

EducationKingston Proposal

Executive Summary

- The EducationKingston school improvement service proposal has been developed in collaboration between officers of the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) local authority (LA) and headteachers and governors of schools in the borough.
- In the autumn of 2010 an Education White Paper was published giving a clear indication of the new relationship envisaged between schools and LAs. EducationKingston is one development in RBK's response to transforming Learning and Children's Services to meet the new challenges.
- Schools' core activities are teaching and learning to ensure children and young people achieve their best. EducationKingston is primarily about improving these aspects. EducationKingston's primary business activity is to provide school improvement services to support and challenge its members. It will also provide reports on school performance to governing bodies and the LA and be held accountable for school effectiveness via the commissioning agreement with RBK. The principle of School to School Support is at the heart of much of EducationKingston.
- In developing the EducationKingston proposal, guiding principles have been implemented throughout. The key objective is to continue to secure the best outcomes for children and young people.
- EducationKingston will be commissioned as a 'One Kingston' self-governing partnership between RBK and schools. A Partnership Board will be created to manage the new organisation. In due course, following the government's awaited proposals regarding Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), the board may consider whether or not conversion to that status would be advantageous.
- The Partnership's governance arrangements mean that EducationKingston is operated 'by schools for schools'. Founding Partnership is open to Kingston's maintained schools and Academies. The partnership will be held accountable for school effectiveness via the commissioning agreement with RBK. The Board's terms of reference will ensure that schools always have the majority vote.
- RBK are committed to an annual contribution to the work of EducationKingston equivalent to approximately £750,000 per annum, for an initial period of 5 years, largely in the form of staff and infrastructure support for data, ICT, HR etc. As the commissioner of EducationKingston, RBK is fully committed to EducationKingston's success.
- Schools commitment is in the form of an annual fee which is the same for all schools regardless of type or size. The EducationKingston Partnership Board will be mindful of the principle that no school will be refused access to services because of an inability to pay. **The initial subscription fee for the financial year 2012-13 will be £7,000 per school.**
- In order to secure RBK's investment into EducationKingston, 90% of schools need to declare their intention to join. The declaration includes a commitment to purchase the subscription service for an initial period of five years.
- The formal 'sign up' deadline for Governing Bodies is the 14th October 2011 and on the 18th October 2011 a formal report which takes full account of schools' views will be presented to Council. If sufficient schools support the proposal, the Council will be asked to formally endorse EducationKingston to operate from April 2012.