

# Young People's Education and Skills Board

**Date** 16 October 2012      **Venue** London Councils

**Meeting Chair** Jack Morris OBE

**Contact Officer:** Neeraj Sharma

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## Attendance:

### **Members:**

#### Chair:

Jack Morris OBE	London Enterprise Panel (LEP)
Dr Caroline Allen OBE (CA)	Association of Colleges (AoC) / Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)
Jane Overbury OBE (JO)	AoC (Sixth Form College Member)
Caroline Boswell (CB), (representing Munira Mirza)	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Cllr Andrew Harper (AH)	London Councils Conservative Group (London Borough of Barnet)
Peter Lang (PL)	Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
Richard Bell (RB) (representing Jill Lowery)	Skills Funding Agency
Victor Farlie	LWBLA
Alan Parnum (AP)	Education Funding Agency (EFA)
Jon Thorn (JT) (representing Vic Grimes)	National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
Mary Vine-Morris	London Councils – YPES Director

### **Officers**

Yolande Burgess (YB)	London Councils YPES
Peter O'Brien (POB)	London Councils YPES
Neeraj Sharma (NS)	London Councils (Secretary)

### **Guests and Observers**

Caroline Neville (CN)	AoC (London)
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## Apologies

Cllr Steve Reed	London Councils Lead Member for Children and Young People (London Borough of Lambeth)
Cllr Patricia Bamford	London Councils Liberal Democrat Group (Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames)
Munira Mirza	GLA
Frankie Sulke	Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS)
Vic Grimes	NAS
Frank McLoughlin CBE	AoC (FE College Member)
Jill Lowery	Skills Funding Agency
Pat Reynolds	ALDCS
Tim Shields	Chief Executives London Committee (London Borough of Hackney)
Nick Lester	London Councils

## **1 Welcome and introductions**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the Board meeting and noted the apologies received. He confirmed that Jon Thorn and Richard Bell were deputising for Vic Grimes and Jill Lowery respectively and that Caroline Boswell was representing Munira Mirza.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting (6 March 2012)**

- 3.1 Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

## **4 Policy update**

- 4.1 MVM provided an overview of the paper and highlighted a number of key aspects: study programmes for 16 to 19 year olds (paragraph 3), London local government education policy (paragraph 4), Mayors Education Inquiry (paragraph 5) and Departmental consultations including curriculum reform (paragraph 6).
- 4.2 CB provided an update on the Mayor's Education Inquiry, confirming that it will be published on Friday 19 October. The report will make a number of recommendations to the Mayor including in areas such as Free Schools and school places.
- 4.3 Members **agreed** that it would be beneficial to have an update at the next meeting.
- 4.4 VF stated a key issue for the LWBLA membership is curriculum reform and members were keen to work with the Association of Colleges to raise concerns. In particular, the impact that GCSEs reforms will have on equivalencies and referral pathways.
- 4.5 JM suggested that, in light of the recent government policy changes, it may be necessary to review membership of the Board to ensure representation from the entire sector is included.
- 4.6 PL confirmed that ASCL have free schools and academies as part of their membership.
- 4.7 Members noted the paper and **agreed** its recommendations

**Action point:** Provide an update on the Mayor's Education Inquiry for the next Board Meeting.

**Action point:** Mary Vine-Morris to provide recommendations to the Board whether membership should be expanded.

## **5 Draft Statement of Annual Priorities**

- 5.1 MVM explained that feedback from the previous meeting had been incorporated into the revised draft vision *Being the Best*. The Annual Statement of Priorities affords the opportunity to provide local authorities and learning institutions more detail in respect of the milestones and numeric targets needed to realise the vision.
- 5.2 There are four key priority work areas for 2013/14: Careers Guidance, Business and Education, Young People's Transitions and Partnership issues; each with their own proposed set of outcomes to be delivered. The success indicators for the vision are measured against a set of proposed aspirational targets which will rely on partners working together collaboratively and the cumulative outcome of their best efforts.
- 5.3 During the discussion, members raised a number of points:

- 5.3.1 Pupils achieving the highest marks for GCSEs, A levels and BTEC have dipped this year. Whilst a balance needs to be maintained between setting realistic yet aspirational targets, it is important they set out to achieve continual improvement.
- 5.3.2 Targets for the number of apprenticeships should sit under participation heading for 2013/14 rather than progression. Also, it should be noted that nationally there has been a reduction in the number of apprenticeships although London has maintained apprenticeship start levels. The Mayor has set a target of creating 250,000 apprenticeships during his second term.
- 5.3.3 Since schools are now responsible for delivering careers guidance, it is important that local authorities capture user voices to understand what is working well and why. There could be models of best practice that can be shared.
- 5.4 Board members **agreed** the outline of the Annual Statement of Priorities and proposed milestones and that the targets that should be aspirational yet realistic. In recognition of the tight timescales, the Board also **agreed** to delegate authority to the Chair for approval of the final version of the Annual Statement (paragraph 6).  
**Action point:** Amend milestones in line with member comments  
**Action point:** Finalise targets before submitting a final version to the Chair.

## 6 Raising the Participation Age – Post-16 Transition

- 6.1 YB explained that the DfE recently published participation statistics and provided the current position on NEET and activity not known, as an indication of preparedness for full participation of 17 and 18 year olds.
- 6.2 The participation statistics should be viewed cautiously since factors such as young people in ESF provision or other personal development opportunities (e.g. Youth Contract) are not included.
- 6.3 More young people participate in education and training in London than elsewhere in England. This has led to London having the lowest number of young people NEET in the country.
- 6.4 AH commented that it would be beneficial to share more widely the 16-18 NEET map with London Councils' members.
- 6.5 Members **agreed** to the recommendations outlined in the paper.

## 7 Response to youth unemployment

- 7.1 MVM summarised the national and regional programmes of support, outlined in the paper, to address youth unemployment. However, as different providers will be delivering the provision targeted at different cohorts, there could be a number of delivery challenges that impact their effectiveness (paragraph 3).
- 7.2 Members stressed the need to monitor performance to ensure the targeted schemes were not only reaching the right groups of young people but were also effective.
- 7.3 JM stressed the importance of engaging employers as part of any programme designed to address youth unemployment.
- 7.4 AP recommended any lobbying activity should be directed to DWP Ministers rather than EFA as they are responsible for the Youth Contract.
- 7.5 Members **agreed** with all recommendations (paragraph 4).

## 8 High Needs Funding Reform

- 8.1 CA, referring to the paper circulated to the Board, explained the reforms to funding provision for pupils and students with high needs up to the age of 25.

- 8.2 AH explained that the DfE recently sent out a letter providing an update about these changes. The LGA are lobbying on this issue and the Board should, if not already, be joining up efforts. MVM reassured members that, through the High Needs Pupils and Students Implementation Group, joined up working between the agencies was taking place.
- 8.3 JO informed the group that the changes would have a significant impact on providers and that this should be taken into account in the work of the Board.
- 8.4 The Board **agreed** to the recommendations.

## **9 Destination measures**

- 9.1 The DfE recently published Education Destination Measures as 'experimental statistics' which shows student progression at key stage 4 and 5. It is based on the 2009/10 cohort of children and young people.
- 9.2 The data published is at institutional level and not based on student residency. This is important when looking at a breakdown by borough.
- 9.3 Currently, destination measures do not include employer apprenticeships or employment. The DfE intend to include these in next year's publication.
- 9.4 Members **agreed** the response to the first release of Destination Measures (paragraph 4). They suggested it may be beneficial to mention that using old data does not capture the progress that many organisations have made.

## **10 Other business**

- 10.1 Members were asked to note that the next meeting had been moved from the 5 March to 19 March 2013.
- 10.2 Dates for the 2013/14 YPES Board meetings will be circulated shortly.

**The next meeting will be 19 March 2013, 2-4pm, City & Islington College.**