

Young People's Education and Skills (YPES)

Operational Sub-Group

Date	8 February 2013	Venue	London Councils
Meeting Chair	Mary Vine-Morris		
Contact Officer:	Neeraj Sharma		
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Attendance:

Members:

Mary Vine-Morris (MVM)	Chair - London Councils: YPES
Diana Choulerton (DC)	LB Ealing (South West Cluster)
Dominic Kemple (DK)	London Work-Based Learning Alliance (LWBLA)
Lorraine Downes (LD)	City of Westminster (Central Cluster)
Andy Johnson (AJ)	LB Enfield (North Cluster)
Helen Richardson (HR)	LB Barking and Dagenham (Apprenticeships/ICYP)
Trevor Cook (TC)	LB Havering (North East Cluster)
Alison Moore (AM)	LB Hillingdon (North-West Cluster)
Negat Lodhi (NL)	National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
Ruth Griffiths (RG)	LB Lewisham (South Cluster)
Eamonn Gilbert (EG)	RB Kingston upon Thames (South West Cluster)
Jo Baty (JB)	LB Redbridge (Chair ESF Steering Group)
Debi Christie (DCR)	LB Bromley (LLDD)

Officers

Peter O'Brien (POB)	YPES
Yolande Burgess (YB)	YPES
Glyn Parry (GP)	YPES
Neeraj Sharma (NS)	YPES

Apologies

Judith Smyth (JS)	Association of Colleges
Vic Farlie (VF)	London Work-Based Learning Alliance (WBLA)
Aidan Pettitt (AiP)	Education Funding Agency (EFA)
John Galligan (JG)	LB Brent (West Central Cluster/Vice-Chair OSG)
Rob Atkins (RA)	LB of Islington (Chair of DAG Steering Group)
Jason Lever (JL)	Greater London Authority (GLA)

1 Welcome Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 MVM welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted.

2 Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 YB provided a progress update on action point 113. The Data Advisory Group (DAG) met with the Learning Records Service (LRS) to propose a pilot project for London boroughs to batch upload Unique Learner Numbers. The LRS is now working on a Personal Learning Record (PLR) batch download facility enabling local authorities to batch load PLR data on a regular basis.
- 2.2 AM informed the group that Hounslow Council is working closely with providers delivering the Youth Contract. An update will be provided to the External Funding Group.

- 2.3 DC requested that LA Forum and YPES Board are added to the agenda. MVM confirmed these will be discussed as AOB items for today's meeting.
- 2.4 Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

3 Policy Update

- 3.1 The Education Select Committee, on Wednesday 23 January, published its findings and recommendations from an inquiry into careers guidance for young people. Their report highlights many of the concerns raised in the London Councils' submission to the Committee.
- 3.2 Officers expressed disappointment that the new Youth Contract eligibility criteria did not include all 16 and 17 year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET). In London, Prevista and its delivery partners will continue to struggle to find sufficient numbers of eligible young people.
- 3.3 UCAS End of Cycle Report 2012 found that whilst applicant numbers had declined by 6.6% for 2012, the number of 18 year old from disadvantaged backgrounds attending university had increased across all UK regions.
- 3.4 Officers discussed the importance of high quality technical and vocational routes through the education system for 14 - 19 year olds as outlined in the Technical Matters report. They highlighted that there is likely to be greater displacement at 14 as colleges offer courses for this age range. A consultation on vocational qualifications is due to be published by DfE.

AP132: YPES to circulate London Councils' submission for the Education Select Committee inquiry regarding the new duty on schools to deliver independent careers, advice and guidance.

AP133: YPES to circulate details of vocational qualification consultation when released.

AP134: YPES to provide clarification on points raised about the UCAS End of Cycle report 2012:

- Definition of the term disadvantaged used for the report.
- Whether a regional breakdown of disadvantaged 18 year olds applying for university is available.
- Establish whether growth of disadvantaged 18 year olds is based on proportion of overall number of applicants or actual number of 18 year olds applying for university.

4 GCSE/A Level Results

- 4.1 DfE recently published statistical first releases covering achievement at GCSE, GCE, Applied GCE A/AS level and other equivalent qualifications in 2011/12. London remains the best performing region at GCSE level, with 62.3% of young people having achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C or equivalent including English and Mathematics. However, this is not replicated when looking at GCE and Applied GCE A/AS level examinations and other equivalent qualifications. London's average point score per pupil is 695.1 compared to 714.3 nationally.
- 4.2 Officers suggested that YPES analysis of the data should also include the following additional information:
- 4.2.1 Local authority improvement ratings against the national indicator levels of progress.

4.2.2 Characteristics data on young people that achieve 5 A* to C at GCSE level.

4.2.3 Equivalence challenges in London.

- 4.3 YB confirmed that YPES is in discussions with Mime Consulting to explore equivalence (i.e. the scale of attainment through GCSE equivalent qualifications). The new data dashboard being developed will include information on GCSE attainment of young people that achieve 5 A* to C grades including those without both English and Maths.

5 (a) Raising the participating age (RPA)

- 5.1 GP provided an overview of the latest participation, NEET and 'not known' statistics. The percentage of 16 - 18 year olds NEET in London is 4.8%, which is below the national average of 6.6%. However, the tabled report was based on August 2012 data which is the latest currently available. YPES had pressed for more up-to-date information and had been assured that new data is due to be published shortly.

- 5.2 The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) recently wrote to all Directors of Children's Services about increasing Apprenticeship opportunities for 16 – 18 year olds, in the light of declining participation trends. Boroughs were invited to meet with NAS to discuss what role the local authority can play to expand Apprenticeship opportunities and take up, and the support available from NAS. A similar letter has also been sent to schools.

AP135: YPES to update and circulate NEET and 'not known' maps when new figures are available.

AP136: YPES to circulate NAS letter sent to Directors of Children's Services regarding creating Apprenticeship opportunities for 16-18 year olds and the delivery of RPA.

5.3 (b) Risk of drop out/drop out referral systems

- 5.4 LD informed the group that, following the recent RPA event, there has been discussions about developing a Pan-London Referral System. A single system for education providers to notify local authorities of learners at risk of dropping out and those who have dropped out. There is likely to be support from education providers as the alternative would be speaking directly to the home authority of each learner. For providers that take learners across London it will be a challenge, possibly lead to inefficiencies and possible delays in notifications¹.

- 5.5 Officers confirmed that a pan-London system should be explored further as there are clear benefits of such a system particularly as much of the infrastructure is in place for this type of system. However, there was agreement a system should only be implemented if it is supported by all 33 London local authorities.

AP137: YPES to report back to OSG about developing a pan-London drop out referral system.

6 Annual Statement of Priorities (ASoP)

- 6.1 The ASoP supports delivery of the YPES vision *Being the Best*, which was published in December 2012. To deliver each priority, it sets out a call for action from the following:

6.1.1 YPES and strategic partners.

6.1.2 Local authorities.

6.1.3 Learning institutions.

¹ Under RPA a provider is under a duty to share drop-out data with its host borough. It is the host boroughs responsibility to pass information on to home boroughs.

- 6.2 Officers acknowledged that, in some instances, it would be difficult to influence the work of others to deliver against the priorities. There was a suggestion that the language should be 'toned down' or a more explicit acknowledgement of the challenge in areas where local authorities do not have a statutory responsibility. However, there was consensus that the documents were extremely useful and will inform the work of local authorities going forward.
- 6.3 MVM confirmed that the ASoP will receive YPES board sign off and then be published electronically.

AP138: Comments regarding the ASoP should be emailed to POB by 20.2.13.

7 Business Plan 2013/14

- 7.1 The YPES Business Plan for 2013/14, which will form next year's work plan, has recently been drafted. Officers have an opportunity to inform the outputs for each activity at this stage. Officers agreed to review the plan and provide feedback to YPES colleagues at the Chairs meeting.

8 LLDD – Groups Restructure Proposal

- 8.1 To better support local authorities with imminent Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding and policy reforms, it is proposed that the LLDD Strategic Partners Group be replaced by a new Regional Strategic Group, the primary purpose of which will be to lead the implementation and development of the Government's proposed reforms for young people with SEND, with the existing membership being extended. It will also be supported by Task and Finish groups appropriate to operational need. The first of these will be set up shortly to examine high needs student funding issues for post-16.
- 8.2 Officers approved the new structure and discussed the importance of all members being regularly updated of work conducted under the new structure. It was agreed that the new group should consider how best to disseminate information about their work.
- 8.3 Officers raised concerns about EFA, in particular, the miscalculation of the high needs funding block. Notional internal budgets for expenditure cannot be set without knowing allocated funding. YB confirmed this has been raised with DfE to ensure it is addressed as soon as possible and work is on-going with them to improve the system for 2014.

9 AOB

- 9.1 The next YPES agenda to include an item on the pan-London referral system.
- 9.2 Officers to be consulted on agenda and format of the next LA Forum.

AP139: YPES to send a survey out to boroughs to review the LA Forum/14-19 Leads Conferences format and identify agenda priorities

Date of next meeting: Friday 19 April 2013, 10.00-12.00, meeting room 1, London Councils.