

Case Study: Liverpool Lighthouse

Executive Summary

Liverpool Lighthouse is a proposal for an Alternative Provision Free School for 100 secondary school aged pupils. The school will cater for young people who have been excluded from school or who are at risk of exclusion for a variety of reasons including emotional or behavioural problems. The school would be divided into six groups - a small group of Year 9 pupils, four groups of pupils in Years 10 and 11, and a small group for post-sixteen provision. The Free School would grow out of an existing urban arts centre that has been running since 2003 and would offer a range of urban arts qualifications as well as providing training in core subjects and personal development and employability skills.

Despite the time constraints, the group felt strongly that they wanted to submit an application this year since this is the first year with a distinct application process for Alternative Provision Free Schools. They were subsequently surprised by the number of applications that were submitted for Alternative Provision Free Schools.

Preparing the curriculum model was the most difficult section of the application for this group, requiring careful thought about what they would be delivering, how it could be enhanced, and the number of young people they would be working with.

The group's existing relationship with the Local Authority, and their successful track record of providing alternative education, helped them secure the necessary support from their Local Authority. They also have support from neighbouring Local Authorities, although this was more challenging to secure.

The advice that this group would offer to other prospective Free School applicant groups is to work in collaboration with NSN, to assess local need, and to work get the Local Authority and local schools on board.

The following case study looks at the vision for the school including scaling up an existing programme; the distinctive educational plan; the proposed premises; the development of relationships with the Local Authority and community partners; and the importance of Alternative Provision within the Free Schools policy.

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