Appendix 1 – Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

From Summer 2013 all young people up until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 will be required to participate in education or training. From 2015, this requirement will apply until their 18th birthday.

RPA places new responsibilities on local authorities including two new duties; to promote the participation of 16 and 17 year olds and to identify those 16 and 17 year olds who are not participating.

Table 1 below summarises the duties outlined by the guidance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LA's Duties</th>
<th>Provider's Duties</th>
<th>Young People’s Duties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The LAs duties are to:</td>
<td>Providers are under a duty to:</td>
<td>Young people themselves will be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16 – 19 and for those aged 20-24 with a Learning Difficulty assessment</td>
<td>• secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance</td>
<td>under a duty to participate –to 17 in 2013 and to 18 in 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support young people aged 13- 19 and those aged 20-24 with a Learning Difficulty Assessment that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training</td>
<td>• promote good attendance of 16 and 17 year olds</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promote young people’s effective participation in education or training</td>
<td>• inform the LA if 16 and 17 year olds drop out of learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify persons failing to fulfil the duty to participate in education or training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RPA Statutory Guidance and Annexes

1DfES Statutory Guidance to councils on ‘Participation of young people in education employment and training’ was published on 20 March 2013. The Guidance will be reviewed in 2014.

The local authority’s RPA strategy and action plan

A strategy and action plan has been developed by the IYSS/NEET board and will be overseen by the 14-19 Partnership.

1 http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00222993/stat-guide-young-people-edu-employ-train
The seven main strands to our RPA strategy are set out below and correspond to the duties outlined in the statutory guidance above:

1. Maintaining connection and engagement and continuing to improve performance up to age 16
2. Managing transitions at 16 and 17 – keeping good contact with young people and guiding them towards the right courses in particular to stem the dropout rate at 17; ensuring all young people have an offer in good time;
3. Ensuring the right range of provision across all providers;
4. Making sure strong and well informed careers advice, guidance and support is in place to broker provision;
5. Intervening where young people are disconnected to re-engage with education and training;
6. Underpinned by accurate comprehensive data and evaluations of performance;
7. To oversee and steer resources, both human and financial coherently with demonstrable impact on increasing participation in education, training and employment.

The Action Plan outlines the Council’s response to the challenge of achieving full participation. It includes arrangements for collecting and sharing data with providers and for meeting its duties under the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the Statutory Guidance.