

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: BILLERICAY **EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM SCITT**

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 Billericay Educational Consortium SCITT provides a full time, one year postgraduate teacher training programme for those wishing to teach at primary level across Key Stage 1 and 2. We currently offer 23 places and successful trainees gain recommendation for QTS and the PGCE award validated through Open University Validation Services with the majority securing their first teaching post in local schools.

Our aims are to provide high quality initial teacher training to give trainees the opportunity to acquire:

- excellent professional attributes;
- good subject knowledge;
- well developed skills in learning and teaching;
- proficient reflective classroom practitioner skills.

Billericay Educational Consortium SCITT is committed:

- To respond positively to changes within the context of National Initial Teacher Training as a provider of high quality education and training.
- To support the professional development of Mentors within partnership schools.
- To be involved in research to support the development of high quality education and training.
- To provide equality of opportunity to all and welcome trainees from diverse ethnic backgrounds regardless of tender, disability, religious or social contexts.
- To continue to develop self assessment procedures to promote continuous improvement so that the current TDA quality category is maintained at the next review.
- To increase the proportion of high quality trainees employed within Essex.

2. Length of Agreement

- 2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2007/08. However, we have committed to return to OFFA by May 2009 to seek approval for our monitoring criteria, which due to a lack of relevant data, has not yet been developed.

3. Fee Limits

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of up to £3,000 for all of our full-time postgraduate ITT courses leading to recommendation for Qualified Teacher Status and Professional Graduate Certificate in Education from the 2007/08 academic year. This agreement is for 5 years. The fee limit will rise with inflation (inline with annually published Government regulations).
- 3.2 The actual fees charged for the September 2007 entry will be £2500. The fee levels will be reviewed annually in the light of:-
- the impact of the fees on increasing the number of successful outcomes from under-represented groups;
 - The impact of the fees in recruiting suitable applicants to the course.

4. Bursary Support

- 4.1 If the tuition fee increases beyond £2700.00 we will commit to meeting the minimum bursary requirement i.e. making up the difference between the fee charged and the full maintenance grant awarded.

5. Publicising Fees and Financial Support

- 5.1 A number of methods will be used to ensure that prospective students are as clear as possible about the fee charged. These are outline below:
- 5.2 The website www.billericayscitt.com contains a page on finance, including fee and support information, and includes links to other sources of information. This information includes institutional support and support available through the government, through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and student loans.
- 5.3 Applicants will be issued with the details of the amount and when fees are to be charged when they are offered an interview. The details will be repeated in the letter offering a place. This information will therefore be clearly articulated to applicants at offer stage, before they make their key decisions on whether to accept a place.

6. Outreach

- 6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our student cohort, when compared to HE sector from which we recruit. If we identify an area of significant under-representation, we will seek to address this and may do so by considering whether there might be any effective outreach initiatives which could be directed at such groups.

7. Institutional Targets and Milestones

- 7.1 We do not currently collect data which would be suitable to determine baseline for targets and milestones around Trainees needing this support however we may wish to monitor the support in order to ascertain its best use.

- 7.2 We will seek to maintain or increase the proportion of students in our target groups, but will only be able to set meaningful targets once data is available. Therefore, we commit to return to OFFA to revise this agreement by May 2009, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2009/10 academic year.

8. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the senior management team who will report annually to the Billericay Education Consortium Governing Body. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and other under-represented groups. When baseline targets and milestones are determined we will look to monitor against these.
- 8.2 Our annual report to the Billericay Educational Consortium Governing Body will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.