

London Councils: Young People's Education and Skills

Operational Sub-Group

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| Date | 10 February 2012 | Venue | London Councils |
| Meeting Chair | Mary Vine-Morris | | |
| Contact Officer: | Anna-Maria Volpicelli | | |
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Attendance:

Members:

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| Mary Vine-Morris (MVM) | Chair - London Councils: YPES |
| Alison Moore (AM) | LB Hillingdon (North-West Cluster) |
| Helen Richardson | LB Barking and Dagenham (Apprenticeships/ICYP) |
| Helen McNulty (HMN) | Learning Trust (LLDD) |
| Lorraine Downes (LD) | City of Westminster (Central Cluster) |
| Judith Smyth (JS) | Association of Colleges |
| John Galligan (JG) | LB Brent (West Central Cluster/Vice-Chair OSG) |
| Jason Lever (JL) | Greater London Authority |
| Michelle Cuomo (MC) | Greater London Authority |
| Ruth Griffiths (RG) | LB Lewisham (South Cluster) |
| Andrew Knight (AnK) | Young People's Learning Agency |
| Eamonn Gilbert (EG) | RB Kingston upon Thames (SWLSEP) |
| Jo Baty (JB) | LB Redbridge (Chair ESF Steering Group) |
| Trevor Cook (TC) | LB Havering (North East Cluster) |
| Diana Choulerton (DC) | LB Ealing (South West Cluster) |

In attendance

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| Negat Lodhi | National Apprenticeship Service |
| Christina Evangeli | National Apprenticeship Service |

Officers:

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| Anna-Maria Volpicelli | London Councils: YPES |
| Yolande Burgess (YB) | London Councils: YPES |

Apologies:

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| Mike Pettifer (MP) | Young People's Learning Agency |
| Alan Parnum (AP) | Young People's Learning Agency |
| Ali Kaye (AK) | London Work-Based Learning Alliance |
| Vic Farlie | London Work-Based Learning Alliance |

1. Welcome Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 MVM welcomed members to the meeting noting apologies from Mike Pettifer, Ali Kaye and Vic Farlie. MVM acknowledged and welcomed Andrew Knight (AnK) representing MP on OSG for the next few months, Negat Lodhi and Christina Evangeli from the National Apprenticeship Service for item 6 and Lorraine Downes, City of Westminster, the newly nominated London Central Cluster representative. MVM noted that both Neil Larkin (formerly North Cluster representative) and Jon Hegerty (formerly Central

Cluster representative) had left their respective roles to pursue other careers and wished to record our thanks to them both for their contribution to OSG and their support of the YPES over the years. OSG membership is now awaiting confirmation of both North Cluster and DAG representatives.

2. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 DC referring to paragraph 10.5 asked if the ICYP Group had managed to investigate how Foundation Learning (FL) providers could more effectively access young people who were not currently engaged in learning. YB advised that this will be picked up at ICYP. EG noted that rather than providing NEET information to FL providers, the borough send information to NEETs on their behalf and that this was proving effective.
- 2.2 Under paragraph 10.6 (leavers who do not complete their programme of learning), AnK advised that in response to requests the YPLA is looking at providing data/information on drop out rates but the information has to be validated. A proposal has gone to YPLA National Board but will also need clearance from the Department. In reply, EG said this information was crucial for RPA planning. JG added that Academies have data sharing protocols in place with YPLA, but YPLA will not share this data with local authority colleagues. YB suggested it would be helpful if data across the board (irrespective of provider type) was presented in the same way to make data comparison easier.
- 2.3 The notes of the last meeting were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

3. Building Engagement, Building Futures – maximising participation strategy

- 3.1 YB presented a paper summarising the government's strategy to maximise the participation of 16-24 year olds in education, training and work.
- 3.2 YB ran through paragraph 3.1 listing the government's priorities noting that the document has a broad scope but does not contain significant detail on some of the newly announced programmes e.g. the Youth Contract. YPES has arranged for colleagues from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Education (DfE) to give further details on the Youth Contract at the Local Authority Forum on 27 March.
- 3.3 YB highlighted some key participation statistics for London namely: high levels of participation in London but still low in numbers of Apprenticeships; NEET numbers are reducing but there is an increase in 'Not Knowns'; and a significant increase in 16-24 unemployment.
- 3.4 Annex 1 of the paper gives a summary of funding and cash incentives that are proposed under the Youth Contact and Annex 2 provides a summary of new programmes and additional funding for existing initiatives, announced through *Positive for Youth*, which brings together all of the government's policies for young people aged 13 to 19. YB noted the cross-departmental nature of the participation strategy and the strong emphasis on work experience.
- 3.5 It was commented that the focus must be on young people's needs and aspirations as opposed to the collection of data and statistics. It was noted that there was considerable confusion developing around the plethora of funding streams and initiatives that are now available, particularly where initiatives are commissioned by government agencies in respect of local authority duties (e.g. Youth Contract provision for disengaged 16 and 17 year olds). YB advised that the Local Government Association is discussing this issue with Department officials (DfE and DWP).
- 3.6 YPES is organising a Raising the Participation Age (RPA) event for 30 March to which 14-19 Leads will be invited.

Comments:

- Youth Innovation zones – need to have a London overview, not just a local one.
- Readiness for RPA is a concern; local authorities that are just starting to plan for RPA could be linked to boroughs that are further along in preparations.
- DfE has commissioned NatCen to undertake a national RPA readiness survey
- It was noted that some local authorities (RPA trail boroughs) have received financial support whilst others have not.

- 3.7 Members agreed that they would note the contents of the report and take necessary steps within their boroughs/clusters.

Action (106): YPES to circulate details of the proposed 30 March RPA event.

4. RPA Regulations Consultation

- 4.1 From summer 2013 all young people will be required to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and from summer 2015 onwards until their 18th birthday. The DfE is seeking views on elements of how RPA will work in practice by consulting on the policies that will form 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 closes on Friday 13 April 2012.
- 4.2 YB noted that local authorities will need to consider the practical aspects of what constitutes full time and part time participation; employment with training; and managing financial penalties and fines.
- 4.3 LD noted that any financial penalty system would require policing and the consultation throws up a lot of logistical problems in terms of implementation; it would also create difficulties in maintaining good working relations between local authorities and SMEs.
- Comments:
- There is concern about Home Education and how this will be monitored, particularly for marginalised groups where opting to take this route could become the norm (e.g. travellers).
 - Does not encourage SMEs to employ young people.
- 4.4 MVM asked members to contribute key points for a response in order to have a co-ordinated view/approach across London.

5. Vision and Strategy Consultation

- 5.1 MVM tabled a proposed timetable for consultation advising that the team will pursue a number of different routes to gather feedback in order to get a broader response and view. The tabled item is a work in progress.
- 5.2 YPES is currently recruiting an 'Academic Partner' to support this work; YPES Board will be asked to sign off appointment.
- 5.3 Learner Blog – tendering has commenced for filming of three videos to engage the target audience.
- 5.4 The GLA in partnership with London Councils (YPES) and Ernst & Young is holding a 'Transitions to Adulthood' workshop on 5 March to consider, with senior stakeholders, how to improve progression for young people into positive destinations. The outputs from the event will contribute to the consultation.

Action (107): Tabled paper to be circulated to members following the meeting.

6. Apprenticeships in London

- 6.1 Negat Lodhi (NL) from the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) spoke to a presentation on Apprenticeship uptake in London following a request from members at the November 2011 meeting.
- 6.2 There has been significant growth in Advanced Apprenticeship uptake (44%) and 25+ Apprenticeships. Success rates on a national level are at 76.4% with London closing the gap at 72.5%. NL advised the top 10 sectors both nationally and in London for Apprenticeship uptake.

- 6.3 Increasing opportunities for young people is a priority and NAS is working closely with Jobcentre Plus to align their respective offers. SMEs are being offered a £1,500 incentive when taking on apprentices in the 16-24 age range. This will be managed by providers and only paid on completion of an Apprenticeship.
- 6.4 Driving up quality and tackling 'short stay' Apprenticeships is also a priority; from August 2012 the minimum duration for an Apprenticeship will be 12 months.
- 6.5 £25million is available to support the development of Higher Apprenticeships. 21 projects are running nationally, 5 of which are in London.
- 6.6 NAS is awaiting the findings from a series of Diversity in Apprenticeships projects that sought to redress the inequalities that exist within Apprenticeships (in particular, under-representation of black and minority ethnic apprentices and apprentices with disabilities and/or learning difficulties; and addressing the considerable gender segregation across particular vocational sectors within Apprenticeships).

Comments:

- Further Education Loans will be available for learners aged 24 and over, studying at Advanced and Higher Apprenticeship levels (anticipating approximately 40,000 loans for Apprenticeships).
- Members agreed that there have been improvements in Apprenticeship starts but local authorities need more detailed data in order to get a better and broader view take-up/lack of take-up.
- Local authorities are still struggling to get data sharing protocols signed off with NAS but there are now more detailed static reports available through the Provider Gateway.

Action (108): NL to feed back to NAS with a request for more detailed data to be readily available to local authorities.

7. YPES Board and Local Authority Forum - Agenda

- 7.1 Members were asked to view the proposed agenda's for YPES Board, 6 March and Local Authority Forum, 27 March. MVM advised that items 5 (Careers Guidance) and 6 (Apprenticeships) on the YPES Board agenda were likely to be substantive items and suggested removing item 8 (Travel to Success) to allow enough time. Looking forward to the YPES Board meeting in June, MVM suggested a substantive item on FE infrastructure and adult provision and how the strategic direction for this group of impacts the work of YPES.
- 7.2 EG asked why RPA was not on the agenda for the YPES Board meeting. MVM explained that we will be holding a members briefing in the near future which will be specifically focusing on RPA to which Board members would be invited but also that items 5 (Careers Guidance) and item 7 (Participation Report) of the proposed agenda would be relevant to RPA.
- 7.3 At the Local Authority Forum on 27 March there will be discussion item on 'Not Knowns' under item 5 'Raising the Participation Age'. Colleagues from Islington will share some of their work on tracking and monitoring, together with colleagues from two of London's sub-regional units. It was noted that this area of responsibility (tracking and recording of NEETS and 'Not Knowns') does not always sit with the 14-19 Leads in each of the boroughs and it was therefore agreed to extend an invitation to relevant colleagues.

Action (109): YPES to ask 14-19 Leads to extend an invitation to relevant colleagues to the Local Authority Forum meeting of 27 March.

- 7.4 YB asked members if they could send her any briefings they have written for School Governors on RPA (or check with their Governor Support Unit), to aid her in preparing for the RPA members event to be held in the future.
- 7.5 Members **AGREED** the content of proposed agendas.

8. Cluster Feedback

- 8.1 DC for South West London Cluster reported they were experiencing difficulties in advising providers and learners about detail of pan London ESF supported NEET provision. JB (Chair of ESF Steering Group) agreed that this is a 'hot topic'. Performance Data has not yet been made available from the SFA, although at the last meeting they reported 6,632 starts (31% against profile) however, there seems to be a significant variation in what providers tell local authorities compared with SFA). JB reported that discussions were taking place on whether the EPMU 'ESF Directory' or UCAS Progress should hold the information on ESF youth provision in London. It was acknowledged that lots of websites refer to provision but need one that holds comprehensive listings – YB added that the advantage of the ESF Directory was that EPMU own the website which sits within GLA and stipulations are included within tender specifications.
- 8.2 GLA has just launched a call for projects covering LLDD, Young Offenders and Young People Excluded from School. JG acknowledged the value of the additional provision, adding that this is much better than it used to be but EG stressed that ESF Funding cannot replace mainstream funding (FL, E2E, NEET provision).

9. Workplan Monitoring

- 9.1 MVM asked for any comments on the Workplan Monitoring report. HMcN advised that both she and YB are working on the Home/Host agreement for undertaking Learning Difficulty Assessments and noted that a communication to local authority colleagues would be going out shortly to notify them about the implications of the agreement from 1 September. OSG members were asked to assist in ensuring that the communication is brought to the attention of the key person responsible in each local authority. Members **AGREED** to this proposed action.
- 9.2 LD noted that the Home/Host agreement had been discussed in depth adding that the Central London cluster boroughs were broadly happy with the content of the agreements and with the logic behind it. However, there is more to be done on the detail of implementing the agreement.
- 9.3 MVM tabled draft work plan for 2012/13, item 9(a). In December, Leaders' Committee agreed a budget for YPES 2012-13. At a meeting on the 18th January attended by Mayor Jules Pipe (Chair, London Councils), John O'Brien (Chief Executive), Cllr Steve Reed (London Portfolio Lead for Children and Young People & Chair YPES) and Mary Vine-Morris (Director, YPES), YPES' priority work streams for 2012-13 were agreed. A draft work plan for the coming year showing the work streams that YPES will deliver against was tabled as annex 1. The regional activity proposed including the proposed Young Parents to Be programme which it was still hoped would attract matched ESF funding; however, there may be some issues of duplication which it was necessary to resolve. It is intended to propose this work plan for agreement at the next YPES Board meeting 6 March.
- 9.4 TC advised that boroughs who had participated in Raising the Participation Age' (RPA) trials had money ring-fenced for the purpose and that any YPES funding available could helpfully be targeted at boroughs that had not received funding to support any additional costs they may incur in preparing for 2013. MVM advised that it would be difficult to do this as the YPES funding is made available on an equal basis for all local authorities. JG requested a copy of the Leaders paper and the cost breakdown for YPES. Members **AGREED** the proposed work plan for 2012/13 and MVM invited any further comments prior to the board meeting on 6th March.

Action (110): AMV to forward JG the links to the requested papers.

Post meeting note: Link to Leaders Committee – Budget 2012-13 (Item 13) forwarded to JG 14.2.12

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 On 26 January 2012, the DfE published Statistical First Releases covering achievement at GCSE, GCE, Applied GCE A/AS level and other equivalent qualifications in 2010/11. A paper was tabled providing a summary of London's performance.
- 10.2 The figures are revisions of the provisional data released in October 2011, and will be finalised later this year. Further investigation into the data can be undertaken [here](#) for GCSE results and [here](#) for GCE, Applied GCE A/AS equivalent examination results.
- 10.3 OSG members were asked to note that both pan-London and individual borough performance was covered in the report and were reminded that these figures will be subject to updates later in the year. Members requested an electronic version of the tabled paper.

Post meeting note: circulated in post meeting note 10.2.12

- 10.4 AnK informed members that due to internal secondments at the YPLA, Mike Pettifer has been seconded to the role of Academies Funding Director with Alan Parnum acting as Director for London and the South East for the next few months.