

### Post-16 Operational Board – concepts for testing

#### 1. Concept 1: Status quo

1.1 Detailed feedback was provided through the Post-16 survey and the 2016 Post-16 Review. This can be considered as the starting point. Would other concepts be as good, better or worse in delivering the ambitions for post-16 provision and the areas covered in the survey? These areas include:

- nine sixth form centres in mainstream secondary schools – predominantly A levels;
- post-16 provision in Ysgol Bryn Castell and Heronsbridge Special School;
- the emergence of the Penybont Sixth Form College collaboration;
- some degree of collaboration/partnership activity and common timetabling;
- twilight provision;
- vocational courses at Bridgend College; and
- some limited provision with work-based training providers.

#### 2. Concept 2: Formation of sixth form centre/college

2.1 Model 2a – joint governance by all schools with retention of 11-18 status: in this model the centre is funded through the local authority and there is a joint governing committee with representatives from all schools/post-16 providers:

- in adopting this approach the centre's A level programmes could be staffed by existing school staff with the likelihood of college staff delivering vocational subjects plus the current twilight A levels;
- school timetables could be aligned with that of the centre;
- staff could travel to teach at the centre probably in half day blocks; and
- in terms of a site this could be on an existing school site, a new build, on the Pencoed further education campus or incorporated into any new town centre further education campus.

2.2 Model 2b – new governance and closure of sixth forms with re-designation of schools to 11-16. In this model we would be creating a new entity with its own governance although we would expect broad representation of schools and other post-16 providers on the board:

- this centre would be funded directly by Welsh Government and be considered a further education institution similar to the position of St. David's Sixth Form College in Cardiff;
- a new governing body would need to be established;
- all staff would need to be recruited with new leadership and a new college principal; and
- it would require full application of the school organization code and ministerial approval.

2.3 Model 2c - a part tertiary model with one of the centres based on Bridgend College with the other being a new establishment; as in Model 2b this would

involve the closure of sixth forms and re-designation of schools to 11-16. In this model the centre would be an extension of Bridgend College and would fall under the governance of the college with leadership from the college principal.

### **3. Concept 3 : Retention of some sixth forms alongside a sixth form centre/college**

- 3.1 Model 3a – a mixed economy of one or more sixth forms alongside a sixth form centre with schools retaining their current 11-18 status. Sixth forms continue as now but have a timetable that is aligned with the centre; sixth form centre is under joint governance as in Model 2a above and shares similar features;
- 3.2 Model 3b – the mixed economy but with the features of governance from Model 2b above; and
- 3.3 Model 3c – the mixed economy but with features of governance from Model 2c above.

### **4. Concept 4 : Full tertiary system**

- 4.1 In this concept all schools become 11-16 schools and students transfer to Bridgend College at the end of Year 11. Bridgend College has its own governance and funding from Welsh Government but there might be an expectation of increased representation from BCBC and secondary schools on the Governing Body.

### **5. Specific considerations**

- 5.1 Welsh-medium provision to be considered as follows:
  - current partnership arrangements with neighbouring Welsh-medium schools to be continued / expanded;
  - Welsh-medium post-16 provision delivered within a sixth form centre; and
  - Welsh-medium post-16 provision delivered within a further education setting.
- 5.2 Post-16 provision is to be retained in special schools but with increased collaboration with Bridgend College and more ALN 16-18 year olds succeeding in a college setting.
- 5.3 The aspirations of faith-based education post-16 for the Catholic high school and diocese.
- 5.4 In order to support the Board's understanding of these concepts, a briefing paper was prepared which contained links to a range of post-16 provisions across Wales that provided examples of the concepts under discussion. This paper was appendix 7 in the original report and is attached.

5.5 As indicated in the preceding notes Model 2b and Model 3b describe a situation where a new independent sixth form centre/college could be established. The closest example to this is St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College in Cardiff. Although sixth form colleges are a significant part of the post-16 sector in England, St. David's is the only example in Wales. At the time of this review St. David's College was undertaking a consultation exercise with the intention of giving up independent further education status and returning to the local authority as a voluntary aided school. A copy of the consultation document was attached as Appendix 8 to the original Post-16 Board report. The Board recognised the strength of the arguments being put forward by St. David's College and took the view to discard Models 2b and 3b from the appraisal exercise.