

1. WHAT ARE VESA'S MAIN FUNCTIONS?

- **Curriculum development**
- developing the curriculum in response to local and national demands
- **Staff development & in-service training (INSET)**
- organising activities / training to support the process of curriculum change
- **Enhancement experiences & opportunities for students**
- developing & organising collaborative schemes to enhance / enrich student learning
- **Management & development forums**
- facilitating & servicing activity to support the process of curriculum change & school / college improvement
- developing and disseminating good practice
- **Managing & Supporting collaborative partnerships/projects**
(e.g. Leicester Post-16 Zone)

2. THE MAIN SERVICES VESA PROVIDES?

- **Providing networks, consortia , development/user groups and an annual conference programme**
(a collaborative infrastructure for support and development)
- **Delivering training and advisory support**
(for teachers and staff from partner organisations)
- **Co-ordinating local, regional and national initiatives**
- **Managing collaborative projects and activities**
- **Undertaking research & development**
- **Anchoring “clearing-house” arrangements**
(to aid efficiency and widen opportunities for students, e.g. Work Experience, FE Links)
- **Facilitating cross-institutional and cross-sector collaboration and development**
(providing the “glue” to link schools, FE, HE & other partners, City & County)
- **Providing neutrality and honest brokerage**
(to put interests of learners before those of any one institution or sector)
- **Acting as a catalyst for and facilitator of innovation and collaborative solutions**
- **Identifying, sharing and disseminating good practice**

VESA – SUPPORTING 14-19 IMPLEMENTATION IN LEICESTERSHIRE

	<u>Main VESA Services</u>	<u>Examples of what this means in practice</u>	<u>Relevance for 14-19 Implementation</u>
1.	FE & WBL Link Courses and Collaborative Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local City-wide “Clearing –house” system - City IF Partnership: Management & Co-ordination (+ support for County IF Partnership) 	A sound foundation for collaborative Locality Planning in preparation for Specialised Diplomas etc.
2.	Alternative Curriculum (Entry Level & Level 1 provision)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future Pathways - Leicester+shire Alternative Curriculum Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-engagement Project - Foundation Learning Tier - Specialised Diplomas at Level 1
3.	Work Experience Development & Placement Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management & Co-ordination of WEXA Placement Service - County-wide “Clearing –House” for Health & Safety etc. 	Anchor point for development of Work Experience as part of new Diploma system (Generic & tailored)
4.	Student Vocational Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A range of student curriculum enhancement opportunities 	Activities to strengthen & deliver the Vocational dimension of Specialised Diplomas and feed Functional/ Wider Key Skills
5.	Aimhigher (Widening Participation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic leadership, management and co-ordination of Leicester+shire Aimhigher 	Expand Vocational progression routeways to FE & HE (through a collaborative partnership approach)
6.	VESA’s Annual Curriculum & Staff Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One day conferences and tailored events - Support Networks for Senior & Middle managers and Initiative co-ordinators - Subject development & User Groups - Consortia (for specific initiatives) - Specialist support for WrL & PDC - KS3 Support Programme 	<p>A ready-made support and development infrastructure for 13-19 curriculum and staff development.</p> <p>Provides a wide range of opportunities to bring City & County staff together, at all levels of the system, to address key 13-19 development challenges.</p>
7.	Managing and supporting collaboration	e.g. managing Leicester’s Post-16 Zone co-ordinating GO:EM’s 14-19 Forum	<p>Extensive experience (since TVEI) of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working to turn collaborative intentions into practical, collaborative outcomes - Managing cross-sector collaborative projects - Providing capacity to support key 14-19 staff within institutions and in a range of partner organisations
8.	Collaborative Project Management	e.g. ESF Alternative Curriculum Project LSN local networks for Vocational Learning	
9.	VESA Advisory Support / Consultancy	e.g. pre-Ofsted preparation Specialist College status bids tailored support on request	

	<u>Main VESA Services</u>	<u>What this means in practice (for illustration)</u>	<u>Relevance for 14-19 Implementation</u> <u>How will this VESA service contribute?</u>
1.	FE & WBL Link Courses (Development of Collaborative Provision)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management & Co-ordination of Leicester City's Increased Flexibility" Partnership(s) - Collaborative "Taster" programme - Support for County IF Partnerships (on behalf of LSC) - Managing and operating a "Clearing –house" system for FE/ WBL student opportunities and placements - Quality assurance, protocols, underpinning systems etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sound foundation for collaborative Locality Planning in preparation for Specialised Diplomas. - Systems, protocols, logistics etc. to develop a wider programme, extending student choice between general and vocational qualifications at KS4 - Central contribution to Area14-19 Prospectus - Reinforce existing networks and develop new networks to meet the 14-19 challenge
2.	Alternative Curriculum (Support & Development of Collaborative provision at Entry Level & Level 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management & Co-ordination of "Future Pathways" (a collaborative programme including 13 schools, a range of Post-16 providers and 200 students across years 10 & 11) - Co-ordination of the Leicester+shire Alternative Curriculum Co-ordinators' Network (sharing practice & encouraging developments) - ESF Project "Pathways to Vocational Achievement" - Working with YOS to deliver the PLUS Strategy in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to DfES "Re-engagement Project" - Developing the "Foundation Learning Tier" (basic / key skills, personal development & vocational skills) - Preparation for the Specialised Diplomas at Level 1 (Vocational tasting and skills development) - PLUS will contribute to the implementation of Functional Skills
3.	Work Experience Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placement Service - Health & Safety Checks - Curriculum & Staff development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management & Co-ordination of WEXA (Leicester-shire Work Experience Alliance) - County-wide "Clearing – House" for Health & Safety, Employer Vetting etc...(10,000 + per annum) - WEXA Placement Service, providing placements for 7,000+ students per annum - Block placements, tailored placements, extended placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong "anchor point" from which to respond to the challenges of developing Work Experience in the Specialised Diplomas - Balancing the demands of generic and targeted placements - Exploring the potential contribution of Work Experience to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialised & General Diplomas • PLTS / PDC • Functional Skills
4.	Student Vocational Conferences (bringing together a range of sector employers and support agencies)	<p>A range of student curriculum enhancement opportunities to support Vocational Education and Work-related Learning, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health & Social Care ▪ Citizenship & Wrl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance Specialised Diploma delivery by strengthening the Vocational dimension (& pre-cursor qualifications, such as BTEC etc.) - Feed into Functional & Wider Key Skills developments - A model for streamlining Employer Engagement in support of the new Diploma System (linked to Sector Specific User/ Development Groups etc.)

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5.	Aimhigher (Widening Participation and Gifted & Talented)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Leadership and management of the Leicester+shire Aimhigher Initiative - Bringing together schools, FE, HE, & WBL sectors in collaboratuive partnership to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widen participation in FE & HE ▪ Develop & expand vocational progression routes ▪ Raise achievement levels in preparation for HE ▪ Challenge and stretch able students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote, develop and expand Vocational progression routeways to HE (to include the Specialised Diplomas as they are rolled out) - Aimhigher is a collaborative partnership which mirrors the 14-19 White Paper requirement for institutions and sectors to work together to deliver SDs & Progression Pathways - VESA has extensive experience of managing & co-ordinating collaborative partnership & cross-sector planning / delivery
6.	VESA's Annual Curriculum & Staff Development Programme	<p><u>An extensive traded portfolio “menu” of:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) One day conferences and tailored events on focus topics b) Support Networks for Senior & Middle Managers and Initiative Co-ordinators c) Subject development & “User” Groups for front-line staff in specific Vocational areas d) Consortia (providing a collaborative support for specified curriculum initiatives) e) Specialist Support for WrL & PDC f) KS3 Support Programme <p><u>NB: each of these component services a) to f) is described in more detail below:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This extensive support & development programme provides a ready-made, vibrant and pro-active collaborative infrastructure for focussed 13-19 curriculum and staff development activities which already operates across City & County - Any of this programme’s component parts can be focussed directly on specific aspects of the 14-19 Implementation agenda (as, indeed, much of the 05/06 programme already has and much of the 06/07 programme is already planned to do...)
		<p>a) <u>Conferences & “Tailored Events”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VESA will run as “backbone” programme of 6 curriculum conferences in 06/07 (& will contribute to several other local & regional events) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KS4 - Work-related Learning (incl. W.exp.) - Post-16 - Alternative Curriculum (Entry Level 1) - 13-19 - Progress File ▪ We will also provide a range of events in response to needs which emerge during the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key note inputs, workshops and local, regional and national updates will focus on 14-19 Implementation issues and pilot practice ▪ Specific events can be set up as a quick response to issues/ needs emerging from other strands of VESA Activity, e.g. preparing to deliver BTECs (in conjunction with edexcel)

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6.	VESA's Annual Curriculum & Staff Development Programme (continued...)	<p>b) <u>Support Networks</u> (for Senior & Middle Managers, Initiative Co-ordinators)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KS4 Deputies / Senior Managers ▪ Post-16 Senior Managers ▪ 14-19 Vocational Co-ordinators ▪ Functional / Basic & Key Skills mangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These networks provide City / County forums for discussion, sharing practice and, where appropriate, joint planning in areas including Specialist Diploma provision, emerging 14-19 curriculum models, PLTS and Functional Skills. ▪ They also provide a basis for project sub-groups to address issues &/or produce materials etc...
		<p>c) <u>Subject Development & “User” Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 x Level 3 Groups (e.g. Voc. “A levels”) ▪ 7 x Level 1 & 2 Groups (e.g. VGCSEs) ▪ BTEC Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ready-made vocational networks to support evolving Specialist Diplomas (& the incorporation of Functional Skills etc.) ▪ Forum for addressing teaching & learning, programme design, delivery & quality issues
		<p>d) <u>Consortia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future Pathways ▪ Progress File, ILP & IAG ▪ LPDP (Leicestershire Personal Development Programme) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A structured, collaborative approach to support key components of the developing 14-19 Curriculum offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal Development / PLTS - Foundation Learning Tier - Personalised Learning - Action Planning and Review etc.
		<p>e) <u>Specialist Support for WrL & PDC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KS4 WrL Mangers ▪ Pre-16 PDC Accreditation Support Programme (see LPDP under 6d above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that WrL is fully developed and its potential contribution harnessed as part of the new General & Specialist Diploma system ▪ Employability skills, enterprise, Citizenship ▪ Properly developed PDC as the “curriculum glue” to help students make sense of their overall programmes.
		<p>f) <u>KS3 Support Programme</u> (to meet increasing demand from KS3 [especially County High Schools] for 14-19 pre-cursor activity to provide an effective foundation for student success 14-19)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The growing importance of a refined and re-structured KS3 to provide a proper “basic for choice” at 13/14+ and to prepare students effectively for transition to and progression through the 14-19 phase.

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7.	Managing and supporting collaboration (Inter-institutional, cross-sector initiatives etc.)	e.g. Management of Leicester’s Post-16 Zone Co-ordinating the GO:EM 14-19 Forum see section 5 above on Aimhigher	VESA’s experience (reaching back to TVE!!) of helping to turn collaborative intentions into practical, collaborative outcomes will be invaluable as Leicester+shire LAs face the coming challenges of leading 14-19 developments.
8.	Collaborative Project Management	e.g. ESF Alternative Curriculum Project Co-ordinating LSN local networks to support Vocational Learning Managing Post-16 Zone “Mini-Projects”	VESA’s experience of managing collaborative cross-sector projects will feed in to key 14-19 developments (such as the Area-wide Prospectus and Curriculum Locality Planning)
9.	VESA Advisory Support / Consultancy	e.g. Pre-Ofsted preparation Specialist College status bids ad hoc support in response to requests from individual schools/ colleges &/or local themed groupings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VESA has expertise and potential capacity to support key colleagues who hold 14-19 development responsibility within institutions or within local partner organisations (e.g. LAs, LSC, CNX, LANTERN etc.) ▪ Key contribution to 14-19 “Health Check” and allied Special Diploma “Gateway” process