

# Young People's Education and Skills

## Operational Sub-Group

<b>Date</b>	21 September 2012	<b>Venue</b>	London Councils
<b>Meeting Chair</b>	Mary Vine-Morris		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Neeraj Sharma		
<b>Telephone:</b>	020 7934 9524	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Neeraj.sharma@londoncouncils.gov.uk">Neeraj.sharma@londoncouncils.gov.uk</a>

### Attendance:

#### Members:

Mary Vine-Morris (MVM)	Chair - London Councils
Aidan Pettitt (AiP)	Education Funding Agency (EFA)
Diana Choulerton (DC)	LB Ealing (South West Cluster)
John Galligan (JG)	LB Brent (West Central Cluster/Vice-Chair OSG)
Lorraine Downes (LD)	City of Westminster (Central Cluster)
Robert Atkins (RA)	LB Islington (Chair DAG Steering Group)
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)
Vic Farlie (VF)	London Work-Based Learning Alliance (WBLA)
Judith Smyth (JS)	Association of Colleges
Ruth Griffiths (RG)	LB Lewisham (South Cluster)
Eamonn Gilbert (EG)	RB Kingston upon Thames (South West Cluster)
Jason Lever (JL)	Greater London Authority
Debi Christie	LB Bromley (LLDD)

#### Officers

Peter O'Brien (POB)	London Councils: Young People's Education & Skills (YPES)
Yolande Burgess (YB)	YPES
Glyn Parry (GP)	YPES
Neeraj Sharma (NS)	YPES

#### Apologies:

Jo Baty (JB)	LB Redbridge (Chair ESF Steering Group)
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## 1 Welcome Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 MVM welcomed members to the meeting. Those in attendance introduced themselves and apologies were noted.

## 2 Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 YB informed the group that, from Jan 2014, the use of the Unique Learner Number (ULN) in English schools for pupils from age 14 upwards will be mandatory. Learners will retain the same number for accessing their Personal Learning Record throughout their lives, whatever their level of learning and wherever they choose to participate in education, training and learning. This is different from the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) which lapses after the age of 18.
- 2.2 Helen McNulty, due to change of job role, has stood down as chair of the LLDD working group and will be replaced by Debi Christie. The group thanked Helen for her work as chair.

2.3 The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **3 Agendas for upcoming meetings:**

3.1 MVM informed the group both the LA Forum and YPES Board meeting will be taking place in October. Whilst targeted at different audiences, the input of borough officers to shape the agendas is important to ensure key issues and challenges are addressed.

#### LA Forum

3.2 The LA Forum will be focused on youth unemployment in London. Whilst the causes of youth unemployment are well known, less work has been undertaken to share solutions across London.

3.3 The group stated that events such as the LA Forum offer an invaluable opportunity to share knowledge and best practice between boroughs. The format and agenda should encourage user participation throughout the day. A number of proposed agenda items were discussed. However, the group agreed to the following as key:

3.3.1 Funding formula changes

3.3.2 Zero based contracts

3.3.3 EFA addressing gaps

3.3.4 Unpacking Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

#### YPES Board Meeting

3.4 JL confirmed that the Mayor's Education Inquiry report is likely to be published during the week of the YPES Board Meeting. The Inquiry has examined the key challenges for education in London and will set out recommendations to address these challenges for the Mayor to consider. The focus is on London being a global city and working with partners to provide the best possible education for young Londoners.

3.5 Statutory guidance for Raising the Participation Age (RPA) is to be published in October. The Board meeting is a timely opportunity to discuss RPA particularly given the approach by DfE to produce a RPA readiness league table and the survey to boroughs.

**Action (127): YPES to instigate recommendations to amend LA Forum agenda and format of meeting 2.10.12.**

### **4 Latest Participation, NEET and Not Known Statistics**

4.1 GP updated the group on the latest analysis of the not in education, employment or training (NEET) data available on NCCIS. The percentage of NEET 16 to 18 year olds in London is 4.6% (a 0.1% increase on the previous month), which is below the national average of 6.3%. The current percentage of young people whose participation status is 'not known' is 7.9% which is 3.1% lower than the national average (a reversal of previous performance this year).

4.2 London's 16 to 24 year olds NEET percentage has been historically below the national average since early 2009, and the most recent data indicates a greater divergence developing between NEET levels in London and across the country.

- 4.3 Members discussed the existing provision available to address NEET levels in London. Many felt that current programmes were not as effective at delivering targeted support needed by many of these young people. Particularly in the case of provision aimed at 16 to 18 year olds.
- 4.4 Many European Social Fund (ESF) programmes to support young people are difficult to secure referrals onto. There are also challenges around data sharing. Many boroughs are unable to access information to identify how many of their young NEET residents are being supported by ESF programmes to avoid provision being targeted at the same residents.

**Action (128): GP to replicate NEET map of London for 'not known'.**

## **5 Preliminary GCSE / A Level Results**

- 5.1 GP provided an overview of the preliminary GCSE and A-level results for London based on collated information from media organisations. The first release of official (provisional) GCSE and A level results data will be available on the DfE website later this year.
- 5.2 Whilst evidence indicated that London remained the best performing region, LD informed the group that many local authorities are requesting that GCSE papers are remarked due to the raising of grade boundaries. Therefore, until official statistics are released, the picture may change.
- 5.3 Members discussed the government proposals to reform GCSEs in favour of a new 'EBacc' qualification. In particular, the changing of grade benchmarks and the knock on effect for requirements to apply for A levels and the grading of level 2 equivalents in vocational subjects e.g. will BTEC level 2 grades remain the equivalent to grade C in the new system. It has the potential to create a two-tier grade system.

## **6 Destination Measures - London Summary**

- 6.1 The DfE released the new Education Destination Measures as 'experimental statistics' which show the percentage of students progressing to further learning in a school, Further Education or Sixth Form College, Apprenticeship, work based learning provider or Higher Education Institution. The data can be viewed at local authority and institution level. However, employment destinations are not captured as a separate category.
- 6.2 The DfE are keen to capture feedback from users who access the data to ensure future publications meet their needs. A consultation is currently open and all interested parties are encouraged to respond.

**Action (129): YPES to circulate the Data Advisory Group destination measures consultation response**

## **7 Policy Update**

- 7.1 AP explained that a legal RPA minimum of 540 hours for Education Funding Agency funded provision will be set (to fit with the recent announcements that all students will be funded at a rate equivalent to 600 hours, with leeway either side for individual cases). Therefore, providers that offer full time programmes consisting of 700 hours are not likely to receive funding for the additional 100 hours of education provided.
- 7.2 The new local authority 16-19 education & training funding guidance describes and outlines the system for funding 16-19 education and training provision for the 2013/14 academic year. The purpose of the new guidance is to support the government's aim of delivering RPA and offering greater choice for students. It places a greater emphasis on partnership working between

agencies. As a result, autonomous professional institutions (academies, free schools and colleges) will need to share information with local authorities particularly to access high needs support funding.

## **8 Big Lottery Fund / Youth Contract**

8.1 The Big Lottery Fund has recently launched Talent Match, a new funding stream to help unemployed young people age 18 – 24, who have been unemployed for 12 months or more. It is a new ambitious investment of up to £100 million to deliver creative ways to help young people find work or start their own enterprising business. London could attract approximately £10m investment if successful in bidding.

8.2 There have been a number of significant developments in relation to the Youth Contract:

8.2.1 Lifeline has withdrawn as a sub-contractor to deliver the Youth Contract. In boroughs where they were the designated providers, details of their replacement and point of contact will be announced shortly.

8.2.2 A Task and Finish Group of the Data Advisory Group has reviewed the data sharing agreement with a view to establishing a single version for London. It will enable Prevista to share information on referrals and support councils to fulfil their commitments on the participation of young people in education, employment or training.

8.2.3 The EFA is likely to review the criteria for the Youth Contract as local authorities contend that the current criteria exclude many young people in need of targeted, wrap-around support. YPES Team will be providing evidence to the numbers currently eligible in London.

**Action (130): MVM to circulate an updated list of sub-contractors of the Youth Contract programme.**

**Action (131): Two representative boroughs (Hillingdon and Kingston) to test new Youth Contract paperwork and provide feedback to MVM.**

## **9 Workplan Monitoring**

9.1 Members were updated on the YPES workplan. YPES will be holding an RPA Workshop, on 27 November.

## **10 AOB**

10.1 AM raised concern over the rapid growth of the careers, information, advice, guidance and education (CEIAG) market since legislative reforms have come into force. Local authorities, in many instances, are unaware of all provision in their area and whether schools are purchasing effective services that meet the needs of young people.

10.2 YB confirmed that the Improving Choices for Young People (ICYP) group and LGA are both looking at the scope and quality of CEIAG provision.

**Date of next meeting: Friday 16 November 2012, 10.00-12.00, meeting room 4, London Councils.**