



## **ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: THE SHIRE FOUNDATION SCITT**

### **1. Introduction:**

- 1.1 The Shire Foundation SCITT has 12 years experience of school-centred initial teacher training. We believe the quality of your initial training is of paramount importance in developing the acquisition of effective teaching skills. We currently have 25 places on our PGCE course. Our PGCE is the Professional Graduate Certificate of Education, validated by the University of Luton. We offer a Primary (3-11) course, based in a 'state-of-the-art' teacher-centre based in Luton. The majority of your time (60%) will be in our first class local Primary schools, with a trained Mentor/School-based Trainer as your professional and personal guide. We are committed to recruiting and selecting trainees who are themselves committed to the values of access and achievement for all', whether in schools or in higher education. Shire is a partner with the University of Luton and Luton Borough Council where we are committed to their values that 'equality matters'.

### **2. Length of the Agreement:**

- 2.1 This agreement will be for 5 years from 2006/07. However we will commit 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.

### **3. Fee Limits:**

- 3.1 We will charge a fee of £2,700 for all full-time post-graduate ITT courses 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 Shire is concerned that variable tuition fee arrangements should not deter those students from low and middle income groups from accessing our PGCE course.
- 4.2 Shire will pay £500 to trainees in the 'partial state support' threshold of between £17,500-£20,000 and pay a bursary of £700 to trainees in receipt of 'full state support'
- 4.3 Bursary payments will be one-off payments made in the Spring term annually.
- 4.4 Shire expects that approximately 50% of its trainees will benefit from this bursary support.

## **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 charge, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These outlined below:
- 5.2 Shires 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 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:**

- 6.1 We will seek to identify areas of under-representation in our student cohort, when compared to the 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 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 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 2008, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from 2008/09.
- 7.3 We would expect to use additional monies generated from the fees to support our Mentors/Schools-based Trainers and Class teachers in our training schools by giving them additional payments to reflect the vital work they do in quality Initial Teacher Training.

## **8. Monitoring Arrangements:**

- 8.1 We will formally monitor the progress of the access agreement at least once a year through the Shire's Foundation Board who will report annually to the AGM. Initial monitoring will be concerned with participation rate 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 Shire AGM will form the basis of our annual monitoring report to OFFA