Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Workplan Monitoring – update April 2012

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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 During 2010-2011 London Councils Young People's Education and Skills team commissioned Learning Plus UK to produce Travel to Success reports at level 3 for each London borough. These reports analysed the geographical mobility (travel to study patterns) of each boroughs' 16-19 year old residents and the quality and the effectiveness of the provision they accessed.

1.2 The new Travel to Success pan-London report has been produced as an overarching addition to these reports with the objective of identifying the key themes about performance in London as a region in relation to Travel to Study patterns. The emphasis on graphical and visual methods of reporting is integral to this report, supporting the interpretation and understanding of the data. As this report was incepted when 2011 data was unavailable, Learning Plus UK has based this report on the available 2010 data and has used the model that was adopted for the individual local authority reports. The visuals and tables from the report are available in an Excel workbook to enable local authority colleagues to cut and paste into local analysis and reports. Members of the Data Advisory Group (DAG) have generously contributed to the development of the report.

1.3 The DAG is joining forces with the London Education Research Network Post 16 (LERN Post-16), the networking group for research and data officers working in local authority education and children's services. All LERN Post-16 members have been invited to join the DAG and the LERN Post-16 meetings will be replaced with thematic Research and Data Practice Forums that will run on a quarterly basis, at intervals between DAG meetings. Forums will cover topical themes and will be structured around how data makes a contribution to these themes. The first of the forums will focus on how data, research and analysis can provide the foundations for successful implementation of Raising the Participation Age.

1.4 With the wider release of open access sources of data, finding the right information can be very time consuming. Thanks to colleagues at Havering and Islington, a guide has been produced to help with tracking down data. Sources of Information and Data on

14-19 Education, Training and Employment is a table of useful sources of data, together with links to key types of data and notes about the information available.

1.5 The Apprenticeship generic data packs have been refreshed and both final year 2010/11 and first quarter 2011/12 packs have been uploaded onto the Provider Gateway. There were some minor changes to the final year figures and these were re-issued by the Data Service. More detailed data, in the form of Pivot Tables, is available to local authorities that have signed a data sharing agreement. The next data pack is due out in early April following publication of the latest Statistical First Release.

1.6 The next DAG is scheduled for 11 July 2012.

2 Improving Choices for Young People

2.1 In response to questions on local authority tracking and monitoring of young people not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) the Improving Choices for Young People Group has produced a local authority information guide - Tracking, Monitoring and Supporting Young People's Participation in London.

2.2 Tracking, Monitoring and Supporting Young People's Participation in London, captures some of these changes, maps out the arrangements for tracking and recording information through local systems to the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS), and highlights the organisational responsibilities for young people who are NEET.

2.3 The guide sets out how the current local and sub-regional structures interact at a regional level through the London CCIS Index. This draws on each of the five sub-regional CCIS systems to track young people across sub regional boundaries, which supports local authorities in tracking the destinations of their resident young people travelling out-of-borough to study. As it is vitally important to understand the relationships between systems and the associated reliance across the sub-regions the Young People's Education and Skills team is producing 'minimum arrangements' for recording participation.

2.4 The National Careers Service (NCS) launched on 5 April 2012, replacing the Next Step service for adults and Connexions Direct for young people with enhanced online access, more interactive facilities and a greater focus on the quality of advice offered.

2.5 The NCS provides access to independent, professional advice on careers, skills and the labour market. The service will be free to everyone aged 13 and over and will be available online and through advisers on the telephone. For adults there will also be face-to-face advice in the community. There are 12 NCS prime contractors delivering this service across the country. The prime contractor for London is Prospects.

2.6 Young people under 19 not in education, employment or training (NEET) - who remain the responsibility of local authorities - will be able to access the NCS website and helpline, but will not have access to face-to-face guidance through the NCS. 18-24 year olds who are NEET, including 18 year olds in receipt of out of work benefits, are one of the NCS priority groups and will have access to all three strands of the NCS i.e. telephone, website support, and three funded face-to-face interventions.

2.7 Young people aged 16-18 who wish to access face-to-face guidance in their community will be signposted to relevant services, be that their school or, if that person is NEET, their local authority. Given the local authority responsibility for NEETs, and CCIS reporting and tracking, we are working with Prospects to ensure that they have accurate information about local authority contact details for referrals and signposting.

2.8 The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has published a summary of the NCS The right advice at the right time and a Launch toolkit for stakeholders to support the promotion of the new service.

2.9 In January the Department for Education issued a consultation seeking views on elements of how RPA will work in practice by consulting on the policies that will form the secondary legislation. The consultation covers aspects such as the definition of residency; the definition of full-time education; wider ways of working that, when combined with part-time study, could be considered as participating, and the amount and use of any fines. The consultation closed on Friday 13 April 2012.

2.10 The London Councils response to the consultation has been informed by colleagues across London. The key points noted in the response are:

2.10.1 *Section 1:* There is no need to regulate on residency, existing funding regulations will suffice

2.10.2 *Section 2:* There is no need to define 'full-time education', given that the proposals for a definition only apply to colleges.

2.10.3 *Section 4:* Other valid forms of gainful activity should be counted as participation when combined with part-time study, for example volunteering. Consideration should be given to young people with caring responsibilities.

2.10.4 Section 6: We do not agree with the proposal to set out financial penalties against employers under RPA; this is counter-productive to engaging employers in youth employment and places unnecessary burdens on local authorities.

2.11 To support local authorities in their preparations for RPA, the Young People's Education and Skills team, supported by members of the Improving Choices for Young People Group, hosted a RPA Learning Visit on 30 March. The event was attended by over 40 colleagues from 26 boroughs and workshops were delivered by RPA Local Leads from Barnsley, Derby, East Sussex and Swindon. The Department for Education provided an overview and national context for RPA and colleagues from the ISOS Partnership supported planning sessions. Feedback from the event will be used to prepare a follow-up event this autumn.

2.12 London Councils will be hosting a Member Event on the 21 May aimed at supporting Councillors to understand their contribution to achieving full participation post-16.

2.13 The next ICYP Group is scheduled for 27 June 2012.

3 ESF

3.1 The ESF Steering Group met on 28th March and discussed:

3.1.1 *ESF Preventative NEET, NEET Re-engagement and Apprenticeship Activity.* Although detailed performance data was available at the meeting, the Steering Group noted that the data provided was incomplete and did not provide a strategic overview of programme performance. Further work will be carried out between meetings to specify information requirements

3.1.2 *Greater London Authority:* The GLA Programme Youth Prospectus was launched on 28th February with three projects aimed at addressing issues faced by particularly vulnerable young people:

3.1.2.1 Young People with Learning Difficulties and / or Disabilities aged 16-25 (developed with the LLDD Working Group)

3.1.2.2 Resettlement of young offenders aged 14-17 leaving custody (developed with the YJB)

3.1.2.3 Reengagement of young people aged 14-16 excluded from school on a fixed term basis

The pre-qualification process (through Competefor) has closed and qualified organisations invited to tender – tenders are due to be returned in May. Contracts are due to be issued in August with an intended activity commencement date of September.

3.1.3 *London Partnership Protocol and Revised Terms of Reference.* The SFA proposed a precise form of words to add to the new Partnership Protocol – a very much simplified document – that enabled the Protocol and Terms of reference to be agreed at the meeting.

3.1.4 *London Councils Programme.* Due to the risk of duplication, YPES is no longer developing a specification for Young Parents To Be and is considering alternative uses for its proposed investment.

3.1.5 *Provider Information.* The ESF Steering Group expressed its frustration about the lack of information about providers' programmes, sub-contractors, locations and details of delivery. It agreed to convene a small task and finish group to (a) source the information available; (b) specify the additional information required; and (c) recommend how the information should be presented and made available to a variety of users in local authorities across the whole of London.

3.1.6 *Youth Contract.* In pursuit of its aim to achieve integrated commissioning, YPES has asked the EFA to consider using the ESF Steering Group as the vehicle for providing local authority and other partner input into the local accountability of the Youth Contract programme in London.

4   LLDD

4.1   Last year the Young People's Education & Skills team commissioned Mime Consulting to develop a model to forecast future participation of pupils with Special Educational Needs in post-16 provision in a consistent way across all London local authorities.

4.2   Following significant development work and consultation with stakeholders through the DAG and LLDD Working Group Mime Consulting presented the draft *LLDD Forecasting Model* to members of the LLDD Working Group earlier this month. The model uses an enormous amount of data (seven academic years of data from all schools in London for pupils in years 7 to 11 with School Action Plus support or with a Statement of SEN) to project patterns of post-16 need in the coming years.

4.3   The model projects patterns of need by primary 'category' (e.g. visual impairment, autistic spectrum disorder etc.) and also forecasts predicted Key Stage 4 attainment bands, important elements to help with the further development of local and specialist provision into the future.

4.4   The model is being developed further following feedback from the LLDD Working Group and we aim to have the Regional and individual local authority workbooks ready for release in May. A series of workshops will be held to ensure that colleagues understand both the uses and limitations of the model and are able to use the information to best effect.

5   Apprenticeships

5.1   The final total against the 3-year target to create 2000 new apprenticeships has been announced. By March 2012 London boroughs had created over 2,600 apprenticeships, working both directly for boroughs and with contractors delivering services on their behalf. The total was announced at a celebration event on 14 March, chaired by Cllr Steve Reed.

5.2 An event with the top 50 suppliers and contractors to boroughs is planned for mid-May, to raise their awareness of apprenticeships and inform them of boroughs' commitment to creating apprenticeships and other jobs through their contracts.

5.3 London Councils is funding 3 projects in boroughs to develop their work to create more apprenticeships through their supply chains. Reports and other resources from this work will be available to all boroughs in June.

5.4 The post of Apprenticeships Officer at London Councils has been extended until at least the end of 2012.

5.5 The National Apprenticeship Service has funded a pilot project in London to develop a London Apprenticeship Information Ambassadors Network. The network has been established to support the growing demand and request for information on Apprenticeships from a variety of stakeholders including schools.

5.6 The network is being developed and managed by the London Work Based Learning Alliance and will provide information on Apprenticeships to pupils in years 9-11. Delivered by young people themselves, from some of the highest quality training providers in London, the aim is to ensure impartial information on Apprenticeships is available freely to all schools and local authorities in London. The National Apprenticeship Service will be evaluating this pilot over the summer months.

6 Consultation on Three-Year Vision

6.1 The University of London: Institute of Education had been commissioned to become the Academic Partner to YPES. This establishes a long term relationship with the Centre for Post-14 Research and Innovation and secures specific support for the consultation activity; including:

6.1.1 Production of a report that confirms the vision set out in the YPES document "Being The Best" and critically appraises the 'themes' described in the document

6.1.2 Producing analyses and synthesis of evidence in the key areas of: curriculum / provision; careers; progression & destinations and partnership / collaboration

6.1.3 Convening a consultation event, tentatively scheduled for 4th May

Further roll-out of the Academic Partner's work will take place during the summer.

6.2 Learner Voice London has been refreshed with new video content, a sample of which will be available for viewing at the OSG Meeting. Further marketing of the site is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the consultation. Additionally, we are in contact with Pupil Voice & Participation England about the promotion of the blog through the Youth Parliament and Youth Councils.

6.3 On 5 March the GLA, in conjunction with YPES and ALDCS, ran a successful Youth Transitions Event, hosted by Ernst & Young. Involving senior leaders across London the workshop sought to develop new thinking and ideas to address youth transition challenges and improve support to young Londoners. The YPES team provided a robust, evidence input into these discussions and the output from the event will contribute to the development of the Vision and the Strategy to realise it.

6.4 The consultation web page was launched after Easter and provides the means for contributions to be sent to YPES. Already, some local authorities have provided us with local plans and analyses – we would welcome further such contributions from local authority partners.