

## North Herts Area: Guiding Principles and “that means” statements

### Introduction

Through a two-part 2020 workshop, North Herts heads and other school representatives worked together to build consensus and deepen their understanding of the ‘learning experiences’ which will define the core of Hertfordshire and individual schools’ Educational Vision. This led them to generate a set of organising guiding principles that will help define that Vision and how it is realised.

In addition to agreeing a set of guiding principles and challenge statements, Part two of the workshop enabled them to check that they had shared understanding of the meaning and implications of theirs and Stevenage’s principles.

### *Generating and Agreeing Guiding Principles*

The following guiding principles were generated by participants:

- Principle 1: All learners will be able to access a personalised and well planned learning programme that meets their talents, needs and aspirations and leads to outcomes that they value and are valued by others
- Principle 2: Our provision will recognise that every person matters
- Principle 3: We will develop a collaborative educational community that is inclusive and complementary (non-competitive)
- Principle 4: Schools should be safe, healthy, economically and ecologically sound environments
- Principle 5: We will develop an adequate, diverse sport and leisure provision to help young people meet their aspirations, fulfil their potential and enjoy
- Principle 6: Learning providers are the heart of our community and will collaborate with others in delivering services to meet the interests and needs of the community
- Principle 7: We want our learners to acquire the qualities, skills and competencies to prepare them for opportunities and challenges of life and become economically competitive and personally fulfilled
- Principle 8: We want the learning experience and environment to be engaging, enjoyable, safe, healthy and inclusive

### *Review of North Herts’ and Stevenage’s Principles*

Participants reviewed their principles and those generated by Stevenage. There was agreement on all seven Stevenage’s principles. Four of Stevenage’s principles received strong support. These are:

**Principle 2:** Our curriculum and learning experience will be personalised, flexible, relevant, rich and stimulating with breadth and depth of choice. (Participants feel that it should be amended to read ‘All learners will be able to access a personalised and well planned learning programme that meets their talents, needs and aspirations and leads to outcomes that they value and are valued by others’)

**Principle 3:** We want our learners to acquire the qualities, skills and competencies for life. There was consensus that the phrase 'that have a currency with employers, FE and HE providers' should be replaced with 'to prepare them for opportunities and challenges of life and become economically competitive and personally fulfilled'

**Principle 5:** Schools are the heart of our community and will lead in delivering services to meet community needs and interests (but was amended to read 'Learning providers are the heart of our community and will collaborate with others in delivering services to meet the interests and needs of the community')

**Principle 6:** We want the learning experience to be enjoyable, safe, and healthy. (Participants suggested adding 'engaging' & 'inclusive')

#### **Activity 4: Further Analysis of North Herts' Principles**

Participants then analysed five highline principles and uncovered their implications. These are set out below with each principle that was articulated by the group set out in bold and statements that describe what 'that means' in practice organised beneath it. Participants did not feel comfortable committing themselves to the principles and their implications at this stage because of the need to debate issues further (time); hence the limited 'that means' statements. It was suggested that participants could access and download the detailed principles and their implications generated by all the other areas from the HCC website and encourage and facilitate discussions at the SLT or management level of each institution. These debates could even take place at the SAPG level. Outputs from such discussions should be fed back to the HCC via the same website.

**Principle 1: We want the learning experience and environment to be engaging, enjoyable, safe, healthy and inclusive. That means .....**

- There will be consultation with everyone – learners, community, employers, FE & HE
- All learners will have access to appropriate and relevant curriculum and learning experience
- We will provide sufficient and relevant resources to meet the needs of all learners

**Principle 2: We want our learners to acquire the qualities, skills and competencies to prepare them for opportunities and challenges of life and become economically competitive and personally fulfilled. That means...**

- We will consult, communicate and work in partnership with each other, community, other educators, employers, FE and HE providers

**Principle 3: We will develop a collaborative educational community that is inclusive and complementary (non-competitive). That means.....**

- We will place the needs of learners above the needs of individual institutions

**Principle 4: Our provision will recognise that every person matters. That means.....**

- We will ensure that the learning environment is conducive to make everyone feel safe, happy and valued
- The curriculum provision will be inclusive, appropriate, personalised, enriching and of high quality
- We will adopt a culture of trust, respect and transparency
- We will involve wider inter-agency approaches to meet the needs of all learners

**Principle 5: Learning providers are the heart of our community and will collaborate with others in delivering services to meet the interests and needs of the community. That means.....**

- We will create the capacity for a collaborative approach which will enable us to provide and deliver the appropriate curriculum and learning experience to all learners.
- We will develop common protocols and agreed principles to work to
- We will provide a diversity of learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of learners