

## Notes

# London Councils Young People's Education and Skills Board

<b>Date</b>	24 May 2011	<b>Venue</b>	London Councils
<b>Meeting Chair</b>	Cllr Steve Reed		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jonathan Rallings		
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### **Attendance:**

#### Members:

Cllr Steve Reed (SR)	– London Councils Lead Member for Children and Young People ( <i>Chair</i> )
Frankie Sulke (FS)	– Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) ( <i>Vice-chair</i> )
Jack Morris (JM)	– London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB) ( <i>Vice-chair</i> )
Dr Caroline Allen (CA)	– Association of Colleges (AoC)/ Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)
Pam Chesters (PC)	– Greater London Authority (GLA)
Victor Farlie (VF)	– London Work Based Learning Alliance (LWBLA)
Peter Lang (PL)	– Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
Jill Lowery (JL)	– Skills Funding Agency
Frank McLoughlin (FM)	– AoC (FE College Member)
Mike Pettifer (MP)	– Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)
Pat Reynolds (PR)	– ALDCS
Cllr David Simmonds (DS)	– London Councils Conservative Group Member (Hillingdon)
David Smale (DSm)	– National Apprenticeship Service

#### Officers:

Yolande Burgess (YB)	– London Councils YPES
Mary Vine-Morris (MVM)	– London Councils YPES Director
Jonathan Rallings (JR)	– London Councils YPES Secretary

#### Guests and Observers:

Kate Anderson (KA)	– AoC
Nick Brenton (NB)	– ALDCS

### **Apologies**

Cllr Liz Green	– London Councils Liberal Democrat Group Member (Kingston)
Vic Grimes	– National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
Nick Lester	– London Councils
Dr Jane Overbury	– AoC (Sixth Form College Member)
Tim Shields	– Chief Executives' London Committee (CELC)

## 1 Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 SR welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the newly renamed and reconstituted London Councils Young People's Education and Skills Board, which replaces the 14-19 Regional Planning Group.
- 1.2 SR introduced Jill Lowery to the Board who replaces Christopher Wright as representative of the Skills Funding Agency.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no new declarations of interest to be made at this meeting.

## 3 Minutes of the last meeting (20 September 2010)

- 3.1 MVM updated the group on the progress on action points agreed at the last meeting.
- 3.2 MVM reported following the presentation on WorldSkills at the last RPG meeting, 250 London Schools had now signed up to attend the event. There had been particular interest in the Junior WorldSkills morning for younger age groups
- 3.3 MVM circulated a paper with data showing London's local authorities ahead of course to hit a target of 2000 Apprenticeship starts between 2009/10 and 2011/12 – 1802 starts had been created by the end of 2010/11 of which just under 50% were for 16-18 year olds. FS felt it would be useful for these figures to be analysed by provider and destination.
- 3.4 MVM reported that money saved on the aborted Young Enterprise contract last summer would not now be repatriated direct to local authorities. Leaders Committee at London Councils have instead decided to offset this money against the outcome of the recent Grants Review.
- 3.5 MVM reported that the ESF Pre-NEET contracts were about to be awarded. YPES were hosting with GLE a briefing and networking event for local authority colleagues and new contractors in order to agree ways of working which, although non-contractual, were most likely to be mutually beneficial and maximise contract delivery.
- 3.6 JM stated that since the last RPG meeting the London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB) had been dissolved. Approval has been given for the mayor to establish a London Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in its place and this was in the process of being formed. A shadow LEP should be in place by summer.

## 4 2011/12 London Allocations and Implications

- 4.1 MP and YB presented this item covering the final picture of London's Allocations for the 2011/12 academic year and highlighting the implications of what might happen in the future, particularly in light of cuts to provider budgets being limited to 3% at present despite the shift to lagged funding.
- 4.2 FS felt that YPES needed to ascertain how funding reductions would affect provision on the ground and where learners were going. This actually may mean that YPES might conclude "so what" where the provision at risk is not leading to secure destinations for young people. YPES needs to be careful not to take too much of a 'provider-ist' viewpoint despite this being a time of limited resources.
- 4.3 VF asked whether agencies (YPLA, SFA, NAS) have modelled the impact of loss of transitional protection by 2014/15? DS wanted to know what the specific risks would be at Borough-level as this would be what members need to know. MP clarified more detailed data would be available from July and published securely for individual providers to see their own data and local authorities to see data for providers within their area and

their resident learners. This would be new for schools providing parity with FE data reporting.

- 4.4 PR suggested that YPES needed to take a clear view of the impact on young people in schools. If School 6<sup>th</sup> Forms lose funding, will this affect discretionary services offered to all pupils not just the 16-18 age group?
- 4.5 PL highlighted the leadership challenges for YPES in cultivating a 'collective geography' approach, encouraging boroughs and providers to collaborate rather than act individually. A pan-London approach is very important to ensure necessary co-ordination. YPES needs to be working closely with AoC, WBLA and ASCL on what the effect on learners is likely to be in 2011/12 taking into account the cuts. .
- 4.6 It was agreed that YPES definitely needs to respond to the Post-16 funding consultation which will be running throughout the summer to prepare for planning 2012/13 allocations – there will be an emphasis on simplification of the existing process.

***ACTION: YPES to respond to Post-16 Funding Consultation***

5 Wolf Review

- 5.1 FS presented this item. The Wolf Review was published in March and the Government had now responded to it by accepting all 27 recommendations. She welcomed the particularly emphasis on not 'warehousing' young people by giving them 'dead-end' options, and also the desire to rid the system of perverse incentives that encourage providers to offer these sorts of options. Additionally she stressed that the continuation of Maths and English for students at Post-16 was ideally envisioned as with GCSE, but other qualifications would be considered for some students.
- 5.2 PL felt overall the Wolf Review was a good report, but was concerned that work experience was kept for the pre-16 age group. A 15 year-old going on work experience and hating it can be a good thing and encourage them to stay in learning rather than seeking employment and ending up NEET at 16. VF worried about Foundation Learning being devalued when it's a key means to re-engage young people.
- 5.3 JM asked how YPES can best articulate the job market for young people in London? This will help them in their post-16 choices if they know how skills opportunities can translate into jobs. This balance between skills needs and information, advice and guidance is crucial to making Wolf work.

6 16-19 Bursary Fund

- 6.1 MVM presented this item for information, highlighting the YPES' response to the Government's consultation on Financial Support for 16 to 19 year olds in education and training which was submitted for the deadline of Friday 20 May. She highlighted the significant concerns for the potential impact on young learners in London and the on-going work with AOC and the GLA to both lobby for a better result and to agree a London framework for use by providers.

7 SEND Consultation

- 7.1 CA presented this item. She suggested the consultation issues by the DfE needed to be better linked to health and YPES might have a role in this. There was a particular need to keep an eye on SEND funding for post-16 options to allow young people full choice to access the provision they most want. YPES had already held workshops for around 100 14-19 Leads from London Boroughs and key feedback had been that there is a lot of

detailed process work which is preventing the delivery of a more person-centred approach.<sup>1</sup>

- 7.2 CA explained that London Councils would be working with ALDCS and the GLA to prepare a joint response to the consultation for London. Members agreed that the YPES would contribute to this work rather than preparing a separate response itself. It was agreed the draft response would be sent round to members for comments.

***ACTION: Ensure draft SEND response is circulated to YPES Members.***

## 8 National Careers Service

- 8.1 MVM presented this item. ALDCS had advised YPES to withdraw borough funding from the Choice website in London from August 2011; due to funding constraints. However, YPES has recently negotiated a deal whereby, subject to confirmation, UCAS will take over the management of the website from this autumn. She then went on to describe further changes to the proposed new National Careers Services announced since the last RPG meeting.
- 8.2 PL was concerned that the need for a lot of careers information could be reduced if young people could go to university on the basis of their grades, not predicted grades. What schools and FE colleges really need is help to provide IAG in clusters. It is worrying that the upheaval ahead could mean some young people will not get the help they deserve until things are bedded down – someone needs to take a lead to ensure this does not happen.
- 8.3 MVM highlighted that the Improving Choices for Young People sub-group of YPES was attempting to address the need for improved IAG in London. JM felt that this was a crucial piece of work – he was particularly worried about an increased focus on generic services being provided ‘online’ over individual face to face careers guidance. Anthony Browne at the GLA had met with John Hayes about setting up a National Careers Service pilot in London and YPES needed to link in with this work. PR agreed there was more scope for collaborative work particularly whilst there are still partnerships and networks existing locally in some areas which may not be the case as time goes on.
- 8.4 FS reminded the group that providing decent IAG is extremely difficult – there were real difficulties even before cuts started being made to services. The best strategy might be for YPES to identify two or three things which can be done really well then promote their roll-out across London. PC agreed and felt YPES should be ambitious. Are all the right people in the room? CBI says it would be willing to put more input into IAG for example.
- 8.5 DS pointed out one area might be to encourage more resources for apprenticeships to be directed towards learners to raise awareness. Although he recognised this might also create additional demand which would need to be met.

***ACTION: YPES to liaise with GLA to help establish best practice projects for IAG which work in London.***

## 9 Learner Voice

- 9.1 JR presented this item highlighting the findings of a consultation with young learners asking how they would best like their voice represented within YPES.
- 9.2 PR welcomed the report – young people may not be interested in all subjects discussed by YPES, but they will certainly be interested in some. FS saw the possibilities for YPES to communicate electronically with young people through Twitter and also using existing

<sup>1</sup> Further feedback can be found at:

[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/London%20Councils/WorkshopFeedback.pdf](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/London%20Councils/WorkshopFeedback.pdf)

**Date of next meeting:** **Tuesday 8 November 2011, 2pm - 4pm**  
**Tuesday 6 March 2012, 2pm - 4pm**