



Assessment Report

Organisation	Kingston Merton Education Business Partnership
Date of Assessment	30th September 2009
Assessment Team	Cath Longhurst Portsmouth & SE Hants EBP David Tofts Independent Consultant

4. Report Summary

4.1 Areas of Good Practice.

The assessment team identified the following areas of good practice:

- KMEBP is well managed and has excellent business planning processes. Trustees and staff are fully engaged in the planning processes and everyone involved feels listened to and valued.
- This is an EBP with strong leadership supported by good governance structures and a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dedicated team of staff. In the words of one of the trustees: 'They have their finger on the pulse for national developments and are thinking forward'.
- Staff development and training are embedded within the culture of the organisation as testified by all staff interviewed and the IIP report. This is clearly an organisation where staff feel fully involved, able to contribute at all levels and have opportunities through training, conferences and working with others in the team, to develop their skills and confidence.
- KMEBP offers a range of high quality programmes, very much tailored to the needs of the schools and the particular groups of students. The staff team are particularly strong at planning programmes, attention to detail, and offering some innovative approaches which help to really engage young people.
- The EBP is highly regarded by all education and businesses alike, who praised the organisation describing it and its staff as 'proactive, creative, responsive, reliable, totally committed, a breath of fresh air, having a positive/can do attitude, passionate, having a good rapport, outstanding relationships, inclusive, remove obstacles and not bound by the 'rule book'.
- Through its work with schools the EBP is able to demonstrate the impact of its work with young people. It regularly seeks feedback and evaluates its work with a focus on continuous improvement. The feedback from young people was described by a funder as 'positive and genuine'.

4.2. Areas for Development

- The EBP has some very successful and innovative programmes. These are worthy of wider dissemination. This could provide a good business opportunity for the EBP to develop further and possibly market more widely.
- KMEBP as a brand is not widely recognised but its successful projects are. The choice of the new name and its forthcoming launch programme provides the EBP with an opportunity to promote themselves.
- The mentoring programme is clearly very successful and valued by mentors, young people and schools alike. Some mentors indicated they would like more feedback about the outcomes for individual students.
- The production of the forthcoming employer engagement strategy should provide opportunities for further development, especially in the areas of Foundation Learning and Apprenticeships.

- Recognising the limited resources available to the EBP, it needs to work to continue to promote the benefits to employers of engaging with education, and to increase the numbers of employer engaged in its work.
- The work of the EBP is restricted by lack of resources. However, it has been innovative in securing additional funding from alternative funding streams to support the organisation, mainly in the areas of targeted work with vulnerable young people. In order to survive as an organisation and continue as an EBPO, they need to continue to look for additional funding opportunities in order to maintain and possibly increase their capacity and range of work.