

Young People's Education and Skills Board

20 October 2022 at 1400

Location: Online (Microsoft Teams)

Contact Officer: Peter O'Brien

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Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Declarations of interest
3. Notes of last meeting and matters arising - For decision
4. The London Youth Offer and Care Leavers Compact - For discussion / action
Presentations – Caroline Dawes and Matthew Raleigh
5. Places Planning - For discussion
Paper – Caroline Dawes and Peter O'Brien
6. Policy Update, Performance Report and Priorities for the Academic Year - For decision
Paper – Peter O'Brien
7. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting: 23 February 2023 at 1400

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Board meeting

Date 23 June 2022 **Venue** Online (Microsoft Teams)

Meeting Chair Gail Tolley Strategic Director for Children and Young People,
London Borough of Brent representing the Association of London
Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS)

Contact Officer Peter O'Brien

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Attendance:

Members:

Gail Tolley	Strategic Director for Children and Young People, London Borough of Brent representing the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) CHAIR
Anthony Haines	Department for Education (DfE)
Ben Anderson	Community Manager, Landsec, London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) – Board Member
Hasan Ozbeyhun	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
John Prior	Principal, Orchard Hill College, representing NATSPEC
Mandeep Gill	Principal and Chief Executive, Newham Sixth Form College, (Representing Sixth Form Colleges)
Mary Vine Morris MBE	Director, London Region, Association of Colleges (AoC)

Rebecca Durber	Regional Engagement Manager, Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP)
Dr Sam Parrett CBE	Group Principal and CEO, London and South East College Group, representing the Association of Colleges (AoC) – General Further Education
Yolande Burgess	Strategy Director London's Communities, London Councils

Officers:

Caroline Dawes	Head of Children and Young People, London Councils
Peter O'Brien	Regional Manager Young People's Education and Skills (YPES), London Councils

Apologies:

Mayor Rokshana Fiaz	CHAIR, Mayor of Newham and London Councils Executive Member for Skills and Employment
Councillor Ian Edwards	Leader, London Borough of Hillingdon, London Councils Executive Member for Children and Schools
Professor Graeme Atherton	Head, Centre for Levelling Up and Director of National Education Opportunities Network, University of West London
Joanne McCartney	Deputy Mayor of London
Michael Heanue	Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority (GLA), London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) - Officer

1 Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Gail Tolley explained that unfortunately the newly elected Chair of the Young People's Education and Skills Board was unable to attend this meeting and

took the chair in her absence. It was stated that both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties were nominating representatives to the Board.

- 1.2 All in attendance introduced themselves and apologies for absence were accepted. Caroline Dawes and Dr Sam Parrett apologised for having to leave after item 6 on the agenda.

2 Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

3 Notes of the last meeting

- 3.1 These were agreed, subject to adding Mandeep Gill to those in attendance.

- 3.2 The following arose from the minutes:

- In place of a retrospective paper on the influencing role of London Councils, the Board will be advised of its future work and ambitions.
- The inaugural meeting of the Pan London Supported Employment Board (LSEB) had taken place and its action plan will be shared with the Young People's Education and Skills Board following the LSEBs meeting in October.

4 Key changes in government policy (SEND Green Paper and Schools White Paper / Schools Bill)

- 4.1 Caroline Dawes introduced the discussion by referring to the paper provided in advance of the meeting. Caroline clarified that the reference in paragraph 7.3 of the paper to Grant Maintained Schools should be to Maintained Schools and that Local Authority Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) are now being referred to as Local Authority established MATs to reflect more accurately the relationship. a. Caroline spoke first about the Schools White Paper and Schools Bill before moving on to the SEND Green Paper and emphasised the main issues highlighted in the paper.

4.2 In the debate, Board Members:

- Noted that parents were particularly concerned about the possible impact of the changes being proposed.
- Agreed that the Green Paper missed an opportunity to improve the links between health, care and education.
- The lack of coverage in the Green Paper of children and young people with SEND but not on an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was also an issue, particularly in terms of the need to ensure that they receive appropriate support as well as students with an EHCP.
- Agreed that the Government needs to focus more on early intervention and early years in terms of SEND support, and that there is not enough focus on in the early careers framework on SEND.
- The recently published report from the Social Mobility Commission could provide some themes to incorporate into a response to the Green Paper.
- Careers Hubs, which seemed instrumental in the proposals for transitions to employment, being part-funded by European Social Fund (ESF) were thought to be at risk. Peter O'Brien was asked to clarify with the GLA.

4.3 Replying to the discussion, Caroline thanked Board Members for their contributions, which would help shape London Councils' response. Caroline stressed that this would be an on-going dialogue with the Board and that Board members would be updated both on the Green Paper and the Schools Bill. The Chair thanked Caroline for leading the discussion on the report.

Action Peter O'Brien to contact the GLA about the future of funding for Careers Hubs.

5 General Policy Update and Performance Report

5.1 The meeting received a paper presented by Peter O'Brien and noted that green skills were becoming increasingly important. It was agreed to circulate reports from the Sub-Regional Partnerships and GLA to the Board. It was

further agreed to discuss London Councils' climate change programmes and the Mayor's Sector Skills Academies at a future meeting of the Board.

Action Peter O'Brien to send Board members the report on Green Skills published by the Sub-Regional Partnerships and arrange for the Board to discuss London Councils' climate change programme and the Mayor's Sector Skills Academies.

6 Review of the Education and Skills Funding Agency

- 6.1 Tony Haines provided a verbal report on the latest developments in the reviews of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), DfE and wider Civil Service. It was hoped this would provide greater opportunities for joining up the DfE's work with local areas. Tony said he would provide further information as soon as it is published.

7 Action Plan - Progress

- 7.1 Adding to the paper presented by Peter O'Brien, Yolande Burgess said that as a result of London Councils' Leaders agreeing a set of cross-party Shared Ambitions, former services and policy specialisms had been brought together. Yolande is now Strategy Director: London's Communities and the Young People's Education and Skills Board would in future be served by an integrated Children, Education and Young People Team, rather than a separate Young People's Education and Skills Team. This offers the Board access to more areas of influence than is currently the case.
- 7.2 Mary Vine-Morris commented on the report's coverage of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees and undertook to facilitate contact between London Councils and colleges, referring to the response in south London that may provide the basis of a Pan London project.

Action Mary Vine-Morris to contact Peter O'Brien

8 Other Business

- 8.1 Yolande Burgess paid tribute to Gail Tolley, who was retiring from her post and consequently the Board, to which Board members added their own appreciation. Gail thanked the Board for their best wishes.

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 October at 1400.

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Item 6

Policy and Performance Update

Date: 20 October 2022

Contact: Peter O'Brien

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Summary This paper provides the Young People's Education and Skills Board with an outline of the main policy developments and research published since its last meeting. It also includes a review of the latest performance statistics, a report of the Operational Sub-Group's work since the last Board meeting and a draft set of priorities for the academic year.

Recommendation The Board is asked to discuss this report and agree the priorities for the year ahead.

1 Accession of HM King Charles III

- 1.1 His Majesty King Charles III acceded to the Throne upon the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. London Councils and all the organisations represented on the Young People's Education and Skills Board paid tribute to Her Late Majesty's duty and service during her reign and sent condolences to the King and the Royal Family. London government played a critical role in ensuring the successful and safe conduct of the ceremonies associated with Her Late Majesty's funeral.

2 New Government

- 2.1 One of the last duties of Her Late Majesty was to appoint Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP as Prime Minister. The Prime Minister appointed a new Cabinet and prioritised economic recovery, cost of living and the NHS. A Financial Statement was delivered in the House of Commons on Friday 23 September and a further fiscal statement is due to be made on 31 October.
- 2.2 The Prime Minister appointed Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP as Secretary of State for Education. His Ministerial Team is
- Jonathan Gullis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.
 - Andrea Jenkyns MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
 - Baroness Barran MBE, Parliamentary Secretary of State
 - Kelly Tolhurst MP, Minister of State
- 2.3 Other key Cabinet posts appointed by the Prime Minister include:
- Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
 - Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
 - Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
 - Chloe Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

3 Schools Bill

- 3.1 A planned Third Reading of the Schools Bill in the House of Lords has been postponed and will be rescheduled shortly.

4 Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) Green Paper

- 4.1 During the summer vacation period, London Councils submitted a response to the government's consultation on the proposals in the Green Paper SEND Review: Right Support, Right Place, Right Time.

5 Developments in London

- 5.1 *Adult Education* The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 has now come into effect. The government published its guidance for the development and review of local skills improvement plans that will direct adult education and skills investment. Separately, the Department for Education (DfE) also confirmed that a joint bid, facilitated by BusinessLDN (formerly London First) and to be delivered in partnership with Federation of Small Businesses London (FSB), London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), and Confederation of British Industry London (CBI) has been agreed and the partnership has been tasked to develop a local skills improvement plan (LSIP) for Greater London.
- 5.2 *Shared Ambitions* As previously reported to the Board, London Councils is implementing a set of ambitions that secured cross-party support from the Leaders' Committee.

6 Reports of interest

- 6.1 [Interim findings on the impact of summer schools in the time of Covid-19.](#) (published by Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education)
- 6.2 [A levels and university access 2022](#) (Sutton Trust)
- 6.3 [Stark destination gap: disadvantaged pupils twice as likely to be out of work or education as their wealthier peers](#) (Teach First)
- 6.4 [Going without: deepening poverty in the UK](#) (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)
- 6.5 [Education inequalities](#) (Institute of Fiscal Studies)
- 6.6 [Open Your Mind](#) - A new London-wide mental health campaign has been launched to ensure children and young people receive the support they need before reaching a crisis.

7 Performance Report

- 7.1 Analysis of the latest published performance data is available through [Intelligent London](#). Officers in local authorities that are members of the Local Government Association can also produce reports from [LGInform](#).
- 7.2 The DfE and Office for National Statistics (ONS) [published](#) a series of data releases over the summer ([FFT Datalab](#) produced some interesting accompanying articles). The main headlines on performance are covered below.
- 7.3 *What feeds into Key Stage 5?* The latest figures for Key Stages 2 and 4 show that London is the best performing region at both stages. However, approximately 43 per cent of the cohort leave Key Stage 4 without grades 9 to 5 in English and maths.
- 7.4 *Participation and Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).* In July, the percentage of 16 and 17 year-olds NEET in London was 1.6 per cent and those not known was 1.9 per cent. These are both below the national averages of 2.9 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively. London's combined NEET and not known figure is the lowest of the English regions. While there is still some variation between boroughs, only one London borough was in the highest quintile. London is also performing overall better than average on attendance and exclusions. Participation by white males from low income families is the lowest of all ethnic groups. Absence and exclusions by those from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families and black males are higher than average.
- 7.5 *Achievements 2021* London's average point score (APS) per A level entry was the highest in the country, though this was based on centred-assessed grades. On average, females scored higher than males. Attainment of those of all ethnicities with SEND, those in care or who have had an experience of being cared and those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) are lower than average, though in all classifications at Key Stage 5 females outperform males.

- 7.6 *Achievements 2022* Initial figures suggest that London slipped to second highest region on APS per A level entry and in the proportion of grades A-A* awarded. If confirmed, the results in both of these measures would nonetheless have improved considerably from pre-covid levels.
- 7.7 *Progression / destinations* Because of the time lag in evidencing sustained destinations, the latest provisional data relates to those who were awarded grades in summer 2021 (2020 to 2021 academic year). At 60 per cent, Londoners' progression into education is the highest of the regions; but the overall rate of progression to a positive destination, 80.4 per cent, is marginally below the national average of 80.7 per cent. Females also have higher progression rates than males overall, though there are more pronounced differences between localities in London – those areas associated with deprivation are lagging behind more affluent areas. There are also performance gaps between those with SEND and those without and between looked after children and those who have not had an experience of being looked after.
- 7.8 An updated detailed Performance Report, which interprets the data at London level, will be available on our website shortly.

8 Operational Sub-Group (OSG)

- 8.1 The OSG has met twice since the last Young People's Education and Skills Board meeting.
- 8.2 At its meeting on 21 July 2022, the OSG discussed Londoners aged 16 and 17 who are NEET. In particular, the meeting considered: preparing for the introduction of Risk of NEET Indicators, good practice in tracking, tracing and recording NEET and status not known young people, provision that has been successful in reengaging young people who are NEET and possible future challenges to participation and NEET. The outcomes of the discussion were
- It is likely that the DfE will introduce a national set of Risk of NEET Indicators (RoNIs) later this year. Overall, London boroughs are well

placed to implement the indicators effectively but, as resources committed to tracking and tracing NEET and Not Known 16 to 18 year olds vary in each borough, in some boroughs RoNIs will be an asset; in others they could be seen as a burden. There is a particular concern about applying RoNIs to Elective Home Education.

- Although the level of NEET and Not Known in London is still relatively low, they still represent over 4,000 young Londoners aged 16 and 17. Those whose status and whereabouts are not known to their local authority pose a safeguarding risk. Cross-council data sharing helps reduce the number of young people whose status is not known to their local authority, but central government could play a more dynamic role in sharing useful data to local authorities. Tracking and tracing are labour intensive and most effective if linked with prevention and early intervention.
- While London Councils and the GLA are working together to source alternative funding, there remains a risk that programmes supporting continued participation and early reengagement of NEET young people may not continue.
- There are ongoing issues about the settlement of refugees from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine.
- The cost of living crisis may push more 16 to 18 year-olds seeking employment, even insecure employment or working in the unofficial economy, rather than continuing in learning.
- It remains unclear what the effect of defunding Applied General Qualifications overlapping T levels will mean in terms of the offer available to 16 to 18 year-olds. The latest figures showed around 22 per cent of 16 to 18 year-old Londoners took Applied General Qualifications (including BTECs).

8.3 At its meeting on 22 September 2022 OSG discussed children looked after between the ages of 16 to 18; specifically their effective participation in education, training or employment; their achievement of qualifications and

their progression to positive education, training or employment destinations after the age of 18. The meeting received presentations from: Matthew Raleigh of the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) with Sharon Long from the Partnership for Young London and Suzanne Parrott, Executive Headteacher, Achieving for Children (AfC) Virtual School. The outcomes of the meeting were.

- The meeting recommended support for the development of a Pan London Care Leavers Compact by providing specialist input and a conduit to other officers in local authorities.
- The meeting agreed to investigate the effects of funding rules that militate against care experienced young people's transitions at key points in the learning and employment journey and formulate specific proposals for future lobbying. This was a particular concern for unaccompanied child asylum seekers.
- It was agreed that London Councils, LIIA and Partnership for Young London should take forward a set of actions consistent with the Pan London Care Leavers Compact.

9 Future Plans

- 9.1 As the Board agreed a detailed set of policies and priorities last year, this year a short update, attached as an annex, is proposed. The Board is asked to discuss, add and amend the proposed priorities.
- 9.2 It is further proposed to review the Board Constitution that was last revised in 2015 and bring forward an updated version to the next Board meeting.

10 Recommendation

- 10.1 The Board is asked to discuss this report and agree the priorities for the year ahead.

Annex Draft Priorities for 2022 to 2023

The extensive set of documents produced in the planning process for 2021 to 2022 set out in great detail the extent of the challenges faced by 16 to 18 year-olds in London and the education and training sector.

We are not recommending any changes to the medium-to-long-term policy positions or ways of working adopted as part of that process.

The focus remains on effective participation, achievement and progression of Londoners aged 16 to 18. In particular, the main priority remains to identify and reduce disparities in performance due to location and students' characteristics.

For 2022 to 2023, the following priorities are proposed for our partnership work:

1. Ensure that reforms to the system of funding and accountability for students with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities benefit those students and their families.
2. Embed work experience and careers education, information, advice and guidance into the development of youth offers.
3. Provide insight into developing trends in education and training to enable local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties and other partners to plan provision in the interests of London's businesses and young people. In particular, to report on the effects of policy changes affecting Applied General Qualifications in London.
4. Encourage close links with emerging structures taking responsibility for adult skills improvement in London and the capital's education sector to ensure effective transition from education and training into employment for 16 to 19 year-olds who do not go to Higher Education.