



## **Statement Re: Dv8 Sussex's Recent Ofsted Inspection and Outcome**

As you may be aware Dv8 recently had an Ofsted inspection, which unfortunately resulted in an Overall Effectiveness grading of Inadequate.

We are obviously hugely disappointed by this final grading, having just achieved our best ever year of qualification achievements, retention and progression.

We have a longstanding track record, recognised by Local Authorities, of working positively with a vulnerable client group and succeeding with young people who often have not achieved previously. Young people feel safe and supported at Dv8, they achieve and progress onto positive destinations. This was recognised in the report.

We very much want to reassure all students, parents & carers, stakeholders and partners that we are committed to addressing all areas identified for improvement at inspection, continuing our journey towards becoming a 'Good' or "Outstanding" provider of skills training for young people.

We want to reassure also that all current programmes this year will continue to be delivered as planned. We will continue to recruit students for September starts on 2019/20 programmes as normal, whilst in discussion with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

We have appealed the overall grading, and this is in process; however, we very much want to focus on moving forward positively. We take very seriously our commitment to provide the best possible service to students, parents and stakeholders and have taken immediate action to address key issues identified at inspection, including:

- Further developing our existing Advisory Board to now include an Ofsted Inspector, an Assistant Principal of an Outstanding Brighton 6th form and a leading Education Sector Specialist. The first meeting of the expanded Board was held on Friday 11th January and we will meet every two months ongoing.
- Putting in place immediate measures to improve attendance and punctuality (79% at inspection)
- Beginning planned streaming of Maths and English classes for GCSE's to improve 4-9 outcomes
- Fully implementing the teacher Observation and Coaching programme that was in its initial phases at inspection.
- Ensuring all Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan annual reviews are fully up to date and remain so at all times.
- Accelerating the delivery of impartial careers guidance (CEIAG) sessions that had started during inspection.

The inspection also recognised a number of key strengths at Dv8. These included that we had successfully "raised the proportion of learners who achieved vocational and functional skills qualifications in 2017/18; achievement is now high in many subjects". It was also recognised that "Learners gain in confidence and most move on to further education" and that staff "focus relentlessly on eliminating barriers to participation for young people who have previously not succeeded in education."

We have already held a number of supportive meetings with both Brighton and Hove and East Sussex Local Authorities and this is set to continue. This support will help to ensure that our specialist provision can move forward positively, enabling young people to engage and achieve, addressing all areas identified for improvement at inspection as quickly as possible.



## Dv8 Outcomes in 17/18

Our overall outcomes in 2017/18 were our best yet achieved, with improvements made on every measure since the last report. Over three quarters of all qualifications entered achieved above provider group averages and over half achieved above large college averages nationally.

- 78% of vocational qualifications were achieved, our highest since becoming a lead provider
- 66% achieved English Functional Skills - the highest we have achieved and above or equitable to larger college rates across all levels.
- 60% achieving a work placement
- 76% of qualifications exceeded national averages for our provider group
- 91% retention rate (students completing their course).
- 86% of our students progressed onto further learning or employment following the course.
- Students with EHC Plans achieved outstanding results with 93% vocational achievement, 80% English Functional Skills, 73% gaining a work placement and 100% progressing positively.

## Local Support

The support offered from key partners, parents, students and stakeholders has been hugely appreciated. As well as meeting with Local Authorities, we have met with other key local agencies and partners, and will be in discussion with parents, carers and students ongoing, ensuring that we work closely with all stakeholders, as we move forward positively.

Rachel Carter, Head of Skills and Employment from Brighton and Hove City Council has said; *“DV8 have been working with the Brighton and Hove City Council for over 15 years in the city of Brighton & Hove, supporting some of our most vulnerable young people in the City. We will be working closely where appropriate with them over the coming months to ensure that all areas identified for improvement at inspection are addressed. We believe that their specialist provision offers valuable creative pathways for young people in the City. “*

Students, parents and carers have also offered much support since inspection, highlighting the positive impact of our work. Lynn Wilson, the parent of a student with an EHC Plan, who studied at Dv8 for a number of years, stated that *“Dv8 have been amazing. The support they gave my son has been fantastic. He grew in confidence and achieved so much more than his school had ever thought possible. He has now moved on to a bigger college, something which at one point he would not have done. Thank you so much to all at Dv8”*

## Moving Forward

We will be working closely with the Local Authorities and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the coming weeks to establish Dv8's position and confirm delivery plans for 2019/20.

We remain committed to our mission to “empower creative thinkers to be successful in work and life”. This is central to everything that we do and we believe that Dv8 occupies a unique position locally to support young people to achieve this. We will keep all parties informed as we progress.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Wallman', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dan Wallman  
Managing Director, Dv8 Sussex



For further information or to ask any questions regarding the current position, our plans for next year or our current actions taken in response to Ofsted, please contact the centre on:

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