

**NEWCASTLE EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL
INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE STRATEGY**

APRIL 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Educational and Vocational Information, Advice and Guidance (EVIAG) Strategy forms part of the overall plans to improve outcomes for young people in the city. Themes throughout the strategy link to national legislation and guidance and the unique Children and Young People's Plan for Newcastle and the Newcastle Integrated Youth Strategy

Information, Advice and Guidance is a key element of the Newcastle Integrated Youth Strategy and Action Plan and is central to current policy agendas for social and economic inclusion, raising achievement and attainment, participation and retention, and contributes directly to the achievement of the five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes. It helps young people to:

Be healthy – by helping young people to review and assess their decision making and goal setting in relation to health issues

Stay safe – by giving young people opportunities to reflect on risk and behaviour

Enjoy and achieve – by helping young people to set priorities for learning, work and leisure and to develop a work life balance

Make a positive contribution – by helping young people to be active citizens, who are actively involved in their communities

Achieve economic well-being – by challenging aspirations and helping young people to progress into further learning, training or employment and to realise their potential.

This strategy focuses on Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) which supports progression, transition and retention in learning for all young people in Newcastle aged 11-19 (and up to age 25 for young people with special educational needs).

It sets out the rationale whereby young people are able to make well informed and realistic choices about their future lives and careers supported by an inter-related programme of personal guidance and curriculum activities. It will ensure that young people have access to impartial information, advice and guidance in order for them to be aware of all opportunities to enable them to reach their full potential.

IAG is used here as an umbrella term used to denote a range of 'guidance' activities and processes that can support the choices made by young people. These may include assessing, informing, advising, guiding, counselling, supporting, enabling, coaching, mentoring, advocating, referring and feeding back to learning and support systems. Not all young people will need all these different interventions – the type of intervention must depend on the needs of individual young people at different stages of their lives.

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RATIONALE: WHY DO WE NEED A NEWCASTLE EVIAG STRATEGY?

Information, Advice and Guidance is central to national and local contemporary policy agendas and strategies. The main strands are:

Curriculum/IAG agenda

- Quality Standards for Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance (2007)
- Education & Skills Bill (2007) (Education and Skills Act imminent)
- Higher Standards, Better Schools for All (2005)
- 14-19 Implementation Plan (2005)
- Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16

Statutory requirements for:

- Careers education in years 7-11
- Information, Advice and Guidance for all young people in years 9-11 (Learning & Skills Act, 2000)
- SEN Code of Practice
- Work Related and Enterprise Learning in KS4
- Citizenship and aspects of PSHE in KS3 and KS4

Every Child Matters

See Introduction

Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People

- www.newcastle.gov.uk/wwwfileroot/socialservices/children/TheNewcastlePlanforChildrenandYoungPeople

Every Learner Counts

Every Learner Counts, the Strategy and Action Plan for 14-19 Learning in Newcastle, has six strategic aims, all of which are supported by effective IAG. These are:

- **Strategic Aim 1: Aspirations and Enterprise** – To raise the aspirations and develop the entrepreneurial skills of all young people by working together to create a culture of learning
- **Strategic Aim 2: Learning Pathways** – To develop a broad range of visible and relevant learning pathways that are attractive and accessible by all young people
- **Strategic Aim 3: Inclusion** – To engage all young people in appropriate learning by pursuing targeted strategies for inclusion
- **Strategic Aim 4: Teaching, Learning and Attainment** – To provide high quality teaching and learning in schools, colleges and work based learning providers to maximise attainment
- **Strategic Aim 5: Transition and Guidance** – To provide excellent guidance and pastoral support for all young people
- **Strategic Aim 6: Collaboration and Implementation** – To ensure robust collaborative arrangements are in place to secure effective implementation and maximum impact

The new strategy to be published in 2008 will have delivery of IAG as a priority.

The current Newcastle Learner Entitlement includes:

- The right to receive information on the full range of post-16 learning opportunities
- The right to a broad range of post-16 learning opportunities, accessible within my local area
- Individual support for my learning programme, my own personal development and progression choices

Progression and Learning Targets

Targets and key indicators of success are set out in Every Learner Counts.

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SCOPE

Who should be involved?

- All Newcastle 11-19 Learning Providers (schools, Newcastle College, Work Based Learning providers)
- All young people aged 11-19 (up to 25 for those with special educational needs) including young people in vulnerable or marginalised groups (e.g. Looked after children / care leavers, teenage parents, those supervised by the YOT etc)
- Parents and carers

The Newcastle EVIAG Strategy will bring all partners together equally to plan, design and deliver an IAG service with and for all young people in the city aged 11-25, taking into account their individual and collective needs and the uniqueness of the communities in which they live.

The strategy should link to the Integrated Youth Strategy Action Plan themes of:

- **Things to Do, Places to Go** – our ambition is that all young people are able to participate in positive activities which will enrich their lives
- **Volunteering** – our ambition is that young people will actively want to engage in volunteering and see it as a way of both giving and getting more out of life
- **Information, Advice and Guidance** – our ambition is that no-one in Newcastle will be in the position of having to say *“If only I’d known...”*
- **Targeted Support** – our ambition is to support as many young people as possible through early identification, intervention and prevention, but if this is not successful, timely targeted support will help them overcome barriers as quickly as possible and achieve their full potential
- **Participation and Engagement** – our ambition is that by supporting young people’s engagement and participation we will be able to design services that meet their needs and that they will value and use
- **Progression** – our ambition is that all young people in Newcastle are enabled to reach their full potential in academic and vocational learning and progress to achieve economic well-being in their lives

It is important for professionals to recognise that young people are able to gain relevant skills and experience which complement their formal learning through a range of opportunities including leisure activities and volunteering. These skills and experiences can often be linked to work related and vocational learning and can support young people's progression aspirations. IAG is essential in helping young people to access these opportunities.

There is an overarching IYS Steering Group, and it is planned that there will be themed task groups formed to drive forward the six elements. The IYS Steering Group would like the 14-19 Learning Partnership to lead on 'Progression'.

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WHAT MUST THE NEWCASTLE EVIAG STRATEGY INCLUDE / ADDRESS?

- The statutory rights of young people to access IAG as set out in the Education Act 1997.
- Adherence to the Quality Standards for Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance, which are accepted as a minimum standard by Newcastle Children's Services.
- Evaluation of effectiveness – the effectiveness of IAG can be measured by achievement against targets for progression and retention. Connexions, building on their NEET preventative strategy in schools, has consistently achieved annual targets for the reduction of NEET young people in Newcastle. All stakeholders have a role to play in the achievement of the Every Learner Counts strategic aims, supported by effective and impartial IAG.
- A clear indication of progression routes. This is supported by AimHigher activity, the Newcastle Routes website and progression activities such as Switch On, the Progression Planning Questionnaire, Get Up and Go and through individual and group guidance activity via Connexions.
- Impartial guidance activities. These are set out in Connexions Offer to Schools in Newcastle and supported by the Partnership Agreement and Delivery Plan drawn up between Connexions and all learning providers in the city.
- Tracking of progression. The CCIS database will remain and offers a robust tracking system for all young people aged 13-19. Connexions will continue to populate this database and Connexions Personal Advisers will update regularly. Connexions will carry out the annual Activity Survey providing destination data on all Year 11 leavers and collaborate with learning providers to identify and work with early leavers from post-16 learning.
- Where young people express an interest in leisure or volunteering opportunities, or evidence a need for specialist or targeted support, they will be signposted to appropriate agencies or opportunities and, where necessary, be given supported referral.

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WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE WANT FROM NEWCASTLE EVIAG STRATEGY?

In Newcastle, the Integrated Youth Strategy includes an area entitled Participation, which means that we involve young people in the design and delivery of services for them. Young people's views should, wherever possible, be taken into account when developing services and they should be given feedback on how and where their views have made a difference. This applies equally to Newcastle EVIAG Strategy.

The Young People's Quality Standards for IAG, Standard 6, states that:

Young people (reflecting the make up of their communities) are engaged in the design, delivery and evaluation of information, advice and guidance provision.

PRINCIPLES

- **Buy In** – all stakeholders, especially learning providers, need to agree to the principles of the strategy and ensure that all young people have access to effective, impartial information, advice and guidance at all times and particularly at key points of decision making.
- **Impartiality** – young people are at the heart of what we do and information, advice and guidance must support their best interests. It should be based on their needs and on up to date labour market information and intelligence about opportunities available locally, nationally and internationally.
- **Access** – IAG should be accessible to all young people depending on their individual requirements at various stages of their lives. It should be provided in a range of formats reflecting the different ages, needs and abilities of young people and be available in a variety of settings and at times that suit them.

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HOW WILL WE MAKE THE NEWCASTLE EVIAG STRATEGY HAPPEN?

- The Newcastle 14-19 Partnership will produce guidelines for learning providers setting out roles and responsibilities, and operational priorities for effective delivery
- Partnership Agreements and Delivery Plans will reflect the requirements of the strategy
- A calendar of events will ensure that elements of the strategy relating to progression are met
- Continuous monitoring by the 14-19 Partnership, including budget management and identification of remedial action if required. Ofsted will be expecting learning providers to self-assess against the Young Peoples Quality Standards for Information, Advice and Guidance.

BY WHOM AND HOW WILL IT BE MANAGED?

It will be managed by the 14-19 Learning Partnership linking with the work of:

- The IAG Strategy Group
- The Diploma Strategy Group
- Special Needs Group
- YOT Board
- Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board

Each of these groups has a set of goals which intermesh. Targets around IAG will be part of the new 14-19 strategy.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has overall responsibility in Newcastle for driving forward the Every Child Matters outcomes and ultimately all Partnerships concerned with children and young people report to them (see Appendix 1).

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WHAT DO WE WANT YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT?

Young people will be aware of when their key decision making points are, know the implications of decisions and know how to access IAG.

They should know how to access specialist support, if required, before accessing specific, timely EVIAG to ensure that they are enabled to overcome barriers. They should know how to put IAG into practice in order for them to move forward and achieve their goals.

WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT TO SEE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF NEWCASTLE?

- **Short term** – young people should be able to make informed and considered decisions about their next steps leading to improved retention in learning
- **Medium term** – there should be measurable improvements against targets for learning and progression
- **Long term** – all young people should be given the opportunity to make a successful transition to adult life, fulfil their aspirations and be economically self-sufficient and independent. We must work towards the aim of ending child poverty and worklessness within the city