



14-19 Education and Skills Implementation Plan

Foreword



A good education is the key to better life chances – a route out of poverty and into better opportunities. Over recent years, schools and colleges have made impressive strides. 2005 saw the best ever primary school, Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level results and the highest ever success rates in further education and work-based learning. Inspection tells us that this generation of teachers, lecturers and tutors is the best we have ever had.



Yet there is still more to do to create a system which is not merely good, but excellent – everywhere in the country and for all young people. We have more young people dropping out of education and training before the age of 18 than in many other countries. For all the improvement in individual schools and colleges, not enough young people feel engaged by the education on offer.

The recent White Paper *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All* proposes reforms to ensure that every school is a good school and that every child receives increasingly tailored support. This Implementation Plan, published jointly by the key national partners who must lead important aspects of the changes, details how we will implement the reforms to qualifications and curriculum set out in the *14-19 Education and Skills* White Paper, published in February this year.

Summary



- 1 Our aim is a system of 14-19 education matching the best anywhere; a system where all young people have opportunities to learn in ways which motivate and stretch them and through hard work qualify themselves for success in life; one where educational opportunity and chances in life do not depend on accident of birth, but are uniformly available to all young people.
- 2 In our White Paper, *14-19 Education and Skills*, we set out our policy proposals for introducing the qualifications and curriculum changes that would be necessary to create that system. Since then, our Green Paper, *Youth Matters*, and our White Paper, *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All*, have set out how services for young people and the schools system will be reformed to achieve the same ends; and our White Paper, *Getting on in Business, Getting on at Work*, has set out plans for continuing skills development for adults.
- 3 In this document we set out in detail how we will implement *14-19 Education and Skills* and how, in doing so, we will create a system capable of offering a new set of curriculum and qualifications opportunities, truly built around the needs and aspirations of each young person.

We will put in place a new national entitlement...

- 4 The centrepiece of our programme of reform is the creation of a new national curriculum and qualifications entitlement. Every young person will be expected to master the basics. Every young person will receive a sufficiently broad education to be able to progress further in learning and into employment.

