

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Policy Update

Item No: 4

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Date: 18 June 2012
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Summary This paper outlines the key changes affecting 16-19 policy since the last Board meeting.

Recommendation Board members are asked to:

- note the information in this paper;
- approve the outline response to the consultation on careers guidance for schools, sixth form colleges and further education institutions (paragraph 8.3.1).

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 London Councils: Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) Board meeting.

2 Ways into work: views of children and young people on education and employment

- 2.1 Ways into work¹ is a research report by City and Guilds that brings the voice of young people into the debate on education and employment. It is based on a survey of 3,000 young people (aged from 7 to 18 years) capturing their views on a variety of areas. The research includes findings from a face to face focus group of participants aged 16 and over recruited from London Youth, a network of 400 community organisations serving young people and their families in every London borough. There are a number of findings including:
- 61% of 7 to 11 year old respondents are optimistic they will be successful in life, rising to nearly three quarters (71%) of 16 to 18 year olds, who feel they will be successful in whatever they do;
 - young people today are ambitious and entrepreneurial with almost half (49%) of 16 to 18 year olds saying they would one day like to run their own business;
 - young people remain optimistic that they can have a bright future, with all age-groups showing an appreciation for the hard work that is needed to get their ideal job;

- most respondents mention college and university as necessary education, with 55% of those aged over 14 believing that going to university is the best way to get their dream job;
 - 50% of 14 to 16 year olds agree that vocational (practical) courses are a good route to well-paid work;
 - however, pessimism among those approaching employment age increases, with 23% of 16 to 18 year olds worrying about not being able to find a job when they leave school or college and 63% citing finances as a concern.
- 2.2 The research also found that the most beneficial careers advice, according to young people, came from employers directly.
- 2.3 City and Guilds will be consulting further with a range of groups and partners. It is expected that their proposals to improve the link between education and employment will be published later this year.
- 2.4 The YPES team has contacted City and Guilds to request the results from the London focus group.

3 Apprenticeships for young people: A good practice report

- 3.1 Apprenticeships for young people: A good practice report², is a Ofsted report that presents some of the common factors that have led to high performance in the work of 15 providers (two of which are London based – City Gateway Limited and Enfield Training Services) and who are extensively involved in delivering Apprenticeships to young people.
- 3.2 The report found that:
- work experience in the area that interested the young person was a recurring theme mentioned by providers, young learners and employers as a positive force in equipping young people with an appropriate work ethic and basic employment skills;
 - young people who had undertaken well-organised work experience, or some form of vocational taster courses while still at school, were more successful in making good progress with their Apprenticeship framework than those starting straight from school without such experience;
 - providers and employers felt that the most important attributes of a potential apprentice were the right attitudes and commitment to employment. Employers welcomed work experience as a way of evaluating young people's work ethic.
 - Employers in the survey said that the number of students they could accommodate on work experience placements was restricted. This was because too many local schools tended to ask for placements during the same short period at the end of the academic year.
- 3.3 The report makes a series of recommendations to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), schools and providers/ provider-employers.
- 3.4 Five recommendations in particular stand out:
- improve the national availability of careers guidance on post-16 options so that young people can make informed and independent choices about their education and training (**BIS/DfE**);
 - promote clear pathways for young people not engaged in education or employment that lead to apprenticeships (**BIS/DfE**);

- improve the local coordination of work experience so that willing employers can respond to more requests for such experience across a wider time frame **(schools)**;
- improve the information about learners who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities so that there is better planning to meet their needs when they leave school and progress into work-based learning **(schools)**;
- develop pre-apprenticeship programmes with progression routes to apprenticeships for young people who are at risk of not being engaged in education or employment (for example, as part of Foundation Learning programmes or 14–16 links with schools) **(providers)**;

4 Lost in Transition: The changing labour market and young people not in employment, education or training

- 4.1 Lost in Transition³ examines how the characteristics of young people (aged 16 to 24) not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) have changed over the last decade, and how longer-term labour market change has affected the transition for young people from education into employment.
- 4.2 The report shows that young people are finding it increasingly difficult to make the first step into work and proposes a number of areas that NEET policy should focus on:
- service providers should concentrate support on ‘transition’ periods;
 - support to access a first sustainable job is a core need of young people and the system must be geared up so that education and training providers prioritise this outcome;
 - more joined up thinking is required at a local level to create clear and available pathways into employment that ensure young people have suitable skills and work experience;
 - local authorities must remain the key player in coordinating services in their area to ensure young people are linked-up with the support they require to find employment, further education or training after leaving school.

5 School funding reform

- 5.1 The DfE published its response to the school funding consultation that was put out last July. The document School funding reform: next steps towards a fairer system⁴ explains how the Department plans to proceed from 2013-14 and invited views on areas where there are different options. The joint London Councils and Association of London Directors of Children’s Services response⁵ supported the principles behind the reforms but articulated concerns over those proposals that do not appear to enable boroughs to allocate funding to meet local needs and increase difficulties around providing sufficient school places.
- 5.2 Of particular interest to local authorities in regard to post-16/FE funding is chapter 3. The chapter sets out plans for reforming current education funding arrangements for pupils and students with high needs in the school, FE and alternative provision sectors, and introduces a new approach to high needs funding called “place-plus”.
- 5.3 The proposed reforms to high needs funding cover funding for education provision for high needs pupils and students aged from birth to 25. Consequently, the existing funding streams that support high needs students will be brought together under a single High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. There are a significant number of operational implications for local authorities to work through to plan for local

implementation. The Department has produced Operational implications guidance for local authorities⁶ to assist with this work. A paper summarising the high needs changes and the operational implications is available on the London Councils website⁷.

6 National Careers Service for England

- 6.1 On 5 April 2012, the Government launched the new National Careers Service for England⁸. It offers independent, impartial information and advice on learning and work as well as access to a wide range of information about careers and the job market. It is available to everyone online and via helpline/web chat. The face to face service is only for those aged 19+ (or 18+ if on Jobseeker's Allowance). It will operate to the Matrix Standard, the national quality standard for the delivery of information, advice and guidance.
- 6.2 The National Careers Service for England offers information and guidance on:
- Apprenticeships;
 - Courses offered by Further Education colleges, and information on what proportion of students go on to employment;
 - Higher Education programmes of study;
 - Sector by sector labour market information so people can discover which industries are growing in their area.
- 6.3 It will be able to handle up to 1 million helpline calls from adults and 370,000 from young people, and 20 million hits on its website. It will also be able to give 700,000 people face to face advice each year. The service is delivered by a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations under contract to the Skills Funding Agency. Prospects Ltd is the prime contractor across London.
- 6.4 The YPES team is in communication with BIS with regard to concerns over the website and its poor presentation towards young people.

7 Statutory guidance for schools and local authorities on careers guidance

- 7.1 From September 2012, schools will take up the new legal duty under the Education Act 2011 to secure access to independent, impartial careers guidance for their pupils in years 9 to 11, and provide information on the full range of 16-18 education and training options, including Apprenticeships.
- 7.2 Statutory Guidance for head teachers, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities on careers guidance⁹ was published in April 2012. The guidance highlights the key responsibilities of schools under the new duty.
- 7.3 Local authorities will continue to have a statutory responsibility to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people in education or training; assist the most vulnerable young people and those at risk of disengaging with education or work; have arrangements in place to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds have received an offer of a suitable place in post-16 education or training; and track all young people's participation in order to identify those who are at risk of not participating post-16, or in need of targeted support.
- 7.4 In addition to the duty which requires all schools to provide relevant information about pupils to local authority support services, from 2013 schools will also be required to notify local authorities whenever a 16 or 17 year old leaves education to support. This new duty is in support of Raising the Participation age.

- 7.5 Academies will be required to comply with these new duties through changes to the Academy contract with the Department for Education (DfE).
- 7.6 The YPES Improving Choices for Young People sub-group is preparing a communication for local authorities to send to school Governors that highlights the new duties and refers them to relevant support materials e.g. the London Councils Careers Guidance Transition Framework.

8 Consultations

- 8.1 **Careers guidance for schools, sixth form colleges and further education institutions¹⁰**: From this September, the Education Act 2011 will place schools under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for pupils in years 9 to 11. The DfE is seeking views on whether the new duty should be extended down to pupils in year 8 and upwards to young people up to the age of 18 studying in schools, sixth forms and further education (FE) institutions. This would require changes to primary legislation.
- 8.2 FE colleges are currently subject to a duty under section 45 of the Education Act 1997 to provide guidance materials and a wide range of up to date reference materials to their students. The DfE would consider the future application of section 45 to 16 to 18 year olds in colleges in the event of extending the new duty to colleges.
- 8.3 London Councils intends to prepare a response to the consultation that is:
- 8.3.1. broadly in favour of the extension of the duty both upwards and downwards, but to ensure that the additional children and young people it would cover should receive a service that is sufficiently resourced and of a standard to meet their needs.
- 8.4 The deadline for consultation responses is 1 August 2012.
- 8.5 **Draft Revised Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing¹¹**: Government recently consulted on this document and stated that local authorities will retain the duty set out in section 507B of the Education Act 2006 to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13 to 19 year olds, so far as is reasonably practicable. This duty also requires local authorities to take into account young people's views and to publicise information about the local offer of all available provision.
- 8.6 The revised guidance makes clear that the activities in scope of this duty include a wide range of locally determined services that can improve young people's wellbeing. It is intended that local areas will be able to deliver a youth services programme to meet the needs of the local community.
- 8.7 **Consultation responses**: YPES submitted a response to the Consultation on the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) regulations in April.

9 Other publications of interest

- 9.1 London Councils has published the following press releases in relation to children and young people:
- **London councils working to reduce youth unemployment¹²** - highlighting the 2,700 Apprenticeships created in the last three years by London local authorities and the development of the Learner Voice London blog as a platform for young people to share their experiences of education, finding work and enrolling on training programmes.

- **Government urged to reveal schools' funding figures**¹³ - given the shortage of school places, London Councils is pressing DfE to show the data and methodology used to allocate school places funding. London received £800 million as part of the basic needs pot for 2012-13 and a further £500 million to help create more places. Yet, with population increases and a rise in demand for places, the cost of providing enough schools places in London is expected to rise to £1.7 billion by 2015.

10 Recommendations

10.1 Board members are asked to:

- note the information in this paper;
- approve the outline response to the consultation on careers guidance for schools, sixth form colleges and further education institutions (paragraph 8.3.1).

¹ www.cityandguilds.com/documents/Press/City-and-Guilds-Ways-into-Work-Views_of_Young_People-Report.pdf

² www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/a/Apprenticeships%20for%20young%20people.doc

³ [www.theworkfoundation.com/DownloadPublication/Report/310_lost_in_transition%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.theworkfoundation.com/DownloadPublication/Report/310_lost_in_transition%20(2).pdf)

⁴ www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/AllPublicationsNoRsg/Page1/DFE-00029-2012

⁵ www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/London%20Councils/NextstepstowardsafairersystemFINAL.pdf

⁶ www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/Reformed%20funding%20-operational%20guidance.pdf

⁷ www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/London%20Councils/Item5.SchoolfundingreformthePlacePlusapproach.pdf

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- ⁸ www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/n/12-677-national-careers-service-right-advice-right-time.pdf
- ⁹ www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00205755/statutory-guidance-for-schools-careers-guidance-for-young-people
- ¹⁰ <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conDocument&consultationId=1830&menu=1>
- ¹¹ www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1811&external=no&menu=3
- ¹² www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/news/current/pressdetail.htm?pk=1488&showpage=1
- ¹³ www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/news/current/pressdetail.htm?pk=1487&showpage=1