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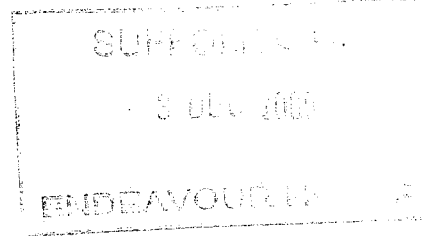
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Ms R Turner  
Director for Children and Young People's Services  
Endeavor House  
8 Russell Road  
Ipswich  
IP1 2BX



Dear Ms Turner

### **Ofsted survey inspection programme – 14-19 reforms**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and learners during my visit on 10 to 13 November 2008 as part of our survey on 14-19 developments in the local area.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text.

Overall, the authority is making good progress in implementing the 14-19 reforms. We recognise that it is too early, at this stage, to make judgements about the impact of plans for some aspects of provision and on students' achievement, but progress so far in introducing the Diplomas is satisfactory. I outline the main findings of the team as bulleted points below.

**There is no judgement on Achievement, participation and retention including personal development at this time, because of the newness of the courses.**

#### **The main strengths are:**

- good response by students to the new courses
- reduction in the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and the low proportion of 'not knows'
- rising trends in participation.

#### **Areas for further development:**

- there are no specific areas for further development identified as a result of this survey.

**The quality of teaching/training and learning is satisfactory.**

**The main strengths are:**

- a good range of accommodation and specialist resources. There has been a significant investment in a purpose built skills centre with a good range of specialist engineering equipment
- teaching staff with strong engineering related background and experience. All teaching staff have a clear understanding of the requirements of the Diploma
- productive and independent work by most learners in lessons.

**Areas for further development:**

- assessment practices for level 1 and 2
- engagement of employers in the delivery of the Diploma.

**The overall effectiveness of curriculum range, access and development is satisfactory.**

**The main strengths are:**

- area-wide entitlement statement for 14-19 which goes beyond Diplomas and relates to a broader vision for learning that is coordinated with other major local developments
- rapid extension of the vocational offer for young in North Suffolk through the North Suffolk Skills Centre
- early work to develop the Foundation Learning Tier
- support for the development of functional skills, provided as part of a coherent package of support for 14-19 development.

**Areas for further development:**

- developing coherent approaches to providing for functional skills, particularly within the Diploma.

**The quality of information, advice, guidance (IAG) and support is satisfactory.**

**The main strengths are:**

- generally higher than average levels of satisfaction amongst young people with the guidance they receive
- early adoption and effective use of the IAG quality standards to assist providers in improving the quality of their work, with a rapid increase in the number achieving the standard. The application of this process to the development of the integrated youth services is notable

- the link established between the use of the IAG quality standards and Diploma Gateway bids.

**Areas for further development:**

- ensuring that young people opting for Diplomas receive sufficient appropriate guidance, tailored to their needs
- developing a common applications process.

**The effectiveness of strategic direction, leadership and management in taking forward the 14-19 agenda is outstanding.**

**The main strengths are:**

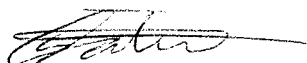
- well-conceived and broad vision for developing an entitlement for students, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, that includes but goes well beyond Diplomas
- high level of commitment to the vision by providers. The partnership is making rapid progress from a very low base
- systematic building of the infrastructure required for partnership working, now providing a firm base for rapid development of the curriculum
- high quality planning for developments adopting a phased approach and utilising thorough analysis of risk
- very good collaborative activity through development of the North Suffolk Skills Centre and the Diploma Gateway process to provide a focus for practical developments in partnership working
- a well focused and effective team to accelerate 14-19 developments. The team has been very successful in enabling individual institutions to commit to the 14-19 strategy, resulting in rapid progress
- very good employer engagement in broader educational initiatives.

**Areas for further development:**

- clear structures and plans for delivering the different components of the Diploma.

If there are any points or aspects of the visit you wish to discuss, please get in touch. As we will be evaluating the survey, you may be contacted in the future to find out your views. I hope you will contribute to this evaluation. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely



pp. **Clive Moss**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**