

# Notes

## RPG - Operational Sub-group

<b>Date</b>	1 October 2010	<b>Venue</b>	London Councils, Room 4
<b>Meeting Chair</b>	Mary Vine-Morris		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jonathan Rallings		
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### Attendees

Mary Vine-Morris	RPG
Jonathan Rallings	RPG
Yolande Burgess	RPG
Anna-Maria Volpicelli	RPG
Diana Choulerton	South West Cluster/Ealing
Eamonn Gilbert	SWLSEP/RB of Kingston
Helen McNulty	LLDD/Hackney
Jenny Holmes	GLA/LSEB
John Galligan	West Central Cluster/Brent
Jon Hegerty	Central Cluster/RBKC
Nick Brenton	ALDCS
Ruth Griffiths	London South Cluster/Lewisham
Trevor Cook	North East Cluster/Havering
Wendy Forrest	Achieving Excellence/Tower Hamlets

### Apologies

Adel Shirbini	North West Cluster/Harrow
Colin Jones	LDA
Jo Baty	ESF/Redbridge
Mike Pettifer	YPLA
Neil Larkin	North Cluster/Waltham Forest

### Introductions

MVM welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly those new to the group. The group now has good pan London representation and members were thanked for their time commitment and asked to note that although it was previously agreed to shorten the meeting time to two hours it is still necessary to meet on a monthly basis. An updated workplan will be presented for information and agreement at the 5<sup>th</sup> November meeting.

**Post meeting note:** MVM wished to thank previous members for the hard work, commitment and unstinting support of the Operational Sub-Group (OSG).

1. Notes of the last meeting, action points and matters arising
  - 1.1 The notes of the previous meeting were **AGREED**.
  - 1.2 Action points; AP45 would be addressed at this meeting and there are no further action points outstanding.
  - 1.3 Matters arising;
    - MVM confirmed that OSG membership was formally agreed at the Regional RPG Board meeting of 20 September.
    - MVM proposed inviting the AoC/LWBLA/ASCL to nominate a representative to join the OSG. It was agreed that Academy leaders were also likely to be members of the ASCL.

**Action (47): MVM to write to the AoC/LWBLA/ASCL to nominate membership to the OSG.**

- 1.4 MVM asked JH that given the winding up of RDAs by March 2012 and the current co-location of LDA staff into GLA, should a Local Employment Partnership (LEP) representative be invited to join OSG. JH said discussions are on-going and no decisions had been made, however, the Mayor is keen to continue the work of the Thames Gateway LEP.
2. RPG Board – feedback
  - 2.1 MVM gave a verbal update from RPG meeting of 20 September. A substantive part of the meeting was spent discussing the new administration and the new political environment.
  - 2.2 RPG members positively endorsed the importance of working on a regional basis, although shared the belief that RPG needs to review the work it undertakes going forward.
  - 2.3 There was a brief review of the Transition Year Evaluation report to update new members and consideration of the Strategic Analysis and the Regional Statement of Priorities (RSoP) refresh. Feedback and comments have been incorporated into the final version of RSoP.
  - 2.4 MVM invited new OSG members to review and feedback on the RSoP and to highlight in particular any areas that needed strengthening. It was noted that no further substantive changes can be made following the Boards endorsement.
  - 2.5 The ESF NEET specification was signed off at the meeting.

**Action (48):**

- a) **JR to update RPG Constitution to reflect new membership**
- b) **AMV to circulate updated RPG membership list to OSG members**
- c) **Secretariat to forward RSoP to group for comments no later than COP 6/10**

3. Strategic commissioning update

- 3.1 AP led on this item. There are key issues around flexibility and exceptions under lagged funding arrangements still under discussion with DfE. The possibility of growth or 'headroom' is also under discussion.
- 3.2 AP noted that a 'seed corn' approach (i.e. a standard minimum number) to funding places for new infrastructure was being considered.
- 3.3 AP was asked how current proposals fit with LAs still completing commissioning plans. AP confirmed it will be for LAs to decide which providers are allocated growth. He noted that the YPLA will determine growth at a LA level, probably based on NEET figures and that increase in learner numbers to accommodate new infrastructure would be netted off any discretionary growth.
- 3.4 TC asked about timing of the allocations process as in the past this has been extremely difficult to operate to tight timescales. AP said that in all likelihood the process would not be fully mapped out until late November at the earliest.
- 3.5 TC noted it would be virtually impossible for LAs to commission new providers in these tight timescales. YB asked that the YPLA consider extending the period to confirm all allocations beyond March to give LAs the opportunity to procure from new providers where necessary.
- 3.6 MVM asked the group if we should consider principles for the distribution of growth/headroom using the priorities outlined in the RSoP. WF agreed.
- 3.7 AP confirmed that the YPLA would only attend provider planning meetings only by exception and at the request of a LA.

- 3.8 AP advised that DfE will receive its budget on 20 October and the YPLA will receive official notification of the 16-18 participation budget shortly after.

**Action (49): AP to take forward suggestion for extending allocation confirmation date**

**4. RPG Review**

- 4.1 JR led this item advising that paragraph 3.4 of the paper highlights what we believe to be the key issues for consideration in the review. There is a need to look at these issues now to ascertain the future shape of the RPG. Even though the timescale for the review is tight, the review will need to encompass all key stakeholders input.
- 4.2 The paper was revised following RPG Board input from the 20 September meeting. OSG members were asked for their thoughts on how best to conduct the review to ensure we have a clear set of proposals going forward.
- 4.3 It was agreed that the review should be fairly open allowing for comment/proposals as opposed to only 'tick box' responses.
- 4.4 Other comments;
- If there is no RPG, how will London co-ordinate regional co-operation in the future? Would this mean LAs taking over responsibility collectively?
  - The role of inter-borough groups needs to be incorporated – last year the model was more 'top down' but need to reverse to a 'bottom up' system. How can RPG support inter-borough working?
  - What do LAs need to do in relation to 16-18 commissioning and how should RPG support LAs?
  - What do we need to do consistently regionally? What do we want to do locally?
  - What support do LAs value now?
  - Need to ensure RPG is fit for purpose
  - Should incorporate questions on lobbying, travel to learn, displacement.
- 4.5 MVM confirmed that there has been some confusion around LA financial contribution to RPG. There needs to be separate questions about LA position on continuing to contribute to an operational budget and a funding for regionally commissioned activities.
- 4.6 Members agreed that LAs need support with LLDD prior to the transfer of responsibility for the budget in 2012.

**Action (50):**

- a) **MVM to ask provider representative bodies how they would like us to consult with them on RPG review.**
- b) **MVM and JH to discuss paper on review for LSEB meeting.**

**5. LLDD proposals for London**

- 5.1 YB led on this item advising that a summary of London proposals went to ALDCS advocating a suite of regional protocols, some regional management of processes and continued development of local provision. DCSs have requested more detailed information to inform their decisions.
- 5.2 Recent experience with managing the specialist placements process for the current academic year has shown that expertise is fragmented across London and more joined up working is needed to ensure London's young people with LDD get the best offer and quality of provision.
- 5.3 It was agreed that work on SEN and LLDD is complex and some aspects would need to remain local, but there was scope for some work (e.g. placements) to be managed regionally.
- 5.4 AP highlighted that much work needs to be done on bringing together the different budgets with separate criteria before the handover of responsibility.

- 5.5 YB advised the group that a meeting of the LLDD working group has been called for Tuesday 5 October to discuss and agree a work plan. YB noted that a call for borough experts to contribute to this work will go out following the meeting.
- 5.6 YB asked members to share any operating protocols that they are using successfully within their borough.
- 5.7 HMcN said that we need to develop a model of assessment that can be used across London which would support consistency and quality of provision for individuals.

## 6. RPG workplan monitoring – feedback

- 6.1 **Data:** YB advised that we will be arranging a meeting of the Data Advisory Group (DAG) in the next 4-5 weeks. The strategic analysis has been published and the DAG will be asked to consider issues for more in-depth research. NB highlighted the need for more research on progression and destinations. Other agenda items:
  - 16-18 projection modelling
  - LLDD data work
  - LPUK Travel to Success project
  - Update on YPLA data accessibility

### **Action (51): DC to send YB progression data set.**

- 6.2 **CEIAG:** WF is the new Chair for this group. The previous group was set up to deliver the Achieving Excellence project; the group needs to consider its remit going forward and would benefit from a new membership with more LA representation.

### **Action (52): YB to liaise with WF to arrange the next meeting.**

- 6.3 **ESF:** MVM confirmed paper went to RPG with a feed back to RAG/14-19 Leads at 24 September conference. LDA have gone out with both their Youth and Adult PQQ. We are actively investigating a geographical strand around 'host Olympic boroughs' and looking at what form of market warming events there should be.
- 6.4 **14-19 Leads/RAG event:** Nearly all members were present at the event and it was agreed that this had been a very useful and informative event.

## 7. AOB

- 7.1 YB advised members that the 'Young Parents to Be' allocations would be sent out imminently.
- 7.2 MVM gave an update on London Councils which is undertaking a formal reorganisation on its future shape and size. She also referred to current activity:
  - Two new research documents will be published on Monday 4 October:  
**Putting Local Communities at the Centre** is a short 'think' paper written by the Institute of Education examining how the role of the local authority may change in relation to education if parents begin to take a more active involvement in school management.  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00v245t/The\\_Politics\\_Show\\_London\\_03\\_10\\_2010/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00v245t/The_Politics_Show_London_03_10_2010/)  
**Community Engagement with London Schools** contains extensive research conducted by Ipsos MORI into the views of hundreds of London parents about how far they would like to engage with their children's school.  
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/children/briefings/parentalandLArole.htm>
  - The Youth Aspirations conference is on the 13 October at the British Library.
- 7.3 Agenda items for the next meeting on 5 November:
  - Choice and CAP evaluation
  - RPG Review
  - Present updated work plan

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 5 November, 10-12, meeting room 1, London Councils