

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 14th May 2012

Item: 6 (e)

**Title: North Tyneside Learning Trust
- School Support and Development
Programme**

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Lilly

Report from Directorate: Children, Young People and Learning (CYPL)

Report Author: Jean Griffiths, Head of Schools, Learning and Skills (Tel: 643 8782)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The report outlines the current and proposed North Tyneside Learning Trust programme of opportunities and support for school-based learners, their families and their staff.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Learning Trust School Support and Development Programme;
2. Receive further reports with regard to any new schools choosing to join the Trust;
3. Endorse the application of the Learning Trust to become an Academy Sponsor, the North Tyneside Academy Foundation.

1.3 Forward plan:

This report was listed on the Forward Plan published for the period 1 April to 31 July 2012.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

The report is concerned with the following Council Plan 2012-15 priority:

- (i) Maintaining excellent education, training and employment opportunities, including apprenticeships and working in collaboration with partners.

1.5 Information

The Cabinet meeting of November 2009 approved Council membership of the school-led North Tyneside Learning Trust (NTLT) and subsequently identified the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning to act as the Council's Trustee on the Learning

Trust Board of Directors. The Trust provides a sustainable framework for long-term partnership between schools, employers, universities, Further Education (FE) providers and North Tyneside Council. The overriding purposes of the Learning Trust are to improve outcomes for children and young people and to support the regeneration of the borough.

The proposals in the Learning Trust Support Programme have been derived from discussions with Trust Schools, led by the Trust Board of Directors and the clearly articulated and well-understood priorities embodied in the prospectus of the Trust used as part of the consultation process that led to its establishment. The Learning Trust is committed to:

- ❖ Raise the aspirations of children, young people, their families and communities;
- ❖ Widen community participation in learning;
- ❖ Attract investment in the infrastructure for learning at school level in the borough;
- ❖ Sponsor and support collaborative interventions to improve outcomes for vulnerable and under-performing groups;
- ❖ Significantly increase progression to Higher Education and higher skills programmes, especially from economically-disadvantaged groups; and
- ❖ Support the development and delivery of innovative and specialised education-to-employment pathways that support the economic regeneration and development of North Tyneside and the sub-region.

The Trust began in September 2010 with 23 schools as members. By September 2011 this number had grown to 26 schools. In October 2011 5 faith schools joined as associate members. Work is being undertaken with 2 schools to become Trust schools by September 2012 and in discussion with a further 4 schools about the possibility of them joining too.

1.5.1 The Learning Trust School Development Programme

In order to deliver on the agreed priorities of the Trust, a range of development programmes have been designed. The programmes align very well with the priorities of the Council Plan and especially around maintaining excellent education, training and employment opportunities, including apprenticeships and working in collaboration with partners. The programmes include:

- The Learning Trust *Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)* Programme
- The Learning Trust *World Schools* Programme
- The Learning Trust *Creative Enterprise* Programme
- The Learning Trust *Apprentice* Programme
- The Learning Trust *Be Inspired* Programme
- The Learning Trust *Curriculum* Programme
- The Learning Trust *School Improvement* Programme.

All of the above programmes have involved support for all aged education opportunities.

Ongoing work with the Higher Education (HE) Learning Village Programme is ensuring that all schools are contributing views and expertise to the *STEM* programme.

The *World Schools Programme* has created opportunities for schools (10 primary and 5 secondary) to participate in the International Schools Award.

The *Creative Enterprise Programme* has enabled schools to start to develop retail outlet skills in each locality in liaison with the Business Forum.

The *Apprentice Programme* has led to 25 apprentices successfully linked to appropriate employers. Training delivery partners include North Tyneside Work Based Learning, Palmersville Training, Training and Development Resource Ltd (TDR), Tyne Met College, Resources Limited and Newcastle College. This programme is providing support to ex-pupils who would have otherwise been not in education, employment or training (NEET). Apprenticeships have been offered in the following sectors: engineering; tourism; health and social care and the voluntary sector. A further 10 are due to start within the next month.

The *Be Inspired Programme* is designed to engage and raise awareness of students, teachers and parents focused on the skills and training required by STEM related and Creative Enterprise industries. Opportunities have been developed for pupils and students to:

- access Higher Education either through visiting universities, working with university staff including post graduates or preparing for university life.
- understand and experience what is required to become a successful business.

The *Curriculum Programme* provides additional intensive support to schools and parents to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

The *Learning Trust School Improvement Programme* is designed to add value to the local authority school improvement service. It is based on the categorisation that the local authority give to each school. The programme is flexible to provide additional support to more vulnerable schools as well as more general help to schools who have a specific issue. The work will begin in September around English and maths progress.

Overall all Trust schools have accessed a wide range of courses and programmes with measureable impact. Whilst programmes have been made available for all pupils, Years 6, 10, 11 and sixth formers have been specifically targeted.

1.5.2 Funding Learning Trust Development Programme

The funding for these proposals is drawn from the allocation of rate relief that Trust schools generate as a consequence of acquiring charitable status through their Foundation (the Learning Trust). As the Trust was established in September 2010, the total cumulative rate relief includes the carried-forward element from the financial year 2010-11 as well as the full allocation for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

In addition the Trust continues to seek additional funding on behalf of members to support the programmes. For example the Trust has just been successful in securing a grant from National College for School Leadership (NCSL) to support training for Chairs of Governors.

1.5.3 New schools joining the Learning Trust

Currently there are two primary schools considering converting to Trust status.

1.5.4 Development of the Learning Trust as an Academy Sponsor

The Trust remains committed to the principle that schools are stronger together and school to school help with support from our partners, including the local authority, is the most robust way forward. The Trust is also mindful of the changing educational landscape, in particular around the forced academy programme for schools who fail to meet floor targets or consistently achieve a satisfactory OfSTED grading. The view of the Trust is that it should keep the schools together where they are able to benefit from local support.

The Trust, with a mandate from its members, has applied and been accepted to become an academy sponsor. This means that schools that are forced to become academies can be sponsored by the NTLT through a new body called the North Tyneside Academy Foundation. The Trust therefore will become responsible to the Secretary of State for the standards at these schools but will maintain the schools within the wider body of the Trust.

Moor Edge Primary has been identified by the Department for Education (DFE) as requiring an academy solution if it is to succeed in providing a good education to its pupils. As a result it has named North Tyneside Academy Foundation as its preferred sponsor. This has been agreed by the local authority and accepted by the DFE. The planned change of status from Trust School to Academy School will be implemented by 1 December 2012 at the latest.

1.6 Decision options:

This report has been submitted for Cabinet's endorsement on the work of the Learning Trust and the Trust acting as an Academy Sponsor. No specific decision is required. Should any further schools formally apply to join the Learning Trust this will be reported through to Cabinet as previously.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

The Learning Trust development programme reflects the Trust strategic priorities that the Council and schools helped to develop. They reflect the tangible benefits of establishing and participating in the North Tyneside Learning Trust.

1.8 Appendices:

None.

1.9 Contact officers:

Jean Griffiths – Head of Schools Learning and Skills, tel: (0191) 643 8782
Anthony Gollings – Financial Business Manager for CYP&L and Finance & Resources, tel: (0191) 643 8071

1.10 Background information:

None.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

All maintained schools receive their budget shares, including the budget required for rates, from the ringfenced dedicated schools grant (DSG). As set out in section 1.5.2 of this paper, Trust schools automatically receive rate relief as a charitable organisation (at 80% relief). It is currently estimated that this rate relief amounts to £0.800M per annum for the Learning Trust schools.

The rate relief generated by Trust schools remains within the DSG and must therefore be used for the education benefit of children in North Tyneside (as set out in the School Finance Regulations 2012). The proposals outlined in this paper are in keeping with this requirement.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. However further reports may be submitted to Cabinet in relation to the change of employment status of and the pension arrangements in respect of employees employed in any schools intending to join the North Tyneside Learning Trust, or which become Academies.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

There has been an extensive consultation programme both prior to the establishment of the Learning Trust and subsequently amongst Trust School and employer members in respect of the specific proposals enshrined in the school development proposals. The latter consultation was led by members of the Trust Board of Directors (the Trustees). North Tyneside Schools Forum and Trade Unions have also been consulted. This consultation has helped to inform decision making by the Board of Trustees to ensure they are acting in the best interests of all Trust members.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report. Trust schools are spread across the Borough and all Council maintained schools in North Tyneside can join the Trust. In addition non Trust schools can participate in Trust programmes for a small contribution for the activity.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issues directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Strategic Director(s)
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager, Policy and Partnerships