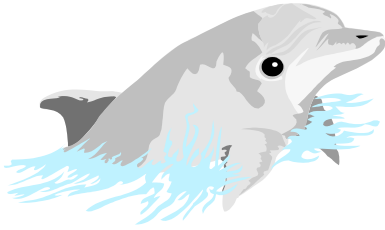


The Borough of

(Schools-Centred Initial Teacher Training Scheme)



Managing Agent: The Max Gate Consultancy Ltd,
Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2AB
Tel: 01305 262538; Fax: 01305 250978

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: THE BOROUGH OF POOLE SCITT

1. Introduction

THE Borough of Poole SCITT is a small schools-centred partnership which recruits 25 trainees per year, largely from the local community. The course has attracted career changers and mature trainees as well as those who have recently completed their degrees.

The mission of the Borough of Poole SCITT is to inspire, motivate and educate future teachers to have a lifelong commitment to raising standards in schools by unlocking every learner's potential.

The Borough of Poole SCITT is committed to the inclusion of all eligible participants, regardless of sex, age, disability, colour, religion or nationality. We welcome applications from ethnic minority and other under-represented groups.

2. Length of agreement

- 2.1 This agreement is for 5 years from the academic year 2006/07. However, we have committed to return to OFFA by May 2008 to seek approval for our monitoring criteria which, due to a lack of current relevant data, has not yet been developed (see section 7).

3. Fee limits

- 3.1 The Borough of Poole SCITT Management Board plan to charge variable fees of £2,500 for the full-time postgraduate ITT course from the 2006/07 academic year. The fee limit will rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations).

4. Bursary support

- 4.1 At this level of variable fees we are not required to provide bursary support. However we do intend to extend and enhance the access funding which we currently offer to trainees suffering financial hardship during the course. These are discretionary, means tested awards made by the SCITT Management Board in cases of financial hardship. We will set aside 8% of the variable fees funding for this purpose.

- 4.2 Usually some 3 – 4 trainees make use of this facility during the academic year.

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, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These will be completed by March 2006 and are outlined below:
- 5.2 Our website will contain a section on finance, including fee and support information. Support information will include institutional support and support available through the government through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.
- 5.3 This information will also be published in our prospectus and in a leaflet which we will be used in the course of any outreach activity.
- 5.4 This information will be clearly articulated to applicants in writing at offer stage, before they make their key decisions on whether to accept a place.

6. Outreach

We have already identified several areas of under-representation in our student cohort and will use some of the funding from the variable fees to continue already extant outreach work.

In a largely white community we have identified a particular difficulty in recruiting candidates from ethnic minority communities. We have a target figure from the TDA of 1, but have only twice managed to meet our target. We have had no applications from candidates with disabilities (except dyslexia); we have not had access to any data regarding low income or socio-economic deprivation.

We have, however, been particularly successful in recruiting male candidates to primary teaching (45%, 46% & 29% over past 3 years).

We plan to continue and expand the outreach work started this year, in which the SCITT Management Board has employed a public relations company to raise the profile of the SCITT in the local community in order to attract a wider range of applicants. The company has been given a specific brief to help increase the number of minority ethnic candidates. To facilitate this they have set up a new web site to ease communications with the wider community and are currently undertaking a leafleting campaign in an area of Bournemouth known to have a significant number of ethnic minority university students. The leaflet has been designed to attract a wider audience and endorse our commitment to equality of opportunity. Using some of the variable fees funding we intend to continue and expand these activities and develop further links with ethnic and other under-represented groups in the area (eg the Islamic Centre and Bournemouth University) as well as targeting areas further afield.

7. Institutional Targets and milestones

7.1 We have identified, through benchmarking and data collection, our position regarding minority ethnic recruitment and recruitment of males to the teaching profession. Our target for minority ethnic candidates (set by TDA) is one per course from a local ethnic population of around 6%. We achieved our target this year and hope to attract others for the course beginning Sept 2006 through our current leafleting campaign; results will be known by July 2006. Results of our campaigns for 2008 will be known by July 2007. We have been unable, however, to collect data which would be suitable to determine a baseline for targets and milestones around low income or socio-economic groups. However, we will wish to monitor the numbers of students participating in our institution who are in receipt of full or partial state support. We will also wish to develop targets around other under-represented groups if identified.

7.2 We will actively seek to 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 2008, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2008/9 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 group who will report annually to the SCITT Management Board. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rates and the development of data on lower income and other under-represented groups, against which to monitor. When specific baselines, targets, and milestones are determined we will look to monitor against these.

8.2 Our annual report to the SCITT Management Board will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA.