

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

## Workplan Monitoring – update April 2013

Item No: 8

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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 At the Data Advisory Group (DAG) meeting on [1 March](#), Mime Consulting presented the approach to developing the [data dashboard](#) (working title 'Intelligent London'), which will act as a central source of information and data on young people. Mime Consulting summarised the progress made to date, including the involvement of the project Steering Group, which has reviewed a matrix listing datasets that may be included in the dashboard.
- 1.2 Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) is meeting this month with Linking London, Birkbeck University to discuss the final report of the pan-London data project on vocational and apprenticeship progression to higher level study in the capital 2006-11. Dissemination of the report and next steps will also be discussed. YPES is also meeting with the University of East London to agree the scope and reporting arrangements for a pan-London graduate unemployment research project (thanks to Sheila Weedon, Newham, for her help and expertise with this research).
- 1.3 The Department for Education (DfE) Destination Measures Stakeholder Group met on 28 February to discuss the next phase of the measures. The DfE conducted a survey to gather feedback on the first publication of the Measures, which has helped to inform some key developments, such as the inclusion of employment destinations, NEET information and characteristic breakdowns (including gender, Free School Meals and ethnicity). The Department received a significant amount of feedback concerning the Russell Group categorisation, and in response is looking at alternative ways to group university destinations.
- 1.4 Key Stage 4 Education Destinations will be published on the DfE Performance Tables website this year. The Key Stage 5 Destination Measures will continue to be based on the cohort taking A level and other level 3 qualifications and will again be published as an experimental statistical first release, along with employment and characteristics data.

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

- 2.1 The task and finish group set up by the Improving Choices for Young People (ICYP) Group to develop a guide for schools on their careers guidance duties will report to ICYP members at the 26 April meeting. The results of the survey issued at the end 2012 will be shared along with a draft of the guide.
- 2.2 The DfE has updated the [statutory guidance for schools on careers guidance](#) for young people to take account of the extension of the duty to secure independent and impartial careers guidance down to year 8 and up to years 12 and 13 from September 2013. The Department will extend an equivalent requirement to Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges through their funding agreements and will provide separate guidance to colleges.
- 2.3 The [Raising the Participation Age \(RPA\) statutory guidance](#) for local authorities has been published. 'Defining participation', 'Duties on other organisations' and 'Principles of re-engagement provision' have been published as annexes to the guidance.

## **3 External Funding**

- 3.1 *External Funding Group:* The External Funding Group, at its meeting on 25 February, adopted its Terms of Reference and work plan. Jo Baty announced her resignation as Chair of the Group and as a result of a nomination by Local Authority members it was agreed that Ann Mason will take over the Chair of the Group from the next meeting. Individual meetings are being held with all LA Representatives on the Group to help them in their role (there is a 'job description' that emphasises the importance of communication). The next meeting is 22 May.

### ***Programmes***

- 3.2 *ESF 2007-2013 Programmes:* The Preventative NEET Programme continues to work well and is now almost at profile. Starts on the NEET to EET Programme are also now at 94% of profile, though there is considerable lost ground in retention and progressions to make up. The Vulnerable NEET programme is under-performing significantly and both the Volunteering into EET and NAS programmes are also underperforming. Updated programme performance statistics will be available on 13<sup>th</sup> May.
- 3.3 The GLA has not yet carried out its first performance reviews of its providers. Recruitment on Day-One Support to Young People (the GLA / DWP programme) remains far greater than anticipated.
- 3.4 *Support to local authorities:* Discussions are continuing with Greater London Enterprise (GLE) regarding the feasibility of a pan-London conference to share best practice with a view to informing the 2014-20 round. The potential for support to cluster areas is also being explored.
- 3.5 *Extension of the 2007-2013 round:* As a result of consultation with local authorities and the fact that the, relatively successful, Preventative NEET Programme is due to come to an end in autumn 2013, the EFA has agreed to use the small amount of funding it has been allowed to carry over to tender for provision that targets the same client group. This 'extension' will cover the period until the new ESF round is under way (probably allowing delivery until 2015).
- 3.6 *ESF 2014-2020 round:* Considerable progress has been made on agreeing the overall EU Budget, the budget for and organisation of Structural Funds and national allocations. Within the UK, progress has also been made on the distribution of the allocation to devolved administrations and, consequently, the allocation for England. Discussion continues on the programme's priorities, given the new emphasis on

growth; management of the programme (especially in London); and the role of LEPs in the management and delivery of the Programme. London Councils is holding an event for Local Authorities on 15 April.

- 3.7 *Youth Contract*: Take-up is still very slow (172 starts in north London and 109 in south London). "Super Suppliers" have been engaged to boost performance and Local Authorities are being invited to express an interest in operating as a direct delivery partner. There are still some Local Authorities that have not yet signed the data-sharing protocol which is causing difficulties in securing effective data exchange.
- 3.8 *Talent Match*: There have been a number of events during March to facilitate the development of Local Delivery Partnership bids and bids from specialist organisations (for Young People with Disabilities and Young Parents/Carers) plus an Enterprise partner. The guidance, application forms, FAQ and other documents can be found on the [London Youth Website](#). YPES will be involved in the initial assessment of bids, which will be undertaken during mid to late April.
- 3.9 *Get Young People Working - The Youth Offer*: London Councils has been involved in the initial evaluation of bids and feedback has been provided to boroughs – in most cases, additional information has been requested before the project can proceed. Consideration of the first tranche of proposals will occur at the City of London Corporation meeting on the 18 April.
- 3.10 *The Apprenticeship Application Support Fund*: NAS and AELP has launched proposals for 'employability workshops' and additional intensive support for candidates who have gone through Apprenticeships Vacancies unsuccessfully to support their future applications. Further information will be available at item 7 on the agenda.

#### **4 LLDD**

- 4.1 Under the school funding reforms for 2013-14, the new high needs funding arrangements were introduced for all providers in the schools sector in April 2013, including local authority maintained schools, and special and Alternative Provision Academies. They will be phased in for mainstream Academies by September 2013. The new arrangements for providers in the further education (FE) sector will be introduced from the start of the 2013/14 academic year.
- 4.2 The High Needs Student Funding task and finish group presented a series of recommendations to the Association of London's Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) in respect of payment arrangements for students with high needs.
- 4.3 ALDCS members were asked to:
  - a) agree that all London councils make termly in advance arrangements for new suppliers/placements with the aim of bringing all high needs student education providers (both pre- and post-16) into termly in advance arrangements by August 2014; (and if agreed, determine the means of communication to colleges and ISPs); and
  - b) agree to the task and finish group on behalf of ALDCS;
    - polling London local authority Heads of Finance to determine the appetite for moving to electronic payments (e.g. BACS or direct debits) for high needs student placements;
    - collecting information from all London local authority SEN teams on existing banding systems/other arrangements and determine the feasibility of a regional framework;

- exploring the areas of student monitoring and review, staff training (to promote effective and affordable SEN provision), and general communications with providers to identify any benefits to sub-regional/regional arrangements.
- 4.4 ALDCS agreed to the recommendations. The group is now undertaking a survey to ask local authority Finance Directors their preferred option for advance payments for students with high needs and to gauge the level of interest in electronic payments. This information will be made available to ALDCS, with a view to asking Directors to make a decision to agree to advance payments and electronic payments prior to August 2013.
  - 4.5 As new information emerges, a brief communication will be emailed to local authority (and provider) colleagues through the [High Needs Student Funding e-bulletin](#).
  - 4.6 The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has confirmed that Independent Specialist Colleges and specialist provision in FE and Sixth Form Colleges will receive transitional protection for the next two years to cover their high needs funding. The Association of Colleges is working with the EFA on modelling to identify colleges with significant specialist provision and will soon be asking those Colleges that EFA thinks will be most affected, for forecasts of the number of high needs students to assist with the modelling.
  - 4.7 The [assurance framework for high needs funding 2013/14](#) has now been published. It provides information to local authorities and providers on the assurance arrangements over the funding of high needs pupils and students for 2013/14 for financial health assessments and assurance over providers' use of funds.
  - 4.8 On 5 March Edward Timpson, Children and Families Minister, announced that a new duty will be placed on clinical commissioning groups through the Children and Families Bill. The new duty will mean that they will by law have to secure services in education, health and care plans for children and young adults. This will include specialist services like physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy.
  - 4.9 The Bill was debated at a second reading on 25 February 2013 (see the [London Councils briefing](#)), where the House of Commons voted for the Bill to be sent to a Public Bill Committee for line-by-line scrutiny. The Committee is expected to meet next on 16 and 18 April and to report by 23 April.

## **5 Apprenticeships**

- 5.1 Government has published its response to The Richard Review and is consulting on proposals until 22 May. In the main it is keen to take forward most of Richard's recommendations, including redesigning all apprenticeship qualifications, to be lead by employers; increased involvement of employers in assessment; and channelling funding via employers rather than providers. However the consultation stresses that the implementation of some of these recommendations will be complex and they are not committed to them all at this stage.
- 5.2 London Councils submitted a response to the Traineeships discussion paper, and expects a more detailed plan from BIS / DfE later in the spring.
- 5.3 Many boroughs celebrated National Apprenticeship Week with events, including 'graduation' ceremonies and job fairs.
- 5.4 During NA Week, the Mayor of London announced that apprentices of any age will be able to get one-third off the cost of a travelcard, in the first year of their apprenticeship. Apprentices will be able to apply for the discount from May.
- 5.5 Changes to the Specification of Apprentices Standards for England (SASE) have been brought into force, which mean that level six and seven Apprenticeships are now

available. Level 4 and 5 apprenticeships have also changed, with the removal of functional skills, personal learning and thinking skills, and employee rights and responsibilities.

- 5.6 Numbers of apprentices aged 16-18 have fallen in the majority of London boroughs. The National Apprenticeship Service is developing plans for employability workshops and support for 16-18 year old applicants to improve their chances of making a successful application. Support for Boroughs' employer engagement initiatives are also currently being explored; again with a view to promote 16-18 apprenticeship uptake.

## **6 Learner Voice London**

- 6.1 Following on from the presence at Skills London 2012 a short video has now been produced and is on our YouTube and website ([view here](#)). We asked young London learners what they would do to help young learners if they 'Were Mayor for a Day'.
- 6.2 This video will be promoted to young people, using the website and our social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and YouTube) as well by email to the young people we registered at the event, and they will be encouraged to comment and add their thoughts.
- 6.3 Numbers to our social media accounts are steadily increasing, with nearly 400 Twitter followers. Using social media has continued to lead to a number of productive meetings with organisations also working in the field of 'learner voice' and the identification of complementary topics.
- 6.4 Talks are currently taking place with a couple of organisations around engaging young people in schools and colleges with proposals on how we can best utilise our time and efforts to maximum effect, reaching as many young people as possible.