

# Young People's Education and Skills

## Operational Sub-Group

**Date** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011    **Venue** London Councils

**Meeting Chair** Mary Vine-Morris

**Contact Officer:** Peter O'Brien

**Telephone:** 020 7934 9743    **Email:** [Peter.O'Brien@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.O'Brien@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

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### Attendance:

#### Members:

Mary Vine-Morris (MVM)	London Councils
Ali Kaye (AK)	Work-Based Learning Alliance
Eamonn Gilbert (EG)	RB Kingston upon Thames (SWLSEP)
Helen McNulty (HMcN)	Learning Trust Hackney (LLDD Group)
John Galligan (JG)	LB Brent (West Central Cluster)
Judith Smyth (JS)	Association of Colleges
Lorraine Downes (LD)	City of Westminster (West Central Cluster)
Trevor Cook (TC)	LB Havering (East Cluster)

#### Officers:

Peter O'Brien (POB)	London Councils
Jonathan Rallings (JR)	London Councils
Yolande Burgess (YB)	London Councils

#### Apologies:

Aidan Pettit (AP)	Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)
Alison Moore	LB Hillingdon (North-West Cluster)
Helen Richardson	LB Barking & Dagenham (Apps Group)
Jo Baty (JB)	London Borough Of Redbridge (ESF Group)
Michelle Cuomo (MC)	Greater London Authority / London LEP
Mike Pettifer (MP)	YPLA
Neil Larkin	LB Waltham Forest (North Cluster)
Ruth Griffiths (RG)	LB Lewisham (South Cluster)

### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

1.1 The Chair and members introduced themselves.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011

2.1 The minutes were agreed.

- 2.2 A list of the action points from the last meeting had been circulated with the minutes and shows that all actions had been taken. The guidance on bidding for funds for WorldSkills *Have a Go* and a list of colleges and providers in receipt of funding was distributed at the meeting.
- 2.3 The meeting discussed changes in the YPLA structure in preparation for the creation of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and their impact on the way in which local authorities would work with the funding body in the future, especially local relationships and the supply of data. It was agreed to ask the YPLA to provide the next meeting with information on the monitoring of bursaries.

**Action point (92): MP / AP to provide the OSG meeting of 25 November 2011 with details of how the YPLA is monitoring bursaries.**

- 2.4 JR reported that London Councils is now providing secretariat support to ALDCS.

### **3. Learner Voice**

- 3.1 JR updated the meeting on the progress being made to implement the YPES Board decision to capture and act on the views of young people. Given young peoples' preference to be contacted electronically, a web-site is being developed at London Councils and JR provided the meeting with a small sample of screen prints illustrating the design of the website and the type of content it was intended to contain.
- 3.2 In response to the report, OSG members made a number of suggestions about further engaging young people in the development of the site; the integration of social networking into the core communication with young people via the website; and the translation of technical language into plain English, used appropriately in communicating with young people. Discussion also looked ahead to the marketing and promotion of the communication tool to young people.

**Action point (93) JR to further develop the Learner Voice London website so that it could be approved by the YPES Board at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

### **4. ESF Update**

- 4.1 MVM provided the meeting with the following information from the last ESF Steering Group (19<sup>th</sup> September):
- The pre-NEET programme is being delivered and, although validated performance data will not be available from the Skills Funding Agency until the next ESF Steering Group (22<sup>nd</sup> November), there was already mixed feedback from boroughs about the effectiveness of delivery – and this was echoed by OSG members. To add weight to boroughs' views, currently provided through the local authority representatives on the ESF Steering Group, London Councils was organising a meeting at the event on 3<sup>rd</sup> November for borough ESF leads to share experiences in order to feedback to the Skills Funding Agency with a view to ensuring that future delivery is more effective and consistent across London;
  - The contract award panel for the NEET programme is taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> September, though the ESF Steering Group had been informed that there had been a low response to some of the specifications for vulnerable young people. The Skills Funding Agency is looking to offer contracts in October.
  - The NEET programme accounts for approximately half of the funds that the London Development Agency (LDA) had previously earmarked for ESF. The GLA, having now inherited the LDA's responsibilities and remaining budget, has subsequently pursued an application for Co-Financing Organisation status and, subject to approval, intends to

enable boroughs to match fund £6.5m and to tender for approximately £13m of targeted NEET activity. Consequently, the GLA is consulting on four priorities that were listed on a paper tabled at the meeting. Five events are planned to take place, one on each priority and one final consultation on all four priorities. Two of the events have already taken place and Borough ESF Leads have been sent details of two further events taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October. The GLA will send boroughs details of the final event and had been invited to attend the next LLDD Working Group.

4.2 In the subsequent discussion, several OSG members contrasted their experience of the ESF pre-NEET programme, where providers had been brought into their areas, with more localised initiatives, such as Young Parents To Be, where boroughs had worked more successfully with existing local providers. The meeting also noted that some members also felt that young parents should be a priority target group for London.

4.3 The ESF Steering Group had also recommended that the small element of the ESF Administration Fee that the Skills Funding Agency and YPLA had agreed nationally to pass to local authorities should be retained by London Councils. The OSG agreed the recommendation and that MVM should communicate to this effect to borough 14-19 leads.

**Action Point (94): MVM to inform borough 14-19 Leads that, subject to no objection, the element of ESF Administration Fee released to local authorities should be retained by London Councils**

## 5. Impact of Bursaries

5.1 Many members of the OSG had gathered informal information about recruitment for the academic year 2011/12 and concluded that it was still too early to judge whether or not the replacement of EMA by bursaries was having a detrimental effect on post-16 recruitment or retention. The meeting also noted that it would be difficult to disaggregate the effects of bursaries, the impact of the economic conditions and the reconfiguration of careers education, information advice and guidance services to young people.

## 6. Consultations

6.1 A series of papers had been circulated in advance of the meeting. These included reports of London Councils' response to consultations on school funding and school admissions, which the meeting noted, and suggested responses to the consultations on Care to Learn, Vocational Qualifications, Common Inspection Framework and Open Data. Discussions around these topics produced further suggestions that would be taken into account when proposing responses.

**Action Point (95): London Councils to respond to the consultations on Care to Learn, Vocational Qualifications, Common Inspections Framework and Open Data by their respective closing dates taking into account the comments of the OSG and in conformance with the procedures of London Councils.**

## 7. London Schools Research

7.1 JR reported that London Councils would shortly be publishing a report on Head teachers' views on current education policy.

## 8. Workplan Monitoring

8.1 LLDD: HMcN said that: the LLDD workstream had produced two protocols that were now available to be used by all London Boroughs; the LLDD Working Group was able to provide

an expert input into borough cluster groups; and transport was becoming a major issue for the Working Group. YB added that London Councils was commissioning a project that would provide a projection of the level of demand from LLDD, based on schools data on SEN.

- 8.2 UCAS Progress: The UCAS Progress system went live from September 2011. Training will be provided as soon as some operational and technical issues have been eliminated.

## 9. Other Business

- 9.1 Disturbances in London – The meeting noted boroughs' responses to the disturbances in London during the summer. The inquiry panel led by Darra Singh will be examining their causes and effects and has already started gathering evidence. Boroughs will be contributing to the inquiry, but OSG members from borough councils reported that very few of those arrested so far had been current students or aged under 18. The meeting also heard of initiative taken by some under 18s themselves to improve the image of young people that had been portrayed negatively in the media during and after the riots.
- 9.2 GCSE Results 2011: There had been insufficient responses to a call for information about this year's results to formulate a definitive position at this stage although feedback had been exclusively positive. The official statistical release is anticipated shortly.

**Date of the next meeting:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 10am, London Councils, Room 1.