

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Partnership & Collaboration: Research Recommendations

Item No: 7

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Summary	Achieving the challenge of Raising the Participation Age to 17 year-olds this year and 18 year-olds in 2015 depends on the effectiveness of collaboration among local authorities and learning institutions. Partnership also underpins the achievement of the goals set out in the Vision for young people's education and skills in London. This paper provides an update on the research that has been undertaken in this area and invites the board to comment on the future direction of the research programme with our Academic Partner.
Recommendation	The Board is invited to discuss the key findings of the research (paragraph 3) in the light of the Institute of Education's (IoE) presentation to the meeting and contribute to and subsequently agree the next steps (paragraph 4).

1 Background

- 1.1 In taking forward the vision for 14-19 education and skills, several areas for further investigation were identified. These are:
 - 1.1.1 Providing increased opportunities that help young people get on in life.
 - 1.1.2 Promoting a spirit of enterprise and entrepreneurship.
 - 1.1.3 Using public investment in the best interests of young people.
 - 1.1.4 Developing new and more appropriate forms of partnership.
 - 1.1.5 Shaping a curriculum for a 21st century economy.
 - 1.1.6 Strengthening vocational education in the capital.
 - 1.1.7 Delivering learning that supports and enables all young people to succeed.
- 1.2 This academic year, we are looking closely at:
 - 1.2.1 Improving young people's 14+ participation, progression and transition (through new partnership models) – interim report due at the end of March 2013.
 - 1.2.2 Researching the issues of 17+ drop out/progression issues and developing effective strategies for supporting young people – interim report due at the end of July 2013.

- 1.3 As previously advised to the Board, the Institute of Education (IoE) has been commissioned as our Academic Partner. Last year the IoE produced the report that underpinned the vision and our annual statement of priorities - they will be conducting the research into the above issues and will be providing provisional feedback to the YPES Board. This paper is intended to accompany a presentation from the IoE to the March 2013 meeting of the Board.

2 The purpose of the research

- 2.1 During the course of preparing the vision for young people's education and skills, discussions with our key strategic partners highlighted some significant gaps in the shared knowledge base upon which decisions on future policy are made (these are listed in paragraph 1.1). Many of these issues are being addressed by:
- 2.1.1 Our on-going engagement with partners (for example through the London Enterprise Panel).
 - 2.1.2 The work of our sub-groups.
 - 2.1.3 Further analysis produced by our Data Partner (Mime Consulting).
 - 2.1.4 Continuing research by our Academic Partner (the IoE).
- 2.2 This year, we have commissioned the IoE to explore the two issues shown in paragraph 1.2. This is an update on research into "14+ participation, progression and transition: rebuilding and extending partnership working" (the next Board meeting will receive an update in 17+ drop-out/progression).
- 2.3 The IoE has adopted the following methodology:
- 2.3.1 Background research and review of literature.
 - 2.3.2 Questionnaire on partnership working sent to all 14-19 local authority leads.
 - 2.3.3 Feedback on findings discussed at a conference of borough 14-19 lead officers on 3rd December 2012, where the further ways of working with boroughs were also agreed.
 - 2.3.4 Visits to 21 boroughs to discuss their partnership structures and practices.
 - 2.3.5 Analysis of data in relation to models of partnership and designed to draw out examples of effective practice.

3 Progress and Key findings

- 3.1 The main research work has been completed and comprises:
- 3.1.1 Context (national and London).
 - 3.1.2 Different concepts in 14-19 partnerships.
 - 3.1.3 A model for 14+ Progression and Transition Boards.
 - 3.1.4 An analysis of the breadth and depth of partnership working in London.
- 3.2 The interim findings will be covered during the IoE's presentation to the March 2013 Board meeting. The main points are
- 3.2.1 Most boroughs have a partnership to discuss 14+ education and training issues – many supported by formal sub-groups. Boroughs' 14-19 Partnerships have a broad-based attendance from learning institutions and other key local players; partnerships meet regularly, are generally considered effective and work to

comprehensive agendas. However, there are very clear areas in which their effectiveness can be improved.

- 3.2.2 Partnerships have varied histories that affect the way in which their players interact.
- 3.2.3 There is a strong case for “reinvention” (or recovery) of partnerships so that they are in better shape to meet the challenges of the future, which would include a refocus on prominent areas of activity (defined locally) and key emerging issues.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 It is intended to further discuss in some detail the findings of this project at the next forum of Borough officers. This will enable us to make a more informed assessment of:
 - 4.1.1 The appetite for revisiting/reinventing local partnership arrangements.
 - 4.1.2 The fitness for purpose of partnership arrangements when matched against the current, future and potential issues facing education and skills in London.
 - 4.1.3 The identification of case studies of effective practice and areas for further investigation during academic year 2013/14.
- 4.2 The Board is invited to comment on this programme.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is invited to discuss the key findings of the research (paragraph 3) in the light of the IoE's presentation to the meeting and contribute to and subsequently agree the next steps (paragraph 4).Paragraph.