

# **Transition Year 2009/10**

## **Summary of findings from the evaluation report**

# Transition Year Evaluation

- Aim to find out what worked and what didn't work during transition year
- Covers both local and regional commissioning perspective
- Responses:
  - 26 LA (+1),
  - Association of Colleges (7 colleges),
  - NATSPEC (1 specialist college),
  - London Work Based Learning Alliance

# Local Commissioning

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	No Response
My local authority involved local partners (e.g. 14-19 Partnership) in developing our local commissioning plan	12	14	-	-
The Data Pack was a significant source of information and was used throughout the commissioning process	3	15	7	1
Provider planning meetings were a useful part of the process and contributed to commissioning decisions	12	14	-	-
Local authority officers in the Local Commissioning Team have a good understanding of the commissioning process	14	11	1	-
The local commissioning plan was discussed with and endorsed by a senior officer (DCS or ADCS)	13	12	-	1
The local commissioning plan was discussed and endorsed by members	2	14	10	-
Inter-borough dialogues contributed to commissioning decisions	1	15	10	-

# Local Commissioning

- Largely positive responses
- Generally strong understanding of the commissioning process
- Good buy-in from senior officers, but more to be done around consulting members
- Wide engagement with local partners, and most boroughs felt meetings with providers in particular were useful

# Local Commissioning

- Data Pack useful in conjunction with local sources, but could be more user-friendly
- Inter-borough dialogue of variable quality – crucially it failed to strongly influence final plans in many cases
- Communications reasonable in the circumstances, but need to be improved for the future – particularly timescales

# Regional Commissioning

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	No Response
The RPG's governance arrangements contributed to London's local authorities working well together	4	19	1	2
The RAG was an effective means of bringing local authorities together to discuss and agree procedures for regional planning	9	15	2	-
Inter-borough dialogues were an effective mechanism for enabling cross borough planning	5	12	8	1
The regional planning process delivered an outcome that was fair and transparent, regionally and locally	11	11	4	-
My local authority used the priorities document <i>Taking a Lead, Making a Difference</i> when preparing its commissioning statement for 2010/11	9	13	3	1
The RPG, through the RAG, set clear parameters for the overall planning process as part of the Transitional Year	8	14	3	1

# Regional Commissioning

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Information from the RPG has been communicated in a timely and consistent manner	9	13	4	-
The 14-19 Leads conferences provided an opportunity to explore the broader 14-19 agenda (e.g. developing the four pathways) to support commissioning decisions	13	12	-	1
The shadow YPLA provided appropriate support to assist local authorities with commissioning decisions	7	17	1	1
When I needed help and support during the transitional year, it was clear to me where to find it	11	11	3	1
The Transition Year Toolkit was a useful suite of documents, providing guidance for commissioning and a means of ensuring consistency	10	16	-	-

# Regional Commissioning

- Largely positive responses, but more split than local commissioning
- RPG useful, although more clarity needed around role and representation
- RAG necessary, but effectiveness unsure – size is unwieldy
- Inconclusive over best way to conduct inter-borough dialogue – regional, sub-regional, local, 1:1? Formal or informal?

# Regional Commissioning

- RPG support role welcomed, although scope to be refined in future
- Timescales, communication routing, and clarity of information are key issues
- Statement of Priorities useful but came out too late
- Commissioning parameters quite broad
- 14-19 Leads events very helpful

# Regional Commissioning

- YPLA support role also useful – although to some extent expected given LSC were still responsible
- Transition Year Toolkit generally welcomed
  - Planning template may need refining so providers and LAs clear on requirements
  - Does it need to be so detailed?
- RPG & YPLA roles need to be clearly defined

# Regional Commissioning

- Provider feedback split, but not overly negative about the process
- Providers generally positive over boroughs' ability and intentions to commission
- Boroughs needed more knowledge of FE Sector
- Providers represented at local level, but not so clear about regional representation
- Big impact on e2e providers

# Regional Commissioning

- Overall Regional planning decisions; split opinion on outcomes
- Some Boroughs felt they were broadly fair, others that the system was flawed and not transparent
- Unsure how present system may react to additional pressures, without LSC safety net (e.g. less money, greater political pressure)
- Specific areas for improvement

# Transition Year Evaluation

- Overall sense of 'as good as it could have gone'
- Areas to improve:
  - Communications;
  - Definition of organisational roles;
  - Making sure system is robust for the future

# Transition Year Evaluation

***“On the whole I think it worked very well and has put us all in a good position to take the next steps.”***