

# Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

## Workplan Monitoring – update February 2013

Item No: 9

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**Summary** This paper provides a summary update of the major YPES work strands.

**Recommendations** OSG members are asked to note and comment on progress.

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### 1 Data

- 1.1 Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) has selected a data partner, Mime Consulting, to help to draw together the statistical data and business intelligence that will form the backbone of *Young People in London: An Evidence base*. YPES will work with its data partner to present data on young people's education and skills in an accessible online dashboard format, allowing local authority colleagues and other interested parties to easily use and visualise local authority and pan-London level data.
- 1.2 Prevista circulated a final version of the Youth Contract Information Sharing Protocol to London local authorities in November following collaboration with the Data Advisory Group task and finish group, set-up to support the drafting of the document.
- 1.3 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 between 2006-07 and 2010-11. A similar report tracking advanced level apprentices living in the Greater London Area will also be produced. The reports will provide more information on progression in London and will be available in April/May this year.
- 1.4 YPES is pursuing a proposal with the Learning Records Service to create a London-wide approach to ensuring full implementation of the Unique Learner Number for all London's young residents aged 14 (and over).
- 1.5 Following a brief, focused consultation, the Department for Education (DfE) is changing how NEET and 'not known' figures are calculated. DfE will cease the automatic lapsing of young people who are NEET into the 'not known' category, and keep them in the NEET category until they are known to have progressed to another activity. Plans to revise the formula used to estimate the number of young people NEET to include 50% of those whose current activity is 'not known' have been deferred subsequent to robust feedback from local authorities.

- 1.6 The Education Funding Agency (EFA) issued Shadow Allocations in October to all institutions funded for post-16 provision in 2012/13, which can be accessed via the Information Management (IM) Portal. Briefings were held in late October and early November to provide background on the formula and the policies informing it. The Individualised Learner Record (ILR) guidance for 2013/14 is starting to appear on the Information Authority website and changes to the School Census will be announced shortly.
- 1.7 Updates on the 16-19 pivot tables were made in mid-November (version 6) and can be accessed via the IM Portal.
- 1.8 Final end of year Apprenticeship numbers were made available at the end of January 2013. 25 local authorities have signed their Data Sharing Agreement with the National Apprenticeship Service, with eight outstanding.
- 1.9 The London Enterprise Panel (LEP) has been tasked with revisiting the early work of the London Skills and Employment Board to ensure that investment in skills and employment is meeting the needs of London's businesses and workforce both now and out to 2020. This strand of work will be led by the LEP's Skills and Employment Working Group. The first Strategy of the Skills and Employment Working Group will be published in March 2013.
- 1.10 This report provides a refreshed evidence base for the [London Story](#). It aims to provide a clear and accessible account of the capital's labour market, to help partners make informed decisions regarding skills and employment policy in London.

## **2 Improving Choices for Young People**

- 2.1 The task and finish group set up by the Improving Choices for Young People (ICYP) Group is developing a guide for schools on their new duty (as of September 2012) to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for all pupils in years 9 to 11. YPES sent a survey to local authorities in November to gather intelligence on the early stages of the transition of responsibilities, and to explore some of the emerging models of delivery. The findings have been discussed by the ICYP Group and the task and finish group, which is now developing the guide for schools. The results of the survey will be made available shortly.
- 2.2 DfE has published a [report](#) outlining the Government's decision to extend access to independent and impartial careers guidance to year 8 pupils and to 16 to 18 year-olds in schools and colleges.
- 2.3 The Raising the Participation Age (RPA) workshop held on 27 November was well attended and feedback from participants shows that the workshops and planning sessions were useful and informative. All the materials from the day are now available on the Improving Choices ICYP "[RPA Toolkit](#)" section of the London Councils website.
- 2.4 There are some regional actions that ICYP will be taking forward over the coming months, principally from the [RPA: a survey of local authorities - London Region](#) and from the pan-London referral and information transfer system planning session that was held at the event.
- 2.5 The Department for Education is due to publish the final version of the RPA statutory guidance for local authorities this month. We will notify you when the guidance has been released.

### 3 External funding

- 3.1 External Funding Group: The inaugural meeting of the new External Funding Group took place on 24th January. There are still some points of detail in the draft Terms of Reference and work plan to resolve, but the Group seems to be well placed to deliver its new role.

#### ***Programmes***

- 3.2 *ESF 2007-2013 Programmes:* The EFA / Skills Funding Agency and NAS programmes are still recording variable performance. The NEET preventative programme is working extremely well judged by the volume of starts, retention and positive progressions; whereas programmes supporting NEET into positive destinations (education, employment or training) and vulnerable young people are improving after a slow and patchy start – more contracts are now increasing due to improved delivery than are being reduced. The programmes supporting increased take-up of Apprenticeships are also working reasonably well, although there are still concerns about programmes aimed at under-represented groups. The National Apprenticeship Service is likely to use ESF to support further national initiatives to increase 16-18 participation in Apprenticeships.
- 3.3 The GLA launched its programmes at a briefing held on 16 November and formal performance reviews have not yet taken place. In the case of Day-One Support to Young People (where the GLA is working with DWP) take-up has exceeded expectations and, following a temporary suspension to allow for the arrangement of appropriate numbers of work placements, recruitment has now resumed in both of the trial districts.
- 3.4 *Support to local authorities:* Cluster representatives are working with YPES to define a range of support activities that may be arranged during the current suspension of the Technical Assistance Programme.
- 3.5 *Possible extension of the 2007-2013 round:* YPES has met with the EFA to review the priorities for London and contribute to their proposals for extending the current programme until the new round starts.
- 3.6 *ESF 2014-2020 round:* Discussions on the next EU budget have received considerable attention. The DWP and GLA are holding events in which local authorities can participate (Regeneration Officers normally attend).
- 3.7 The Mayor of London has written to the government following the publication on 20th December 2013 of a Mayoral decision on pursuing Managing Authority status for London (this would separate London's programme from the rest of England). A decision on this application is expected in April 2013. In preparation, the GLA is preparing the necessary plans and procedures so that it can, if necessary, move quickly to implement the decision. In the event of its success, the GLA promises close engagement with Local Authorities.
- 3.8 *Youth Contract:* There are still some Local Authorities that have not yet met with Prevista or their delivery partners to introduce themselves and discuss local arrangements for referrals. Performance is not good in most areas and it is not anticipated that the new extension to eligibility will significantly impact on performance.
- 3.9 Ministers approved an extension in Youth Contract eligibility on 12th January 2013 – young people with one GCSE pass, young offenders and care leavers are now eligible. London Councils continues to press for all NEET young people to be eligible.
- 3.10 A London Information Sharing Protocol has been agreed, with the support of a task and finish group of the Data Advisory Group. In addition the EFA has issued a [guidance note](#) that confirms the legal opinion that there should be no impediment to Local

Authorities passing data on young people to Youth Contract providers. Any Local Authorities who have still to sign and return the Information Sharing Protocol are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

- 3.11 *Talent Match*: London Youth is the lead organisation that has prepared the prospectus for the Big Lottery Fund. To ensure the money is not spread too thinly, it has been decided to concentrate on geographic hotspots and communities most in need. These have been identified as: Barking and Dagenham, Croydon, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Merton, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. At a meeting held on 17th January it was confirmed that bids would need to focus down to 3 local delivery partnerships and 3 pan-London target groups. The next Wider Partnership meeting is taking place on 19 February.
- 3.12 *Get Young People Working - The Youth Offer*. This initiative from the City of London corporation aims to help tackle the growing problem of rising numbers of young people NEET. Information on the application process was sent to the Leader of each council on 6 November 2012 and the deadline for submissions has been extended to 7<sup>th</sup> February. If you have any queries please send these to: [YouthOffer@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:YouthOffer@cityoflondon.gov.uk)
- 3.13 *Flexible Support Fund*: Cluster representatives on the External Funding Group have received information from DWP about local funds that could, among other uses, be used to support Learners with Learning Difficulties and / or Disabilities enter employment. This will be explored further through the External Funding Group.

#### **4 LLDD**

- 4.1 On 19 December 2012 the DfE announced the details of the [school funding settlement for 2013-14](#). From 2013-14, funding for 16 to 24 year old high needs students will be through the DSG. This funding will be combined with pre-16 high needs funding to make up a single High Needs Block within the DSG for pupils and students aged 0 to 24.
- 4.2 Additionally, the EFA wrote to all local authorities and provided student numbers information by provider, asking that these numbers be reviewed and signed off by 7 January 2013. Based on feedback from local authority colleagues, regionally and nationally, work is on-going in a number of areas to agree student numbers. A number of discussions are also taking place between local authorities and colleges.
- 4.3 The Department confirmed the timeline and next steps for the DSG in the [technical note](#) issued with the schools funding settlement.
- 4.4 The new funding arrangements mean that some changes are needed to the way schools and colleges are contracted for both for new and existing high needs learners, to enable places to attract £10,000 from the EFA and, 'top up' funding (if) required, to be paid by the commissioning local authority.
- 4.5 The EFA has been working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) to consider:
- contracting arrangements between the EFA and schools or colleges for the funding provided by the EFA;
  - contracting arrangements between local authorities and schools or colleges which provide services for high needs learners;
  - financial assurance;
  - registration of schools and colleges.

- 4.6 The ADCS bulletin on 30 November 2012 included a link to copies of the draft local authority contract and associated documents for comment. The local authority package included:
- a Service Specification detailing the requirements of the service;
  - an Individual Placement Agreement (IPA);
  - a monitoring form to be used to record the learner's outcomes.
- 4.7 The consultation period for these documents ended on 7 January. The LGA, working with Martin Quinn from the National Contracts Group, is re-drafting the documents to reflect the comments received.
- 4.8 The EFA has also developed a [draft contract it proposes to issue to non-maintained special schools](#) from April 2013. This contract will cover the first £10,000 of costs that will be provided to each institution based on the number of places allocated to each institution.
- 4.9 On 19 December the House of Commons Education Committee published its [pre-legislative scrutiny report on special educational needs \(SEN\)](#). The report concludes that the overall direction of the Government's proposed legislation to reform provision for children with SEN is sound, but warns that the NHS Constitution cannot be allowed to prevent the imposition of much stronger duties on commissioning boards.
- 4.10 The summary (page 3) and recommendations (page 58) provide a helpful snapshot of the full report. Below is a précis of some of the Committees conclusions and recommendations:

## **5 Apprenticeships**

- 5.1 The Richards Review: [The Review of Apprenticeships](#) carried out for the Government by Doug Richards was published on 27 November. Its general theme is safeguarding the quality of Apprenticeships and the main recommendations surround:
- redefining the term 'Apprenticeship' so that it is used appropriately;
  - the outcomes of Apprenticeships;
  - ensuring that industry standards are applied consistently;
  - specifying the level of English and maths that apprentices need to have;
  - developing the notion of employers as purchasers by giving them control over the budget.
- 5.2 Richard recognises that not all learners are ready to enter into a full Apprenticeship straight away and picks up on the idea of traineeships, which would focus on work experience, giving learners the employability skills and experience to start a full Apprenticeship. On 10 January Skills Minister Matthew Hancock set out plans for a traineeship programme through a [Traineeships discussion paper](#); the deadline for comments and responses to a series of questions is 8 February.
- 5.3 A formal response from Government to the recommendations in the Richard Review is expected in spring 2013.
- 5.4 The BIS Committee inquiry into the Government's Apprenticeships programme announced in December 2011 looked at the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), quality and funding. The Committee [reported](#) in November 2012. The majority of the Committee's conclusions and recommendations focus on branding, quality, employer engagement and value for money.
- 5.5 The Committee also calls on DfE to do more to assist schools in the promotion of Apprenticeships and vocational training in the curriculum, noting that

‘Apprenticeships should be an attractive option for school-leavers... there remains an underlying assumption that vocational training is only for those unable to take an academic route. This is wrong and must be changed. The academic route and the vocational route should be given equal prominence in careers advice.’

- 5.6 The report goes further and recommends that NAS is given a statutory responsibility for raising awareness of Apprenticeships for students within schools
- 5.7 The Government, in their [response](#), support the direction of the Committee’s report recognising the need for high quality apprenticeship programmes for young people. There is agreement that areas of the programme should be reviewed and refreshed to effectively meet the needs of young people, employers and deliver long term outcomes. This includes examining the possibility of introducing quality indicators when allocating funding for future deliverers of the apprenticeship programme.
- 5.8 However, the Government has declined to set up a formal structure to attach Apprenticeships to public procurement contracts or to require schools to publish Apprenticeship entries. It has stated that some recommendations will be directly addressed in their response to the Richard Review.
- 5.9 Skills Minister Matthew Hancock recently announced that graduate and post-graduate level apprenticeships will soon be available in subjects including law, accountancy and advanced engineering.
- 5.10 From this year, changes to the Specification of Apprentices Standards for England (SASE) will mean that level six and seven Apprenticeships – equivalent to bachelors and masters degree level – will be available for the first time, making vocational learning an attractive alternative to the traditional higher education route.
- 5.11 For more information see the BIS press release announcing the introduction of [graduate Apprenticeships](#).
- 5.12 Creating an Inclusive Apprenticeship Offer Action Plan: In 2011 the Government commissioned Peter Little OBE to recommend actions for a more inclusive Apprenticeship offer for people with learning difficulties and disabilities. An [action plan](#) in response to these recommendations has now been published.

## **6 Learner Voice London**

- 6.1 Learner Voice London sponsored two sections of the Skills London 2012 show on 23/24 November at Excel London. We also held a ‘who’s in the room’ session for young people and had an exhibition stand for the two days. The aim of this sponsorship was to raise awareness of the website, its aims and how it works with young people.
- 6.2 It also allowed us to survey 150 young people on their awareness of Learner Voice London, what they thought and suggestions for future topics.
- 6.3 The data collected will inform the next six months development of the site, and associated social media. It has also given us our first pool of young people interested in hearing more from us and in writing blog posts.
- 6.4 Numbers to the social media accounts are steadily increasing, with nearly 350 Twitter followers. Using social media has led to a number of productive meetings with organisations also working in the field of ‘learner voice’ and the identification of complementary topics.
- 6.5 The next steps will be around engaging young people in schools and colleges and work is currently taking place on how we can best do this.