

FAO: Headteacher

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28 March 2011

Dear Headteacher

Important: Education Business Link Activity

As you may be aware the DfE has not allocated funding for Education Business Link (EBL) activity beyond the 31st March 2011.

This funding pays for important work related activity that most schools will have planned for next term and will already have entered into agreements with the providers. We could not allow so many learners to be disappointed and have taken funding from some other Children's Services activities to put together a short term bridging solution to enable the subsidised services to continue until 31st July 2011. These include the continuation of the contracts with NWES Exchange, Beacon East and the health and safety checking of placements as undertaken by the Work Placement Support Service within the LA.

We are delighted that we have been able to safeguard this important work for the coming term but this note is to alert you that from 1st August 2011 EBL services required by schools will no longer be subsidised by DfE funding. Any such services required by schools including work placement organisation, health and safety checks and Professional Development Placements will need to be planned with this national context in mind. At this stage we do not anticipate any change to this position though, along with other Local Authorities, we are making representations to the Young People's Learning Agency and DfE.

If there is no national funding for this work in future it will have significant implications for the nature of work placements and potential implications for school budgets. We will ensure that these issues are discussed through the 14-19 Local Operational Partnerships next term and provide further information as the situation becomes clearer.

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Norfolk County Council
at your service

In the meantime if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Youll'.

Sally Youll
14-19 Manager
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