

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Workplan Monitoring – update November 2011

Item No: 8

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Summary This paper provides a summary update of the major YPES work strands.

Recommendations OSG members are asked to note/comment.

1 Data

- 1.1 The three pan-London themed reports have jointly been produced by the YPLA and YPES and released on the YPLA's website. They are being used as the basis for the renewed *14-19 and London: an evidence base*, due to be released by YPES this month.
- 1.2 The YPLA has reconfigured how it delivers data to local authorities, moving to a 'self-service' platform. Regional data teams will no longer exist, with the emphasis transferring from analysis to the provision of data. The YPLA has launched a website (<http://data.ypla.gov.uk/>) dedicated to making data publicly available. It is also replacing the Provider Gateway with a new secure area to view data called the Information Management Portal.
- 1.3 YPES continues to work closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to inform their Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Destination Measure work and sits on the stakeholder group for the project. YPES recently ran a workshop at the London Borough of Barnet on the destination measures and gathered valuable feedback which was passed back to the DfE.
- 1.4 YPES is supporting the data sharing aspect of the cross-departmental Participation Strategy, which will set-out how to maximise the participation of 16-24 year olds in education, training and work. Since obtaining feedback for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) from the DAG, YPES have been asked to support other departments working on the strategy.
- 1.5 YPES is scoping how it can add value through its analysis of data related to young people. Work with i3 Education continues to establish how Cloud Technology can be exploited to share data effectively. YPES is also considering how it can use its own website to release data in a meaningful way.
- 1.6 Following a procurement process, YPES has commissioned Mime Consulting to develop a model to forecast future post-16 students with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The project initiation meeting has been held and Mime Consulting has

submitted a request to the National Pupil Database (NPD) for the data required to complete this project.

- 1.7 The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is due to make Apprenticeship data available to local authorities in January 2012 (subject to a data sharing protocol being signed by each authority).
- 1.8 The next DAG is scheduled for 1 December, which will cover the workstreams described in paragraphs 1.1 – 1.7 above.

2 Improving Choices for Young People

- 2.1 The ICYP Task and Finish Group that was set-up to explore the issues related to the transition of Careers Guidance, has completed a [Careers Guidance Transition Framework for London](#) targeted at local authorities and schools. Since its release (via email, on the London Councils website and the Communities of Practice website), the framework has received positive feedback. It has been identified as an example of good practice by the DfE and featured in the October edition of the CEGNET newsletter.
- 2.2 The London UCAS Progress helpdesk intends to achieve completion of the 2012/13 upload of provider information by the end of December 2011 and will update providers on the transition of the helpdesk facility to UCAS Progress following the upload. We are agreeing the final details of the transition plan to phase out the remaining London led support and communications functions.
- 2.3 The ICYP has been considering some of the key challenges around delivering full participation in London, and explored some of the work already undertaken in the London boroughs of Ealing and Havering. The group is planning to deliver an event/workshop to help share best practice around Raising the Participation Age (RPA).
- 2.4 The ICYP launched a new Task and Finish Group to explore the impact of changes to careers guidance services across London on Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) reporting arrangements. The Task and Finish Group has met, and it was agreed that YPES would prepare an information and guidance document for local authorities. We are grateful for the support of colleagues who currently deliver services to local authorities in London who have helped to ensure that this piece of work is properly informed.
- 2.5 The next ICYP is scheduled for 14 December, which will cover the workstreams described in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.4. above

3 ESF

- 3.1 The ESF Steering Group will have met on 22nd November. It is due to receive the following reports:

ESF Preventative NEET and Apprenticeship Activity

- 3.1.1 ***ESF Preventative NEET and Apprenticeship Activity:*** there will be the first report from the Skills Funding Agency on the delivery of the contracts for the pre-NEET programme. YPES has also gathered qualitative information from local authorities that will be added to the discussion on performance.
- 3.1.2 ***NEET Programme:*** The Skills Funding Agency has offered contracts to successful providers following a briefing held on 3rd November. On the same day YPES hosted a networking event for providers and local authorities, suggesting ways of working to maximise effective local delivery.

- 3.1.3 **Greater London Authority.** The GLA is proceeding with a strategy based on addressing the particular needs of groups of young people who are disadvantaged in terms of labour market entry. The GLA has just been awarded Co-Financing Organisation (CFO) status and intends to issue its specifications during the first quarter of 2012.
- 3.2 The Group is also converting the Regional Partnership Agreement into a Pan-London protocol that fits better with the current allocation of responsibilities.

4 LLDD

- 4.1 The working group held two workshops on 9 November to discuss the statutory responsibilities of local authorities in relation to Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments. The workshops were well attended (90 participants) and initial feedback has been positive.
- 4.2 A virtual toolkit was prepared for delegates, which brought together useful resources including the London protocols and other resources from those local authorities represented on the working group. The toolkit has been uploaded to the London Councils website to encourage further sharing.
- 4.3 Following the publication of the National Audit Office report [Oversight of special education for young people aged 16-25](#) a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearing took place to consider whether there is value for money from the @£600m investment in special education. There was considerable frustration voiced about local authorities and 'nervousness' about localism generally. There was also some stark talk about local authority approaches to ring-fencing, namely the assertion that "some local authorities put the money into SEN, and others leave it to their schools, and go for mainstream schooling and not SEN".
- 4.4 We are gathering information to counter some of the negative statements made about local authority work in this area, particularly the use of the SEN Block Grant and, subject to being able to gather a sufficiently robust body of evidence we will consider putting in a London submission to the PAC.

5 Worldskills London 2011 (5-8 October 2011)

- 5.1 Worldskills London 2011 was a highly successful event, running from the 5-8 October. It attracted over 200,000 visitors – exceeding the target of 150,000 and proving to be the largest event Excel has ever hosted. Almost 15,000 young people from primary schools in London attended Junior Worldskills on the first day and many 'Had-a-Go' – generating a very lively atmosphere! London primary schools also hosted the 'One School, One Country' event; hosting delegates from all of the international competitor teams.
- 5.2 The event attracted strong support from BIS, high profile visits from David Cameron, Boris Johnson and the Princess Royal. Press coverage was more limited than desirable. The Skills Funding Agency has made a public commitment to taking forward competitions as a means of highlighting vocational skills and apprenticeships and will be instigating an annual programme of skills competitions.
- 5.3 There are some great official photos and short videos available of the Competition and the many exciting activities, visits, events, Have a Go and Showcase areas that took place as part of WorldSkills London 2011. We are encouraging everyone to share these with organisations involved or interested in the event so please feel free to pass on the links to anyone who might be interested.

- www.worldskills.tv videos which provide a selection of highlights;

- You can view and search for photographs on the WSI Flickr account–
www.flickr.com/worldskills

1. Use the Search box on the top right of the page
2. Enter your search words separated by a space – must include WSC2011

Please make the time and enjoy watching the footage – it is a great asset for future skills Competitions and vocational training as well as a great celebration of the event and Team UK activities.

6 Apprenticeships

- 6.1 London Councils is focusing on encouraging boroughs to work with their supply chain to create more apprenticeships, to ensure delivery of new apprenticeships beyond the life of the borough project (ending March 2012). A survey is currently open to gather information on boroughs' work with local businesses to promote apprenticeships – this could be supported by the announcement on 16 November about grant funding for small employers who take on an apprentice.

7 Consultation on Three-Year Vision

- 7.1 At its meeting on 8th November, the YPES Board agreed to undertake a public consultation on a vision for young Londoners' education, skills and employment up to 2015. The consultation will comprise the following elements:
 - 7.1.1 Dialogue with key stakeholders until the end of 2011;
 - 7.1.2 Face-to-face discussions during a three-month period (e.g. structured interviews, conferences, scenario planning, round tables, 'big discussions', thought papers and research)
 - 7.1.3 An on-line consultation, making the best use of technology and social networking
 - 7.1.4 Engaging our sub-groups to ensure their involvement in the development of the vision
 - 7.1.5 Using our wider circle of contacts to gather feedback on specific themes; allowing appropriate expert, specialist and technical input into the consultation.
- 7.2 The Board also endorsed this year's Annual Statement of Priorities, which is a refresh of "*Choice, Support, Success*".

8 Young Parents To Be (YPTB)

- 8.1 The evaluation of YPTB shows that there were 441 starts and 223 achievements (as defined by the programme), giving a success rate of 51%. Progression was not a mandatory element of the programme but approximately 20% of participants moved into apprenticeships, employment or other learning (including those who were re-engaged in their learning). The cost per beneficiary was £1,468.32.
- 8.2 The highest number of starts was Lewisham (50) and the highest number of achievements was Hillingdon (20). Haringey achieved 463% of its starts targets. Seven boroughs recorded 100% success rates, while four boroughs did not take part and a further two reported significant under-delivery.
- 8.3 YPES budget proposals include a further YPTB programme which, if supported by Leaders in December, we will seek to match fund with ESF.