Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Workplan Monitoring – update September 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   All three themed local authority summaries (*Understanding the Learning Landscape*, *Attainment and Progression*, and *Participation*) have been published on the Young People's Learning Agency's (YPLA) website. Prior to this, each report was subject to a soft release on the secure Provider Gateway to allow local authorities to comment.

1.2   The pan-London versions of the themed reports have jointly been produced by the YPLA and YPES and are now all complete. *Understanding the Learning Landscape* has been released on the YPLA's website following a pre-release window on the Provider Gateway. Both the *Attainment and Progression* and *Participation* reports have been released on the Provider Gateway, and are due to be released on the YPLA's website. All three pan-London reports will then be used as the basis for the renewed *14-19 and London: an evidence base*, due to be released by YPES in the Autumn.

1.3   The 16-19 Learner Responsive Residency Data and MI Reports for individual local authorities are also now available on the YPLA's website.

1.4   YPES continues to work closely with the Department for Education to inform their Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Destination Measure work. Having gathered feedback on the measures via the DAG and ICYP Group, YPES has been invited to sit on the stakeholder group for the project.

1.5   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. Stephen Hall from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) briefed the DAG. Subsequently, YPES created a survey for London local authorities containing the key questions the DWP has concerning data sharing and participation. The results have been collated and sent on to DWP.

1.6   London Councils is working with i3 Education to support phase 2 of its pilot to share data relating to young people through Cloud Technology ('Project Marconi'). DAG members have been invited to participate in this pilot to test the platform. YPES is

continuing to develop Intelligent London – a page on the London Councils website which will host analyses and visualisations of the latest data available.

1.7 There is currently no systematic way to predict future levels of demand in post-16 school provision for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in London. YPES is therefore commissioning a study to develop a model to forecast future student numbers. A specification was sent out and YPES is considering the proposals it has received. It is estimated the work will begin in October and be completed within three months.

2 Improving Choices for Young People

2.1 The ICYP Task and Finish Group had its inaugural meeting on 29 June to explore the issues related to the transition of Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG). The product of the meeting was to create a draft transition plan which was considered at the ICYP Group on 19 July.

2.2 The ICYP Group recommended that the information in the transition plan be presented in an alternative format that clearly demonstrated the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved in the transition. A transition map and also a document setting-out potential models of delivery has subsequently been drafted and circulated to the Task and Finish Group which will meet again on 26 September.

2.3 The ICYP on 19 July also covered feedback on the Department for Education's (DfE) approach to measuring destinations at Key Stages 4 & 5 (Julie Toher from the DfE attended the meeting). In addition the group received updates on UCAS Progress, the findings of the Greater London Authority (GLA) London Survey 2011, and full participation. The next ICYP will be held on 14 October and the agenda will cover changes to management information including CCIS and NEET reporting, and the latest transition planning work produced by the Task and Finish Group.

2.4 The UCAS Progress site successfully launched on 1 September and initial feedback about the site has been generally positive. The UCAS Transition helpdesk and UCAS are working to resolve some issues with the data migration from the now redundant CHOICE website. There will be a UCAS Progress stand, supported by UCAS and Central London Connexions colleagues, at the Worldskills event in October to promote the new search facility to young people.

3 ESF

3.1 The ESF Steering Group will have met on 19th September and is scheduled to receive a report from the GLA on its strategy for ESF in London and priorities for youth programmes.

ESF Preventative NEET and Apprenticeship Activity

3.2 The first management information about the programmes will be available from the end of October. YPES will facilitate representatives from boroughs to gather anecdotal and qualitative feedback from boroughs on the performance of providers. The performance evaluation at this stage will determine if there should be a supplementary tendering exercise next spring.

ESF NEET Activity

3.3 Tenders for the ESF NEET specifications have been submitted and following assessment and moderation. London Councils is involved in the contract award panel on 29 September. Following the 'Alcatel' period, contracts will be awarded and activity should commence in November.

Regional Partnership Agreement

3.4   Given the changing responsibilities of partner organisations, the Steering Group is reviewing the current Regional Partnership Agreement.

4   LLDD

4.1   The protocol for establishing *Common criteria for referrals to ISPs* was sent to all local authorities at the end of July for road testing prior to formal implementation. We have asked colleagues to test the protocol through their placement/complex needs panels over the next three months and to provide us with comments and feedback so we can make adjustments where necessary to the protocol prior to formal implementation. We have encouraged teams to make the protocol publicly available and share it with young people LDD and their families to ensure transparency and help manage expectations.

4.2   Following the withdrawal of the YPLA Review Panel process (a process for the independent review of a local authority's decision regarding a specialist placement for learners with LDD and their parents/carers) the LLDD working group identified a continuing need for some form of independent review of local authority placement decisions and has shaped and tested a *London Region Review Panel process.* The drivers behind the process are to provide added transparency to local authority decision making but also to offer London a means of considering issues of consistency, good practice and prevailing trends in either decision making or parental expectations.

4.3   The process was successfully trialed with colleagues from the London boroughs of Barnet, Hackney and Islington and will be recommended to ALDCS in November. As there are potential legal consequences with independent review of a placement decision, we will ask ALDCS to agree that where a local authority chooses to implement an independent review procedure that they adopt the London Region process.

4.4   As a consequence of trialing the review panel process the group is arranging a workshop (to take place late October – date to confirmed) on the statutory guidance for Learning Difficulty Assessments for colleagues across London.

4.5   The group is currently drafting a pan-London protocol for home/host reciprocal arrangements for undertaking Learning Difficulty Assessments. The protocol will be sent to ALDCS for sign off by December at the latest, to inform commissioning/service arrangements from April 2012.

4.6   The *Best practice standards for post-16 specialist placement panels* protocol has been finalised and will be distributed to all local authorities in October for road testing prior to formal implementation.

4.7   To progress the work on joint planning for transport local authorities have been asked (through their LLDD Working Group cluster representative) to provide information on current arrangements for post-16 transport for LLDD, with a particular interest in transport partnerships and independent travel training. This information will inform the group as to the merits of progressing the following activities:

- adopt a London wide policy to ensure an assessment of both individual transport needs and student potential for travel training is included in students' SEN statement reviews and transition planning

- specify minimum standards for travel training programmes

- evaluate the costs and benefits of potential travel training programmes and quantify the potential for a shift from specialist transport to independent transport

- share best practice information about cost-efficient transport service initiatives with all local authorities/Transport Partnerships

4.8 The key findings from the recent Ofsted Review *Progression post-16 for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities* held no surprises. At its next meeting the group will consider carefully the reports recommendations to local authorities and will look to ensure that the current work programme will address them:

- improve the arrangements for transition from school to the post-16 sector by ensuring that personal advisers are adequately resourced and trained to provide objective learning difficulty assessments and to keep in contact with learners who become disengaged from formal learning or employment on leaving school;

- ensure, where applicable, that social services and health services are fully involved in the transition process at all stages;

- consider the use of a mentor to maintain contact with the learner at all stages up to age 25;

- ensure that advice and guidance are impartial, and that decision-making about the provision is based on objective criteria and identified needs;

- build on the expertise within the post-16 sector and the third sector, to improve local capacity, particularly for learners with the most profound and complex needs.

5 Worldskills London 2011 (5-8 October 2011)

5.1 We are in the final run up to Worldskills London 2011 and a final push for support is requested. London Councils has linked with WorldSkills to try and help promote the event to borough cultural leads across London, and will include information in 'Key Issues' which goes out to more than 6,800 individual subscribers, including members.

5.2 London Councils helped judge applications for funding available to run 'have a go' activities external to the main WorldSkills event. A number of bids from colleges and work-based learning providers across London were approved, with activity set to take place from now until Apprenticeships week in February 2012.

5.3 Work has been on-going with Prospects who have the ESF contract to support attendance of young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. An enhanced offer of support is available to schools in 10 boroughs with the highest proportion of NEET young people.

5.4 Worldskills have written to invite Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members for Children and Young People to attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies (Tuesday 4th and Sunday 9th October). If you are intending to visit WorldSkills London 2011, don't forget to register for your complimentary ticket at www.worldskillslondon2011.com/visit

5.5 The conference and event programme are also being promoted and include 'Work Inspiration and The Big Conversation' aimed at young people and employers and 'Worldskills Leaders Forum' which will include Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham and Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and John Hayes, Minister of State for FE, Skills and Lifelong Learning. Further details www.worldskillspremiere.com

5.6 National Apprenticeship Service is also running a conference and event programme to promote apprenticeships aimed at stakeholders and (on Friday 7th) employers from small to medium sized companies – they have asked for any support in encouraging attendance from employers.

6   Apprenticeships

6.1   Boroughs have met their target to create 2,000 new apprenticeships 6 months ahead of schedule. This is a significant achievement, and around 30% of the apprenticeships are working with contractors delivering services on behalf of the boroughs. This has received press coverage in the Evening Standard and BBC London radio.

6.2   The first London Borough Apprenticeship Awards were announced on 14 September. Winners from Hounslow, Barking & Dagenham and Lewisham were congratulated on their commitment and success in delivering high quality apprenticeships. More detail on the winners and runners-up can be found here
http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/economicdevelopment/apprenticeships/default.htm

6.3   Bidding for the National Apprenticeship Service fund to expand Higher Apprenticeships closes on 16 September. The fund is designed to increase uptake of existing Higher Apprenticeships, and expand the range of Higher Apprenticeships on offer. London boroughs may be involved in successful bids, for example to expand the uptake of Level 4 Business Administration.

7   Consultation on Three-Year Vision

7.1   Arrangements are being made to undertake a public consultation on a vision for young Londoners and their education and skills up to 2015. The consultation will be based in part on boroughs' plans for achieving full participation and is scheduled to start around Christmas.

8   Young Parents To Be

8.1   The Programme has now closed to new entrants and boroughs have been asked to provide final achievement and progression information by 14th October. A final evaluation will be produced, but the headlines are:

- 480 young people participated in the programme;

- four boroughs did not take part in the Programme and two significantly under-delivered, leaving over £130,000 unallocated.