring that students and their parents understand the whole offer. Schools are keen to be on board and understand the rationale behind the collaborative approaches needed, the people in the room are the people making the decisions. A West Kent careers event is being planned for Sept 2025 that will highlight the breadth of the courses offered in West Kent, and will consider the specific needs of the demographics within the area.
- A careers information sharing platform is needed and whilst the hope is that KentChoices will be able to accommodate the breadth of the requirements, alternatives are being considered to secure quality.
- A KS4 qualification Special school programme across all schools is being explored to prepare capable learners for qualification learning post-16.
- Improved understanding of strengths and weaknesses of the local offer, particularly at L3. Previously there had been a focus on individual schools' offers rather than an understanding of the whole. West Kent has one of the widest offers for learners: IB, A Levels, Vocational, IBCP – learners are able to access suitable programmes of study and there is capacity in non-selective school to take on more L3 learners, particularly now the multiple BTEC rule has not been put into force. The ongoing gap is the high L2 offer – students with good qualifications but not Eng/Ma 4+. TV@ES is at capacity and concerns re. financial security in the long term.

#### **Identified issues** in the LCPA area, either from data or discussions, such as those at the sector-wide conversation

- Mental health – gap in provision.
- Careers guidance – openness of promotion of pathways to young people.
- Long term stability of the offer considering funding.
- Parents have a very uninformed understanding of the pathways.
- Students with high levels of SEN are not ready for quals post-16 and need earlier support and pathways.

**Sustainability plans** for the work of the LCPA once the funding period has ended

- Possible focus on pump priming of projects.
- Focus on using existing groups etc so there does not have to be a reliance on an individual.
- Seek sponsorship for overarching careers event.
- There is a possibility that schools may come together to self-fund some activities.

**Engagement** including issues and plans

- People open to discuss but are more hesitant when it comes to commitment and action.
- Individual school focussed rather than looking at local need.
- The group will bring in providers from other areas to talk about good practice and develop relationships with other services, such as those offered by The Education People to ensure that all providers understand the bigger picture locally and how they can contribute to meeting needs.

**Headline success**, impact measures and monitoring

- Reduced NEET numbers.
- Reduced numbers of students without an offer and a back-up offer.
- Process to ensure back-ups are realistic.
- More realistic guidance given to young people, leading to improved progressions. This can be measured using the KentChoices system and NEET data.

**Alignment** with the Pathways for All Strategy

- There is a strand focussing on aligning the offer to local need. This will deliver on priority 1 (To create relevant and viable Level 3 provision across K&M that reflects regional skill needs, whilst providing meaningful choice, an outstanding learning experience and strong progression.) and 2 (To increase the number of learners studying and achieving at Level 2.)
- We have a focus on Priority 4 to support SEND learners to access qualifications in mainstream schools.

## LCPA Action Plan – March 2025

| Objective 1: Establish an annual collaborative planning cycle to support applications and transition into post-16 for students at risk of NEET. |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Actions   | How will action be monitored? Who by?  | Milestones  |  |  |
|   |  | HT meeting, term 4  | HT meeting Term 5  | HT meeting term 6                                    |
| Explore and plan  | Overseen in headteachers' meetings HBR | Discuss current work with Skills and Employability team. Establish task and finish group. | Task and finish group report back. HTs to choose 2 key gaps to fill and write plan to do this. |  |
| Implementation  | Overseen in headteachers' meetings HBR |   |  | Final decision ready for implementation in Sep 2025. |
| Review 1 - Notes and next steps   |  |   |  |  |
| Review 2 - Notes and next steps   |  |   |  |  |
| Review 3 - Notes and next steps   |  |   |  |  |

Objective 2: Develop parental understanding: Hold a collaborative post-16 options evening to ensure young people and their parents understand the local offer. Establish an information and clearing platform.

| Actions   | How will action be monitored? Who by? | Milestones   |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
|   |                                       | HT meeting, term 4<br>Milestone 1                                  | HT meeting Term 5/6   | HT meeting term 1<br>2025  |
| Plan  | Small project group                   | Identify date, venue, speakers etc.                                | Planning for careers event & guidance underway.<br><br>Communicate to young people and families.        | Finalise careers event plans.<br><br>Finalise resource sharing information.  |
| Hold event  | Small Project group                   |  |   | Hold event.  |
| Engage with KentChoices to develop information pages and an online clearing system. | Local co-ordinator                    | Attend KentChoices focus group. Developers to feedback on options. | Produce local text for KentChoices. Plan to ensure schools and other providers use the clearing system. | Evaluate impact – consider the amount of yp trying to contact providers post GCSE results day compared to last year. |
| Review 1 - Notes and next steps   |                                       |  |   |  |
| Review 2 - Notes and next steps   |                                       |  |   |  |
| Review 3 - Notes and next steps   |                                       |  |   |  |

Objective 3: Align provision more to local need – High level 2. This need reflects the progression needs of young people and potential needs of employers and other partners.

| Actions                         | How will action be monitored? Who by? | Milestones  |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                 |                                       | HT meeting, term 4<br>Milestone 1   | HT meeting Term 5   | HT meeting term 6   |
| Establish the need              | Local Co-ordinator/LCPA lead          | Skills and employability/NEET support service and rep from a school delivering L2 attend HT meeting. Discuss/ choose options and establish a task and finish group to analyse issues, identify gaps and make recommendations to HT group. | Task and finish group to report to HT meeting. HT to decide which recommendations to take up. |   |
| Implementation                  |                                       |   | Develop an implementation plan  | Communicate plan and commence early stages of implementation. |
| Review 1 - Notes and next steps |                                       |   |   |   |
| Review 2 - Notes and next steps |                                       |   |   |   |
| Review 3 - Notes and next steps |                                       |   |   |   |

| Objective 4: SEN provision pathways: Explore joint provision with SEN schools for students working towards qualifications. |                                       |   |                                       |                          |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Actions  | How will action be monitored? Who by? | Milestones  |                                       |                          |
|  |                                       | HT meeting, term 4<br>Milestone 1                 | HT meeting Term 5                     | HT meeting term 6        |
| Establish the need/scope   | Focus group                           | Focus group meet to establish the scope/capacity. | Ground level planning staff/students. |                          |
| Create framework and capacity  | Focus group                           |   | Overarching plan in place             | Finalise plan and trial. |
| Review 1 - Notes and next steps  |                                       |   |                                       |                          |
| Review 2 - Notes and next steps  |                                       |   |                                       |                          |
| Review 3 - Notes and next steps  |                                       |   |                                       |                          |