



BIG CREATIVE ACADEMY COMMISSIONING STATEMENT

Updated September 2017
Approved by the Principal

Commissioning is about achieving best outcomes, and this is most effective when partners work to a common set of principles. The wide acceptance of the principles makes it easier to develop local and national arrangements. They reinforce effective practice but do not compromise the detailed procedures or operating arrangements that exist at a local level. The following principles support the Academy to achieve these aims. These principles require leadership, new partnerships, a redistribution of power towards children, young people and their families, strategic understanding and a more rigorous approach to securing provision.

At Big Creative Academy the values and principles that underpin the delivery of our 16-19 entitlements are based on those agreed between the Department for Education and the funding agencies. The Academy will adopt these principles when considering entering any commissioning agreements.

Six Principles for Commissioning

1. Put the needs of children, young people and families first and ensure that they are engaged and consulted.
2. Provide leadership for commissioning at the highest level in the Academy
3. Provide preventative services at the earliest appropriate moment.
4. Work in partnership to maximise effectiveness and reduce barriers to services.
5. Ensure that people have the right skills to undertake the work.
6. Look beyond the immediate circumstances of current service users and develop a long-term view of the needs of the students within the Academy

Big Creative Academy aspirations to improve the participation and achievement of young people in post-16 learning and to ensure that the right guidance and support is available to all young people and will use these principles to underpin the policy for commissioning of all services.

Policy & Procedures

- 1.1 The commissioning process and associated transitional arrangements will require robust mechanisms that enable both the Academy and agencies to operate in a manner that can demonstrate strong leadership and performance management. This includes appropriate governance and accountability arrangements at a local and national level.
- 1.2 In order to meet the challenges associated with responding to the needs of all 14-19 learners, employers and the wider community, Commissioners and their Partners will be relying on having at their disposal efficient and well organised policy and planning systems that encourage regular review and monitoring at all levels. It is also essential that public accountability be clearly demonstrated through transparent governance arrangements.

- 1.3 In addition, given that existing and future partnership arrangements will be a key element in the commissioning process the planning and delivery mechanisms will need to reflect the highest standards in collaborative and strategic planning arrangements. With these in place accurate analysis of supply and demand can be determined by the Academy, following detailed curriculum planning and implementation of the Learner Entitlement.
- 1.4 A key element of curriculum planning will be the risk analysis aspect of assessing whether or not the costs and capacity to deliver associated with any aspects of provision will satisfy “value for money” criteria. Planning provision will need to take account of capital as well as revenue implications and links made to all capital projects.
- 1.5 Procedures will also be required that demonstrate the planning of 14-19 provision is informed by other Local Authority wide improvement programmes and in particular how the views of young people are taken into account as part of their “ Economic Well Being”
- 1.6 The commissioning process will require follow agreed and easily administered procedures and protocols, ratified by the governing body. These will need to conform to national and local statutory and legal frameworks in order to ensure compliance. As the commissioning cycle itself will require compliance with national, regional and local time frames it will be essential that all related activities are managed in accordance with agreed schedules and protocols. Allied to this will be the requirement to have appropriate procedures in place and checked against any core legal requirements, this process will be overseen by the Director of Finance at the Academy and the Principal.
- 1.7 This will apply particularly in relation to the selection of and contracting arrangements with providers. In addition specific elements linked to data gathering, sharing and dissemination will require clear and concise processes and protocols that meet appropriate quality benchmarks.
- 1.8 All aspects of the commissioning process will require the maintenance of high standards throughout the planning and delivery of learner services. These standards will require regular internal and external monitoring that the Academy will put in place an appropriate quality assurance system that ensures the agreed standards are met and indeed improved on wherever necessary.