

Notes

Operational Sub-group

Date 2 July 2010 **Venue** London Councils
Meeting Chair Mary Vine-Morris
Contact Officer: Jonathan Rallings
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Attendees

Chris Smith	GOL
Jonathan Rallings	RPG
Mary Vine-Morris	RPG
Mike Pettifer	YPLA
Nick Brenton	ALDCS
Rachel Dunford	LDA
Steve Cameron	Newham
Trevor Sandford	DfE
Yolande Burgess	RPG
Anna-Maria Volpicelli	RPG

Apologies

Colin Jones	LDA
David Fowler	LSEB
Helen McNulty	Learning Trust
Helen Richardson	Barking & Dagenham
Wendy Forrest	Tower Hamlets
Alan Parnum	YPLA
Martin Wilson	Redbridge
Sue Snowdon	Redbridge

Item. 1 Notes of the last meeting and action points

- 1.1 MVM noted apologies and welcomed those attending. Notes of the last meeting were **AGREED** as an accurate record.
- 1.2 Of action points outstanding, 35 on hold (ESF/Strategy Launch), 38 (Final Commissioning Plan) was tabled at the meeting under item 2, action 39 completed (Disputes Resolutions Panel) to be circulated in post meeting email prior to submission to RPG for approval
- 1.3 As there have been no new plans announced for 2011/12 16-19 commissioning yet, it was acknowledged that London should continue to work to previous commissioning timeline until there is any real clarification.
- 1.4 Matters arising:
 - **RPG** – it is now extremely unlikely that a July meeting will take place as both the London Councils Lead Member for Children and Young People (to be the new Chairman of RPG) and the two political advisors are yet to be announced. Therefore work is being undertaken on the understanding that the first meeting of the new RPG will take place on 20th September. Induction meetings are being arranged for new members.
 - There are a few items that may need RPG approval prior to September - these will require Chair's Action
 - It was suggested and agreed to schedule a further RPG meeting in late autumn/early winter in order to facilitate a February sign off of the 11/12 Commissioning Plan.
 - **OSG ToR** – amendments as discussed from last meeting have been made, notably wording in item 'x' of annex A. These are now formally **AGREED** and will be taken to RPG for approval.

The ToR have also been circulated to both the RAG and 14-19 Leads Groups asking for expressions of interest in joining the OSG. Responses so far have given a reasonable geographical spread ([tabled item 1. TY5 Emerging Clusters map](#)) (deadline Monday 5th July). It is hoped to have RPG sign off proposed OSG memberships in September with October being the first formal meeting of the new OSG group.

- Both RAG and 14-19 Leads will be asked to confirm whether the emerging cluster groups are accurate and run on a formal basis.
- HMcN has agreed to be LLDD sub-group nominee and Wendy Forrest has agreed to represent the Local Authority sub-group of the London Apprenticeship Task Force. Other representatives, as dictated by the ToR, are presently being sought.
- The Dept. issued a statement regarding expressions of interest from schools with regard to Academy status. c290 schools in London of which only 123 have o/s OFSTED reports and of those, 50 have sixth forms.
- **Regional Statement of Priorities (RSoP)** – it has been decided to refresh last year's document to inform commissioning for 2011/12. The longer term strategy has been put on hold for the present time until there is more certainty of the new government's plans.

ACTION (41): AMV to circulate tabled items from meeting.

Item.2 RSoP – refresh

- 2.1 YB tabled a document 'Choice, Support, Success – priorities for young Londoners 2011/12' (working title) ([tabled item. 2](#)). The conclusions drawn from the Strategic Analysis (presented in the document at page 3) were shared with RAG colleagues earlier in the week. There was a good debate at the RAG meeting, with colleagues broadly in agreement with the conclusions.
- 2.2 It was noted that we need to pay particular attention to 'new' Government policy language emerging whilst remaining within the spirit of the RPGs principles.
- 2.3 YB noted that we need to continue the debate on quality and success (point 5 in the document).
- 2.4 Comments were as follows:
 - Headline language is good but supporting text still looks as though it could have some re-wording, use of key words such as 'simplification', 'freeing providers'.
 - Wording all sounds the same (points, objectives etc.)
 - 'Transforming challenge into opportunity' reflects priorities but first bullet too long, otherwise punchy and good.
 - Should reflect our wish of 'putting power into the hand of the learner' and 'citizenship'
 - 'Accountability' is often mentioned but there is no clear definition of what this accountability is and who has it. We need to step away from the dependency culture (dependency on national guidance).
 - We need to emphasise that we are not implementing the governments agenda but are working for the LA's to champion the needs of young people and this is where London Councils has its strength.
 - MVM agreed adding that we need to acknowledge government agenda and then rise to challenge with proposed way forward.
- 2.5 As the next scheduled RPG is not until September, MVM asked members how we could move forward with this document. NB offered to seek approval from ALDCS and this was **AGREED**.

ACTION (42): Members should contact YB with any further comments.

Item 3. Transition Year Evaluation

- 3.1 JR said that feedback from LAs was generally positive, with some specific areas which needed improving.
- 3.2 Communications needed to be clearer and delivered on time, but generally recognised that this was not always RPG/YPLA's fault.
- 3.3 It was felt that more clarity was needed around the RPG's role and representation (also in conjunction to role of YPLA). It was evident from responses that those LAs who have been more involved have a better understanding.
- 3.4 RAG is perceived as not perfect but necessary. Inter-borough communications in general need to be addressed as it is not clear whether local, sub-regional or regional dialogue would be best dealt with formally or informally.
- 3.5 Key sticking issues are timescales and communications, both of which in the Transition Year have been tricky due to the working environment.
- 3.6 It was acknowledged that the shadow YPLA had provided the appropriate level of support to assist LAs but that the planning template needed to be more refined so that both LAs and providers were clear on what the requirements were for completion.
- 3.7 Provider feedback was split but not overly negative. Felt that LAs needed a better understanding of FE sector and although they know they have local representation, they are not clear when it comes to regional. WBL providers felt that the move from E2E to FL had had a big impact and that it was a big challenge.
- 3.8 Overall consensus was that the transition year had gone as well as could be expected, but there was concern that the process needs to be more robust going forward.
- 3.9 Comments as follows:
 - MP said that he was surprised that the responses on data were not more positive given informal feedback. It also looks as though they are being challenged on the amount of data being produced but this is required to make accurate and informed decisions.
 - He was reminded that you have to contextualise these comments as this was a 'different time'. The Data Pack was not only good but fundamental, however it could be more simplified and SSF data more robust.
 - MVM advised that both report and PP presentation have gone to RAG but as this cannot go to RPG until September, actions need to be taken now in order to inform and better support for 11/12 commissioning cycle.
- 3.10 YB tabled a draft action plan 'Transition Year Evaluation – Action Plan' ([tabled item 4.](#)) asking members to comment. MP asked that 'accessibility to data' be added. TS and CS both advised that some of the language used in document (RPA and Entitlement) needed to be reviewed.

ACTION (43): JR to send MP all comments received in relation to data/data packs from evaluation process.

Item 4. RPG workplan monitoring – feedback from sub-groups

- Achieving Excellence (YB)
 - Choice and CAP Pilot evaluation – going on a pace, lots of communications and events. Summary report is due at the end of July and will be circulated to OSG members. Full report, although only in draft, will be available at the end of August.
- LLDD (MVM)
 - HMcN and YB submitted two proposals to the Dept. of Health, which have been successful (verbal confirmation only at this stage), The bids are for a total of £40k. The projects propose to secure better information on learner need/demand and for setting up regional protocols to enable LAs to meet their legislative responsibilities with some better consistency across London.

- ISPs – YB noted that some ISPs had indicated that there are some delays in approving placements. YPLA colleagues are actively working with LA teams to resolve this.
- The next meeting of the Regional LLDD group takes place on Monday 12 July.
- RAG (MVM)
 - These meetings are useful for sharing of information, discussions and critique but it is difficult to reach consensus. Going forwards it would be easier and a better use of members to arrange specific TfGs as the need arises to look at the more specific areas of work.
 - TS said that although the data on post 16 progression needs to be improved, there is a bigger job to do on capturing post 18 progression. This should be looked at on both a borough and inter-borough level. SC confirmed that there is 'curriculum mapping' in both borough and at an inter-borough level.
 - MP advised that post 17 institution dropout data is now available.
- ESF Working Group (MVM)
 - The continuing review and freeze on approval of the CFO Plans means that there is an increasing back-log of actions and both LDA and the Skills Funding Agency have to reconsider their time-lines.
 - Jo Baty, Redbridge, has agreed to become Chair for the ESF Working Group whose next meeting is 23 July. The first meeting of the ESF Steering Group is 21st July.

ACTION (44): MVM to forward SFA (PC) email to RD.

Item 5. AOB

- 5.1 World Skills – David Cragg has been in touch to advise that a meeting will be arranged shortly. RPG will attend to find out what level of engagement and activity might be required from LAs before they commit.
- 5.2 RPG Pooled Funding – MVM advised that this is causing difficulties for some LAs in the current climate. Frankie Sulke has emailed DCS's to remind them of the commitment agreed by Leaders and MVM will do follow up email to RAG members requesting details for invoicing.
- 5.3 YE Tendering – MVM advised members that this is at the ITT stage. Given the current climate it has been agreed to review the decision whether to proceed to contract. LA's will be asked to express a preference by email and then, in the absence of a timely RPG meeting, the decision as to whether to proceed will have to be undertaken by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of RPG
- 5.4 It was **AGREED** to cancel the 6 August OSG.

Date of next meeting: 3 September, 10-12.30, London Councils