

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Expansion of YPES Board Membership

Item no: 5

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Summary This paper outlines proposals to expand the YPES board membership to reflect the changing 14-19 education and training landscape.

Recommendation YPES board members are recommended to determine which organisations from each category area should be invited to become Board members.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the last YPES Board meeting, on 16 October 2012, it was agreed that membership should be strengthened to reflect the new 14-19 education and training landscape, to support the Boards function as the lead strategic body for 14-19 education and training services in London and fulfil its vision.
- 1.2 The role of the Board is to provide pan-London leadership for 14-19 education and training provision in relation to the current and future needs of learners and employers, support local authorities in undertaking their statutory functions, and assist other stakeholders in planning, policy and provision.
- 1.3 Existing Board membership consists of 17 strategic partners that include representation from local authorities at member and Director of Children's Services level; Greater London Authority; London Enterprise Panel; Association of Colleges; Association of School and College Leaders; London Work Based Learning Alliance; Education Funding Agency; Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service¹.

2. Strengthening membership

- 2.1 In consultation with board members, YPES recently developed the *Being the Best: Implementing the Vision for Young People's Education and Skills in London*² and the *Annual Statement of Priorities 2013/14*³. This work outlined the close alignment of priorities with the existing strategic partners, the main challenges facing the education

¹ Appendix A provides a breakdown of the current membership of the YPES Board.

² [London – Being the Best: Implementing the Vision for Young People's Education and Skills in London](#)

³ [Annual Statement of Priorities 2013/14](#)

and training sector as well as the need for greater partnership working at a local and regional level in the new landscape.

- 2.2 The evidence enabled the identification of areas where strengthening membership representation can improve regional partnership working and the Board's ability to fulfil its aims of achieving full participation in learning, increased achievement and improved progression for young Londoners.
- 2.3 A breakdown of the three category areas where the YPES Board can be strengthened and organisations with a London region remit to be considered for membership is provided below:
- 2.4 **Jobcentre Plus (JCP) Representation** – A key delivery partner working with learning providers, employers and local authorities to support those eligible for Jobseekers Allowance, often the young people hardest to furthest away from engaging in education and training. Achieving full participation will place a greater emphasis on the relationship with Jobcentre Plus and referral pathways to support young people. JCP representation will enable the Board to tackle any referral pathway challenges preventing the participation of these young people.
- 2.5 **Higher Education (HE) Representation** – There is need in London for a wider choice of high quality courses and alternative pathways to higher education for young people. Representation will enable the Board to shape the curriculum offer to ensure young people can gain the skills and knowledge they need to compete successfully for places in HE.
 - 2.5.1 **London Higher** - an 'umbrella' body representing over 40 publicly funded universities and higher education colleges in London, as well as several universities with centres in London and a small number of private providers.
 - 2.5.2 **Linking London** - a partnership of universities, colleges, sixth form colleges, schools, awarding and professional bodies and unionlearn, based at Birkbeck, University of London. The partnership works collaboratively to maximise partner's contributions to targeted student engagement and success, social mobility and recruitment, retention and progression to and through higher education.
- 2.6 **Employer Representation** – Effectively supporting young people's progression into jobs is a key function of the education and training sector. Increased employer engagement with the education sector is needed to shape the skills of the future workforce and also ensure all young people have access to high quality work experience. Further representation at Board level will embed employer engagement and strengthen joint working with the London Enterprise Panel to support the development of a coherent employer offer in London.
 - 2.6.1 **Skills and Employment Working Group** - a sub-group of the London Enterprise Panel with the remit to champion skills in London, propose the priorities for skills training in London and recommend measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing skills and employment provision in London
 - 2.6.2 **London First** - represent the capital's leading employers in key sectors such as financial and business services, property, transport, ICT, creative industries, hospitality and retail. It has a focus on improving skills and employment of the workforce in London including through the use of apprenticeships.
 - 2.6.3 **London Chamber of Commerce** - the voice of London's business community. Amongst their key priorities is skills and employment, in

particular, to ensure the education provides young people with the necessary skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

- 2.6.4 **London Education Business Links (LEBLs)** – brings together all 29 EBLs in London to support education institutions develop links with employers to maximise opportunities available to young people. Their aim is support young people to improve their employability skills, develop entrepreneurial skills and gain a better understanding of vocational pathways into employment.
- 2.6.5 **Education and Employer Taskforce** - represents a coming together of partners from the public sector, third sector and private sector, committed to deepening relationships between schools and colleges and employers. Key achievements to date include the 'Inspiring the Future' programme launched in July 2012⁴.

3. Recommendation

- 2.7 YPES board members are recommended to determine which organisations from each category area should be invited to become Board members.

⁴ It is a free service whereby people from all sectors and professions go into state schools and colleges to talk about their jobs and careers, and the education routes they took to get into employment.

Appendix A London Councils: Young People's Education & Skills - Membership January 2013		
Name	Title and Organisation	Representing
Dr Caroline Allen OBE	Principal Orchard Hill College	Association of Colleges (AoC) /Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC) – Specialist Colleges Representative
Jill Lowery	Director of Relationship Team - London	Skills Funding Agency (SFA)
Cllr Patricia Bamford	Lead Member for Children and Young People Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames	London Councils – Liberal Democrat Group
Cllr Peter John Chair	Leader London Borough of Southwark	London Councils Executive Member for Children & Young People (London Councils – Labour Group)
Cllr Andrew Harper	Cabinet Member for Education Children and Families London Borough of Barnet	London Councils – Conservative Group
Dr Jane Overbury OBE	Principal Christ the King Sixth Form College	Association of Colleges – School Sixth Form Colleges Representative
Frank McLoughlin CBE	Principal City and Islington College	Association of Colleges – Further Education Colleges Representative
Frankie Sulke Vice-Chair	Executive Director for Children and Young People London Borough of Lewisham	Association of London Director's of Children's Services (ALDCS)
Jack Morris OBE Vice-Chair	Chairman Business Design Centre Group Limited	London Enterprise Panel
Mary Vine-Morris	Director London Councils: Young People's Education and Skills	London Councils: Young People's Education and Skills
Alan Parnum	Regional Director - London Education Funding Agency (EFA)	Education Funding Agency (EFA)
Munira Mirza	Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Pat Reynolds	Director of Children's Services – London Borough of Redbridge	Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS)
Peter Lang	Head Teacher Uxbridge High School	Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) (School Sixth Forms Representative)
Tim Shields	Chief Executive London Borough of Hackney	Chief Executives London Committee (CELC)
Vic Farlie	Chairman London Work-Based Learning Alliance (LWBLA)	London Work-Based Learning Alliance (LWBLA)
Vic Grimes	Regional Director of Apprenticeships National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)	National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
OBSERVERS		
Caroline Neville	Regional Director – London Association of Colleges (AoC)	Association of Colleges – London Region
Nick Lester	Corporate Director London Councils	London Councils