

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Policy Update

Item No: 3

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Summary This paper outlines the key changes affecting 14-19 policy since the last OSG meeting.

Recommendation OSG members are asked to note the information in this paper.

1 Background

- 1.1 This paper outlines the key policy statements, consultations, changes and interest items in relation to 14-19 education and training which have occurred since the last OSG meeting.

2 Education Select Committee report - Careers guidance for young people: The impact of the new duty on schools¹

- 2.1 The House of Commons Education Select Committee, on Wednesday 23 January, published its findings and recommendations from an inquiry into careers guidance for young people. A total of 83 written submissions were received from a variety of organisations and individuals. Three formal oral evidence sessions were also held, where the Committee heard from a range of witnesses, including London Councils.
- 2.2 The Committee report highlights concerns about the consistency, quality, independence and impartiality of careers guidance now being offered, and the worrying deterioration in the overall level of provision for young people.
- 2.3 It stated that the Government's decision to transfer responsibility for careers guidance to schools is regrettable. International evidence suggests such a model does not deliver the best provision for young people. The weaknesses of the school-based model have been compounded by the failure to transfer to schools any budget with which to provide the service. This has led, predictably, to a drop in the overall level of provision.
- 2.4 The Committee does not call for an overhaul of the new system. Instead, it outlines recommendations to address the weaknesses within the system. These include:
- 2.4.1 The Department for Education (DfE) should encourage local authorities to promote greater consistency in the provision of careers advice and guidance in

their areas so that, while there is room for innovation and variation, all young people have access to good quality, independent and impartial careers guidance, regardless of where they live or which school they attend.

- 2.4.2 A minimum of one personal careers interview with an independent adviser who is not a teacher should be available for every young person and that this is made explicit in the statutory guidance.
- 2.4.3 Expanding the role and remit of the National Careers Service to include:
 - 2.4.3.1 A duty to promote to schools the benefits of working to Quality in Careers Standards, using providers with the Matrix standard and that advice offered to young people is provided by a level 6 qualified careers advisors.
 - 2.4.3.2 Capacity-building and brokerage role for schools.
- 2.5 The report supports the London Councils call for independent and impartial face-to-face guidance to be available to all young people, and for the National Careers Service to have more involvement with young peoples guidance. A briefing is available on the [London Councils members portal](#).

3 Youth Contract revised eligibility criteria²

- 3.1 The DfE has announced the widening of the eligibility criteria for the Youth Contract. It has stated that an extra 15,500 16 and 17 year-olds are now eligible for tailored help to return to work with training, school or college.
- 3.2 Originally 16 and 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) with no GCSEs at A*-C were able to access support from the programme. However, the eligibility criteria has now been extended to include the following:
 - 3.2.1 Young people who are or were in care.
 - 3.2.2 Young people who have one GCSE at A*-C.
 - 3.2.3 Young offenders released from custody.
- 3.3 This is a disappointing response in the face of strong evidence presented by London Councils that the programme should be opened up to all young people NEET, to enable them to access valuable re-engagement support and for the programme to meet its targets.

4 Destination measures phase 1 evaluation report³

- 4.1 In July 2012, DfE published Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Destination Measures data for the first time. The evaluation report summarises feedback received following the publication of the data and includes detailed responses to a survey evaluation that ran from the middle of July to early October. DfE received a total of 51 responses. In addition, 28 messages containing feedback were received via the dedicated Destination Measures mailbox in the same period. In general the Destination Measures were positively received by respondents.
- 4.2 The report outlines how the Department will respond to feedback and changes to be implemented for the phase 2 publication of Destination Measures during summer 2013. London Councils has been lobbying for Measures to include a broader range of universities, be presented in an easily accessible format and include data on employment as a Destination Measure. DfE have confirmed the main priorities they will be taking forward are:

- 4.2.1 Developing education and employment destinations for both KS4 and KS5 students.
- 4.2.2 Developing the Measures to include detail on the characteristics of students, including those eligible for Free School Meals.
- 4.2.3 Developing the KS4 Measures for publication in Performance Tables next year.

5 Technical Matters Report 2013⁴

- 5.1 The report, Technical Matters by the Policy Exchange, sets out a detailed case for developing a high quality technical and vocational route through the education system from 14-19 as an alternative to traditional academic education.
- 5.2 It states that the education system in England from age 14 emphasises academic study in a way that may disadvantage applied and practical alternatives. Reforms around the EBacc have focused schools on a traditional set of academic subjects. However, an estimated 31% of young people who do A-levels drop out of their studies costing the taxpayer an estimated £300million per annum.
- 5.3 Analysing best practice at home and abroad, Policy Exchange identify how technical and vocational education provision needs to change to best meet the needs of learners. Recommendations include:
 - 5.3.1 Ensuring high quality and independent educational and careers advice is available for all pupils.
 - 5.3.2 New funding arrangements to dissuade sixth forms from retaining students who would benefit from technical or vocational education.
 - 5.3.3 Apprenticeships should be longer be as demanding as A-Level courses and be available to students from the age of 14.
 - 5.3.4 Employers to be formally involved in the technical and vocational education to ensure what is being learnt is relevant and useful in the workplace.
- 5.4 The report draws on work commissioned by Young People's Education and Skills from the Institute of Education (IoE) and focuses significant attention on the issue of 17 year old drop-out, an area that is currently being explored in greater depth with the IoE.

6 UCAS End of Cycle Report 2012⁵

- 6.1 UCAS has published its End of Cycle report for 2012. It provides extensive analysis of the first students applying under new tuition fee arrangements and policies.
- 6.2 The total number of applicants in 2012 dropped by 6.6% to 653,600. Within the 2012 UCAS cycle, there were 464,900 acceptances for full-time UK undergraduate higher education, 27,100 fewer than in 2011. However, because deferral patterns were disrupted in 2011, 53,900 fewer students started their studies in 2012.
- 6.3 Other key findings from the report include:
 - 6.3.1 Entry rates for disadvantaged 18 year olds increased in 2012 across the UK.
 - 6.3.2 The entry rate for UK 18 year olds to 'higher tariff institutions'⁶ increased markedly in 2012 to reach its highest recorded level. More of the 18 year old population from disadvantaged backgrounds entered these higher tariff institutions than in 2011. Entry rates for this group increased by more than they did for more advantaged applicants.

- 6.3.3 More 18 year olds entered higher education through preferred choice routes in 2012. Proportionately fewer were recruited through their insurance choice or Clearing.
- 6.3.4 Amongst UK domiciled 18 year olds, women were a third more likely to *enter* higher education than men. Women are more likely to enter higher education than men are to *apply*.
- 6.4 YPES is working with Linking London, Birkbeck University and the University of Greenwich to provide a report on the longitudinal tracking of level 3 Further Education achiever cohorts from London colleges. Five cohorts from 2005-06 to 2009-10 will be tracked into both non-prescribed Higher Education and prescribed Higher Education (HE) between 2006-07 and 2010-11. A similar report tracking advanced level apprentices living in London will also be produced. The reports will provide more information on progression in London and will be available in April/May this year.
- 6.5 Additionally, YPES is working with colleagues in Newham to explore further HE research opportunities to supplement the output from the Linking London project.
- 6.6 Whilst this work is backward looking it may provide baseline information that can be used in the future to analyse the impact recent HE reform's have had on the choices London's young people are now making.

7 Schools Funding Settlement 2013-14 including Pupil Premium⁷

- 7.1 Provisional 2013-14 local authority allocations for DfE grants were announced on 19 December 2012 by the Secretary of State for Education. The settlement incorporates the changes to the schools funding system announced in response to the consultation, *School Funding Reform: next steps towards a fairer system*.
- 7.2 The Dedicated Schools Grant is to remain at flat cash per pupil for 2013/14 and will be allocated in three notional blocks: Schools, Early Years and High Needs. Final allocations for each block will be determined by school census data relevant to each block. By March 2013 both the Schools and High Needs blocks will be confirmed. The Early Years block will be updated with data from January 2013 and 2014 census.
- 7.3 Based on indicative allocations, Overall DSG funding is £37.959bn with London receiving 18% (£6.790bn).
- 7.4 The Pupil Premium has increased nationally for 2013/14 to £1.875 billion. The level has increased to a flat rate per deprived pupil of £900. London's share of the national total is 20% (£344m).
- 7.5 YPES has been liaising with local authorities, Local Government Association and DfE officials to work through significant issues that have been identified over the integration of post-16 budgets - and commissioning arrangements - into the DSG.

¹ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeduc/632/632.pdf>

² <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00220110/youth-contract-extended-to-more-young-people-who-are-neet>

³ <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/d/destination%20measures%20phase%201%20evaluation%20report.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/technical%20matters.pdf>

⁵ http://www.ucas.ac.uk/documents/End_of_Cycle_Report_12_12_2012.pdf

⁶ Institutions can be described as 'higher', 'medium' and 'lower' tariff based on the average levels of attainment of their accepted applicants (summarised through UCAS tariff points) in recent cycles.

⁷ <http://www.education.gov.uk/a00200465/schools-funding-settlement-2012-13>