

Notes

London Councils: Young People's Education and Skills Board

Date	18 June 2012	Venue	London Councils
Meeting Chair	Cllr Steve Reed		
Contact Officer:	Neeraj Sharma		
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Attendance:

Members:

Chair:

Cllr Steve Reed (SR) London Councils Lead Member for Children and Young People

Vice-Chair:

Frankie Sulke (FS) Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS)

Dr Caroline Allen OBE (CA) Association of Colleges (AoC) / Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)

Cllr Patricia Bamford (PB) London Councils Liberal Democrat Group (Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames)

Caroline Boswell (CB), Greater London Authority (GLA)

(representing Munira Mirza)

Cllr Andrew Harper (AH) London Councils Conservative Group (London Borough of Barnet)

Dominic Kemple (DK), London Work Based Learning Alliance (LWBLA)

(representing Vic Farlie)

Peter Lang (PL) Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

Jill Lowery (JL) Skills Funding Agency

Frank McLoughlin OBE AoC (FE College Member)

(FM)

Alan Parnum (AP) Education Funding Agency (EFA)

Jon Thorn (JT) National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)

(representing Vic Grimes)

Mary Vine-Morris London Councils – YPES Director

Officers

Yolande Burgess (YB) London Councils YPES

Peter O'Brien (POB) London Councils YPES (Secretary)

Guests and Observers

Caroline Neville (CN) AoC (London)

Prof Ann Hodgson (AH) The Institute of Education, University of London (IoE) – to item 5

Prof Ken Spours (KS) The Institute of Education, University of London (IoE) – to item 5

Apologies

Victor Farlie LWBLA

Vic Grimes NAS

Munira Mirza GLA

Jack Morris OBE London Enterprise Panel (LEP)

Jane Overbury OBE AoC (Sixth Form College Member)

Pat Reynolds ALDCS

Tim Shields Chief Executives London Committee (CELC - London Borough of Hackney)

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 After listing apologies, the Chair welcomed Councillors Bamford and Harper to their first meeting as members of the Board. He also welcomed Caroline Neville, who has replaced Kate Anderson as the Regional Director for AoC London, as an observer to the Board and Caroline Boswell, Dominic Kemple and Jon Thorn who were deputising for Board members on this occasion.
- 1.2 The Chair recorded the Board's appreciation for Kate's significant contribution to the further education sector over many years and, in particular, her work in London especially with YPES. He also extended the Board's thanks to Cllr David Simmonds, formerly Conservative Group representative on the Board, and hoped that the Board would continue to work with him in his role as Chair of the Local Government Association Children and Young People Board.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (6 March 2012)

- 3.1 The notes of the last meeting were agreed.
- 3.2 An update on actions, matters arising and decisions taken by the Chair (appointment of academic partner and the sign-off of the response to the Department for education [DfE] consultation on Raising the Participation Age [RPA] Regulations) had been circulated with the agenda.
- 3.3 AP reported that the EFA had incorporated the Board's concerns on localised delivery into additional evaluation criteria for the Youth Contract and that contractors were expected to be appointed in July. A joint (EFA/YPES) briefing on working arrangements would follow. The EFA is also close to allocating Demographic Growth Capital Funding (DGCF) in London and will advise the YPES team of the final allocations.

Action: AP to advise the YPES Team of DGCF allocations in London (expected in July). Working arrangements briefing to be held with Youth Contract providers (after contracts are awarded in July).

4. Policy update

- 4.1 MVM highlighted two aspects of the paper that had been circulated in advance of the meeting: school funding reform (paragraph 5) and a DfE consultation on careers guidance (paragraph 8).
- 4.2 AH suggested that councils should be alerted to the impact of changes in school funding, especially as they affected young people with higher-level support needs. He also supported the recommendation on careers guidance.
- 4.3 Members **noted** the paper and **agreed** its recommendations

Action: YPES to prepare a response (by 1 August deadline) to the consultation on careers guidance as set out in the paper: supporting the extension of the duty but emphasising that the service should be sufficiently resourced and of a standard to meet young people's needs.

5. Vision and Strategy – Priority Setting

- 5.1 MVM introduced the item by referring to the papers that had accompanied the agenda, updated the meeting on the consultation process and then handed over to Prof Ann Hodgson (AH) and Prof Ken Spours (KS), who spoke to a presentation that summarised a research report that the Institute of Education had completed in its role as Academic Partner (the presentation has subsequently been uploaded to the YPES webpage – [Item 5. Vision and Strategy – Participation, Progression and Transition](#)).
- 5.2 The Chair reported back on the development of the London Enterprise Panel's Skills and Employment Working Group, which had prioritised three areas of work:

1. Looking at 'user pathways' including investigating the potential for a London Careers Guidance Service, in conjunction with the GLA and the Mayor's Education Enquiry
2. Increasing employer engagement, building on the Mayor's apprenticeship campaign
3. Leveraging data - through the renewal of the London Skills and Employment Observatory – to improve the skills to jobs 'fit' and increase provider accountability

The group was committed to ensuring close alignment with the work of the YPES Board and Team.

- 5.3 MVM added feedback from highly complementary work between YPES and the GLA / ALDCS on Transitions to Adulthood; delivered pro-bono by Ernst & Young. The main outputs of which shape the strategic priorities of key London stakeholders and the validation seeks to ensure agreement on shared, integrated principles on youth transition.
- 5.4 MVM referred the group to the considerable consensus emerging between key partners on the strategic priorities for young people's skills and employment in the capital. She reported that the consultation had endorsed the Board's vision, identified priorities for action and given partners a mandate to take action. The emphasis now moves to realising the vision, developing the strategies to implement its ambition and building the partnerships to deliver in the priority areas.
- 5.5 In subsequent debate:
 - PL said that the factors affecting education and training needs of young people changed constantly. He added that more detailed analysis was needed to identify those schools that were performing better in closing the gap across levels of deprivation and suggested that further time was needed to judge the effect of changes in careers guidance. He asked for further thought to be given on London-wide entitlements; suggesting that a pan-London curriculum and London wide careers service could work against learning institutions' freedoms and accountabilities and not recognise the better outcomes as a result of some of the new delivery.
 - AH suggested that the vision needed to be supported by a more detailed implementation plan and some key success indicators.
 - FM reminded the meeting that it was difficult to keep pace with young people's attitudes and expectations. He believed that old paradigms of progression were becoming irrelevant to growing numbers of young people, that there is an over-supply of A-levels and endorsed the need for good quality vocational qualifications; particularly for the essential delivery of the technicians that London is going to need in the future.
 - FS welcomed the focus on learners' destinations and commented that she valued a more detailed analysis of destinations more than further information about provision. She suggested the need for greater clarity on the purpose of structures such as 14+ Progression and Transitions Boards and said that, in seeking to develop an entitlement to careers guidance, we should not necessarily replicate the services of the past, which were of variable standards and effectiveness. FS also urged for greater emphasis to be given to entrepreneurship.
 - CN referred to the growth of Apprenticeships in London – London is the region with the fastest growth in Apprenticeships – and supported a focus on vocational qualifications, adding that the involvement of medium-sized businesses was the key.
 - CB saw the emergence of a cross-agency shared view as what is needed for London and cited progression pathways, entrepreneurship and careers advice as issues that appeared to be prominent in the thinking of the LEP, Mayor's Enquiry and the GLA/ALDCS/YPES work on transitions.
 - PB referred to the role of local authorities should have in securing increased Apprenticeship places through contractors.
- 5.6. Members **agreed** the revised vision and strategy document, including the priorities and areas for continued dialogue with strategic partners on the issues for joint work and research.

Action: London Councils Press and Promotions team to advise on publication of vision and research as complementary documents

Action: MVM and team to support the revised vision with a more detailed implementation plan (Annual Statement of Priorities), including success indicators, for consideration at the next Board meeting

6. Special Education Needs and Disability Green paper – next steps

- 6.1 CN spoke to the paper circulated to the Board and described how the new arrangements could prove to be a significant challenge to local authorities and other partners. It was expected that DfE would issue a further clarification document in June and the Learners with Learning Difficulties and / or Disabilities (LLDD) Strategic Partners Group was scheduled to meet Peter Lauener (Chief Executive, EFA) shortly to discuss the issues set out in the paper.
- 6.2 In the ensuing discussion, PL and FS agreed that the Pathfinders created by DfE to identify good practice may not be in a position to substantially report before Legislation is introduced. FS also stressed that it was important to view the changes from the perspective of young people and not just providers. It was also important to note the benefits of personal budgets and how changes in funding assisted greater accountability of providers.

7. Further education – new challenges, new chances

- 7.1 At FM's suggestion, the Board **agreed** to convene its next meeting at the City and Islington College, preceded by a tour of the College's Centre for Applied Science (The Angel, 311 – 321 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7DD) with an opportunity for Board members to talk to students. JL commented that it would be timely at that meeting to consider the new Skills Investment Strategy.

8. YPES Evaluation

- 8.1 After discussion, the meeting **noted** a paper containing the results of the latest evaluation, **agreed** the paper's recommendations and that the YPES team needed to
- focus on the flow of data to local authorities,
 - improve its web presence and
 - ensure better communications between local authorities and sub-groups
- and then **recorded** its congratulations on good results from a high response rate and its thanks to the YPES team for the continued and valued service.

9. Learner Voice London

- 9.1 The Board received the paper circulated in advance of the meeting, viewed a sample of the videos available on the website and **agreed** the paper's recommendations to continue to support the learner voice work.

10. Other business

- 10.1. MVM highlighted the forthcoming *Skills London* event taking place in November at Excel.

Action: MVM to send Board members further details of *Skills London*

The next meeting will take place in City and Islington College on Tuesday 16th October at 2pm (1pm for tour of the College).