London Councils: Young People's Education and Skills

Operational Sub-Group

Date	25 November 2011	**Venue**	London Councils
Meeting Chair	Mary Vine-Morris		
Contact Officer:	Peter O'Brien		
Telephone:	020 7934 9743	**Email:**	Peter.OBrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Attendance:

Members:
Mary Vine-Morris (MVM)   Chair - London Councils: YPES
Ali Kaye (AK)   Work-Based Learning Alliance
Alison Moore (AM)   LB Hillingdon (North-west Cluster)
Helen Richardson   LB Barking and Dagenham (Apprenticeships/ICYP)
Helen McNulty (HMN)   Learning Trust (LLDD)
Steve Cameron (SC)   LB Newham (representing North East Cluster)
Jon Hegerty (JH)   RB Kensington & Chelsea (Central Cluster)
Judith Smyth (JS)   Association of Colleges
John Galligan (JG)   LB Brent (West Central Cluster/Vice-Chair OSG)
Jason Lever (JL)   Greater London Authority
Michelle Cuomo (MC)   Greater London Authority
Ruth Griffiths (RG)   LB Lewisham (South Cluster)
Andrew Knight (AnK)   Young People's Learning Agency
Eamonn Gilbert (EG)   RB Kingston upon Thames (SWLSEP)

In attendance
Tess Lanning (TL)   IPPR

Officers:
Peter O'Brien (POB)   London Councils: YPES
Jonathan Rallings (JR)   London Councils: YPES
Yolande Burgess (YB)   London Councils: YPES

Apologies:
Jo Baty (JB)   LB Redbridge (Chair ESF Steering Group)
Mike Pettifer (MP)   Young People's Learning Agency
Alan Parnum (AP)   Young People's Learning Agency
Trevor Cook (TC)   LB Havering (North East Cluster)
Diana Choulerton (DC)   LB Ealing (South West Cluster)
Neil Larkin   LB of Waltham Forest (North Cluster)

1. Welcome Introductions and apologies

1.1   MVM welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted apologies received and those attending in someone's stead or with regard to an agenda item (namely Tess Lanning IPPR)

2. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1   The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record. The only outstanding matters arising that were not otherwise discussed were:

2.2   Action point 94 – The proposal on the use of the ESF administration fee will be confirmed at the 14-19 Leads Conference planned for 5th December 2011.

2.3   Action Point 95 – London Councils had responded to the consultation on Care to Learn, but not to those on Open Data and the Common Inspection Framework; where there was not an agreed position.

3. Feedback from YPES Board

3.1   Consultation on Vision & Strategy

3.1.1   MVM, referring to a paper circulated with the agenda, reported that the Board had agreed with the broad thrust of the proposed vision, but wanted a more dynamic dialogue with stakeholders than would typically be the case in a consultation exercise. It was agreed to take a thematic approach, with the 'consultation' linking into related discussions with a number of stakeholders.

3.1.2   In the debate that followed the meeting referred to the drafts of both the vision and annual statement of priorities. With regard to the vision, OSG members made detailed comments about the content of the document that would be published and which the YPES Team noted. OSG members' specific comments on the method of consultation were also noted, as were remarks concerning the tone and presentation of the annual statement of priorities (which was due to be published alongside this year's 14-19 evidence base).

3.1.3   OSG Members were asked to send any further comments about the vision or annual statement of priorities to Peter O'Brien by 15th December at the latest

ACTION (96): OSG members to send comments on the vision and annual statement of priorities to Peter O'Brien (peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk) by 15th December

3.2   16-19 Funding & Programme consultations

3.2.1   YB introduced discussion on a paper that had been circulated in advance of the meeting and said that these parallel consultations would be a major subject in the forthcoming 14-19 Leads conference. London Councils' response to the consultation would be framed after the conference and would be shared with members of the group.

3.2.2   OSG members were advised to also submit separate responses to the consultation.

ACTION (97): YB to submit the responses to both consultations after discussion at the 14-19 Leads Conference.

3.3   Work related learning at key stage 4 consultation

3.3.1   YB spoke to a paper that had been sent to OSG members in advance of the meeting and which contained a draft response to the consultation.

3.3.2   After debate, during which OSG members made suggestions on the composition of the response that YB agreed to incorporate in the final version, the meeting agreed to recommend that the YPES response should oppose the removal of the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at key stage 4.

ACTION (98): YB to amend the draft response to take into account the views of the OSG and submit by the due date.

4. 16-19 Bursaries

4.1 OSG members repeated their concerns about the effect that ending EMA may have on recruitment and retention; the level of take-up of bursaries; and the sufficiency of the funding of bursaries. In addition a potential impact on achievement was noted, with young people being forced to seek part-time work to subsidise their living costs whilst learning. The meeting noted that there was still not enough data to evidence whether or not its concerns were justified. However AK said that the WBLA had written to the YPLA to express its members' concerns about the data collection system, adding that some WBLA members were paying bursaries out of their own resources and this was not sustainable.

4.2 AnK explained that the YPLA pays bursaries centrally and institutions had been asked to submit returns by the end of December. He restated the YPLA commitment to respond to need for additional funding for £1200 bursaries. It would become clearer in January whether or not the OSG's concerns were valid. In March, the YPLA planned to allocate bursary funds to providers on a lagged basis for 2012/13.

4.3 In subsequent discussion, OSG members reported a considerable amount of anecdotal evidence that validated their concerns, including their belief that the YPLA's data collection system was imprecise and may require providers to supply additional information later in the year. Moreover, AnK was asked to report back within the YPLA the OSG's disquiet and the difference between the monitoring systems that apply to bursaries and other discretionary funds.

ACTION (99): AnK to report back the views of the meeting to the YPLA on 16-19 Bursaries.

5. GLA Research 'Youth Transitions'

5.1 MC and TL spoke to a paper – circulated in advance - that explained the background to the project. They explained that the GLA was looking at how school-to-work transitions for young people in London could be better supported through structured pathways. TL invited members to contribute to the research.

5.2 In response the OSG welcomed the research and many OSG members indicated that they wished to become involved in the project – they were advised to contact TL directly (t.lanning@ippr.org)

5.3 MC then provided an update on the establishment of a Local Enterprise Panel (LEP) in London (noting that in other parts of England there would be Local Enterprise Partnership). The LEP was in the course of recruiting its members and was due to meet for the first time in February 2012. It will be an advisory group to the Mayor and focus on supporting growth, enterprise, innovation, skills and employment. It is expected to convene a sub-group on post-16 education and skills. The LEP would be composed of business representatives in the main.

5.4 JL added that the Mayor has launched an Education Inquiry that would involve a call for information in December and a stakeholder panel in February.

ACTIONS:
(100)   OSG members to contact MC and TL about the 'Youth Transitions' research
(100 (a))   MC and JL to provide details of recruitment to the panels for the London Enterprise Panel and the Mayor's Education Inquiry
        http://www.london.gov.uk/jobs/vacancies/lepchair11-leppan11

6. Careers Guidance – National Careers Service

6.1 YB reminded the meeting that the Education Act 2011 had been promulgated and the statutory duty for careers guidance would now move to schools. As a result, the DfE is preparing new statutory guidance and the ICYP Group is also providing additional practical information to boroughs, including a package that can support work with schools.

7. Workplan Monitoring

7.1   The report circulated with the agenda was noted.

8. Learner Voice

8.1   JR demonstrated the latest version of the system (learnervoicelondon.org.uk) which had received initial feedback from the YPES board, other stakeholders and specialists in the field of youth engagement. It was acknowledged that further development was needed before the system could fully go live. The OSG welcomed the site and its incorporation of social networking. OSG members agreed that the priority was to gain the trust of young people; that the focus should be on learners without excluding NEETs; and even though there was a risk of failure, YPES should make every effort to engage with young people in this way. In the course of implementation, it was recommended that YPES may wish to work with Young Mayors in boroughs.

9. 14-19 Leads Event

9.1   MVM tabled a draft agenda. JH, JG, EG, HR, and AM agreed to act as facilitators in the morning and HR as a note taker in the afternoon.

10. AOB

10.1   Schedule of meeting dates 2012-13: the meeting agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 6th January and to adjust its schedule for 2012-13 to an eight-week cycle, which still aligns with YPES Board reporting. The schedule will therefore be:

10th February 2012 (ahead of the YPES Board meeting to be held on 6th March)
20th April 2012
1st June 2012 (ahead of the YPES Board meeting to be held on 19th June)
21st September 2012 (ahead of the YPES Board to be held on 16th October)
16th November 2012
8th February 2013 (ahead of YPES Board to be held on 5th March)

10.2   The YPES Team was asked to ensure that the programme of 14-19 Leads Conferences and LA Forums for 2012-13 was such that the OSG was given an opportunity to agree their agendas.

10.3   Cluster Feedback: AM suggested that a future meeting devotes more time to receiving feedback from cluster groups' discussions. YPES also agreed to investigate the effectiveness of the feedback arrangements by cluster representatives on other sub-groups. In particular OSG Members raised the following:
  –   concerns about ESF pre-NEET providers (these had been discussed both at an event held on 3rd November and the ESF Steering Group held on 22nd November)
  –   problems in completing learning difficulty assessments - section 139a (this was an on-going discussion item at the LLDD Working Group and special workshops had been held on 9th November)
  –   the working arrangements between NAS and boroughs

ACTION (101): AM to provide YPES with more information about its concerns in dealing with NAS.

10.4   JH reported that this would be his last meeting as he was moving on to a new role. MVM thanked him for his contribution to the OSG and wished him well in the future.

10.5   Data sharing: AK in noting the demise of Connexions services across the boroughs requested that the ICYP Group investigate how Foundation Learning providers could more effectively access young people who were not currently engaged in learning.

ACTION (102): YB / HR to refer to the ICYP Group the issue of FL providers access to the personal details of NEETs.

10.6 Leavers who do not complete their programme of learning: EG requested that the YPLA produce a standard data set showing for each institution the number of young people who leave before completing their programme.

ACTION (103): AnK to investigate the possibility of the YPLA producing a standard data set for dropout by institution.

10.7 Apprenticeships: It was agreed that a future meeting should explore in greater detail the take-up of apprenticeships by young people in London

ACTION (104): YPES to ask NAS for a report on 16-18 apprenticeship take-up in London.

10.8 Youth Contract: OSG members asked for a subsequent meeting to discuss the newly announced government initiative once further information was available.

Date of next meeting: Friday 10th February 2012, 10-12, Room 4, London Councils