

Notes

RPG - Operational Sub-group

Date 3 December 2010 **Venue** London Councils, Room 4
Meeting Chair Mary Vine-Morris
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Attendees

Chair: Mary Vine-Morris (MVM)	RPG
Nick Brenton (NB)	ALDCS
Yolande Burgess (YB)	RPG
Diana Choulerton (DC)	South West Cluster/Ealing
Nicole Francis (NF)	Tower Hamlets (deputising for WF)
John Galligan (JG)	West Central Cluster/Brent
Jenny Holmes (JHo)	GLA/LSEB
Ali Kaye (AK)	WBLA
Helen McNulty (HMcN)	LLDD/Hackney
Alison Moore (AM)	North West Cluster/Hillingdon
Fran O'Neill (FON)	Central Cluster/Wandsworth
Mike Pettifer (MP)	YPLA
Peter O'Brien (POB)	RPG

Apologies

Jo Baty (JB)	ESF/Redbridge
Trevor Cook (TC)	North East Cluster/Havering
Wendy Forest (WF)	Achieving Excellence/Tower Hamlets
Eamonn Gilbert (EG)	SWLSEP/RB of Kingston
Ruth Griffiths (RG)	South Cluster/Lewisham
Jon Hegerty (JHe)	Central Cluster/RBKC
Neil Larkin (NL)	North Cluster/Waltham Forest
Jonathan Rallings (JR)	RPG
Anna-Maria Volpicelli (AMV)	RPG
Colin Jones (CJ)	LDA

1 Notes of the last meeting and action points, matters arising

- 1.1 MVM welcomed members to the meeting, who introduced themselves to Ali Kaye – a new member of the Group.
- 1.2 In a discussion about the minutes of the last meeting MVM referred to an email ESF Update sent from Anna-Maria Volpicelli on behalf of Jo Baty dated 24 November. As several members had not seen this email and therefore not responded to it, it was agreed to retransmit it. Subject to this clarification, the notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

ACTION: AMV to retransmit JB's ESF Update of 24 November

- 1.3 Action points: The only outstanding action points from the previous meeting were:
- 1.3.1 AP48(a) – The revised RPG constitution will be agreed following recommendation to the Leaders Committee meeting on 14th December.
- 1.3.2 AP57 – MP said that the YPLA was in discussion with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) on the national process for ESF and whether the successful PQQ provider list can be shared.
- 1.3.3 Members recorded their appreciation of the support provided by the YPLA, principally CSAs, on school success rates (Action Point 55).

2 RPG Board – feedback from 22/11 meeting

- 2.1 The meeting **noted** the following oral report from MVM from the RPG meeting held on 22nd November 2010:

- 2.1.1 Spending Review and recent developments JR's paper on the Spending Review (which the previous OSG meeting discussed) had been circulated and discussed at RPG. In order to gauge an appropriate response to the all-age careers guidance service, the RPG invited BIS to send a representative to its next meeting. The RPG also discussed how the withdrawal of EMA would potentially have a disproportionate effect in London. MVM explained that the RPG would pursue two courses of action:

- Lobbying through London Councils. It was further suggested in discussion that any letters of DfE should be copied to DWP
- Working with AOC, WBLA and ASCL to influence the allocation of discretionary learner support funds, possibly exploring developing regional principles (which had already happened in west England)

In response to this report, OSG members expressed their views that the withdrawal of EMA would adversely affect young Londoners in respect of participation and attendance. They reported that this view (along with concerns about the implementation of the pupil premium) was shared by many providers at their recent dialogues. The meeting agreed to provide MVM with pertinent information.

ACTION: HMcN to provide MVM with details of research on economic and social impact of the withdrawal of EMA in Hackney and Newham.

ACTION: YB to send members a link to the YPLA website showing EMA take-up in each borough.

- 2.1.2 LLDD Regional Proposals The paper discussed at previous OSG meetings had been well received by RPG Board and ALDCS. It was agreed to discuss this topic under agenda item 6.
- 2.1.3 RPG Indicative Budget Proposal 2011/12 The RPG had agreed to an Operational budget of £49,500 and to seek ALDCS' view on an appropriate Regional Activity Budget. Views of ALDCS members had been polarised, especially with regard to CHOICE. Proposals would now be put to the Leaders Committee.
- 2.1.4 Review of the role of RPG MVM circulated the report of the review carried out by John Freeman (JF) adding that all of the paperwork, including the presentation to the RPG, will be on the RPG website shortly and may be debated at Leaders Committee in December. MVM reported that the RPG had endorsed the following recommendations at its meeting:
- There is a strong case for the London 14-19 Regional Planning Group to continue, with modified functions and a revised constitution.
 - The London 14-19 Regional Planning Group should operate on a strategic high-level basis, developing and promoting an overarching and ambitious vision for 14-19 education and training across the capital, linking with the work of the London Skills and Employment Board for adult skills (though JF had initially suggested 16-19).

- The London 14-19 Regional Planning Group should host a number of operational activities where these will deliver better effectiveness and value-for-money for London boroughs than could otherwise be achieved - each of these, and any other operational functions, should be funded on a case-by-case basis with a full business plan developed for each.
- The remit of the London 14-19 Regional Planning Group should **not** be extended to include broader education issues.
- The London 14-19 Regional Planning Group should be renamed to reflect the changed approach.
- The London 14-19 Regional Planning Group should review its constitution and the arrangements for ensuring that representatives make certain that their constituencies are actively engaged in the work.
- The strategic functions of the London 14-19 Regional Planning Group Board could be carried out in three meetings each year, with activity between meetings to ensure that the issues are debated widely. The work plan and budget should continue to be agreed at Leaders' Committee.
- The existing secretariat and operational funding arrangements should continue to 2014/15 in line with the CSR grant commitment, with savings to reflect any reduction in DfE grant, subject to annual review to take account of performance and changes in the 14-19 landscape.

In discussion, the OSG provided MVM with many helpful suggestions on preparing a summary of JF's report, which could form the basis of a paper to the Leaders Committee.

ACTION: MVM to circulate a re-drafted review summary for OSG members' comments and return by 8th December.

3 Schools white paper and recent developments

- 3.1 Prior to the meeting, a paper had been circulated outlining the Schools White Paper that was published by DfE on 24th November. The paper, which was introduced by POB, was welcomed by members.
- 3.2 The OSG raised many topics in discussion, including that the RPG should emphasise that excluded pupils still affect league tables – this provided an incentive to prevent exclusions from occurring. AM said that Hillingdon had effective practice they would share.

4 YPLA update

- 4.1 MP provided the meeting with the following information:
 - 4.1.1 As announced in the White Paper, in 2012 the YPLA will be replaced by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), which will be an executive agency of DfE.
 - 4.1.2 The proposed timetable for 2011/12 allocation process is:
 - 10 December – funding guidance to be published;
 - 15 December – Funding statement (including cost saving measures for 16-19 in 2011/12)
 - 7 Jan – Joint briefing event between YPLA/SFA and AoC for colleges and independent private providers. The YPLA was planning to hold similar events for schools and local authorities after 7th January.

5 14-19 leads/RAG Conference 10/12

5.1 After discussion, the meeting suggested that the conference agenda would comprise:

5.1.1 Overview of national policy, including the funding guidance

5.1.2 World skills

5.1.3 Feedback on LLDD Steering Group's work

5.1.4 Feedback from RPA pilot

6 RPG work plan monitoring – feedback

Introducing this item, YB asked colleagues from LA clusters to impress upon boroughs the need to ensure regular attendance at meetings of representatives on various groups.

ACTION: YB to send to cluster representatives the membership lists of sub-groups and working groups

6.1 Data In reply to a question, NB said that there were no plans to use PISA for international benchmarking.

6.2 Improving choice for young people Given the recommendations of ALDCS (see item 2.1.3), the remaining period of the current contract for CHOICE would be used to trial possible longer-term self-sustaining solutions. This will also provide an opportunity to gauge the impact of the all-age service and the need for locally driven products.

6.3 ESF Three cluster events are planned: north-east (3rd December), Central (7th December) and south (15th December). The situation with the LDA is unchanged and the effect on matched funding remains unclear. MVM pointed out that the contact details for borough ESF leads had been requested and any help in encouraging responses would be appreciated.

6.4 LLDD update YB explained that the RPG had adopted the paper previously discussed at OSG meetings. As a result, ALDCS had agreed that the RPG should consult on potential regional protocols prior to their testing.

7 AOB

7.1 After discussion the meeting agreed:

7.1.1 To cancel the meeting scheduled for 7th January 2011; the next meeting will be 4th February 2011.

7.1.2 Meetings will in future be held every six weeks.

7.1.3 That the next meeting should discuss the role of the local authority representatives and agree how best to secure feedback from clusters.

7.2 MVM explained that intentions on the return of planned under-spend from 2010/11 operational funding, for example Young Entrepreneurship, would be made through London Councils budget setting processes.

Next meeting: Friday 4th February, 10-12noon, London Councils