

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

## Workplan Monitoring – update April 2013

Item No: 8

**Date:** 14 June 2013

**Contact** Anna-Maria Volpicelli

**Telephone:** 020 7934 9779 **Email:** [Anna-maria.volpicelli@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Anna-maria.volpicelli@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

---

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

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

---

### 1 Data

- 1.1 At the Data Advisory Group (DAG) on 8 May Mime Consulting (YPES data partner) presented the latest work on 'Intelligent London' – an online data dashboard which will act as a central source of information and data on young people. A mini workshop was held to gather feedback on a static prototype of the website and a working Beta version of the website has been released to the Project Steering Group so that more comprehensive testing and feedback can take place. It is anticipated the website will be fully functional by the end of July/early August.
- 1.2 The YPES team met with Linking London, Birkbeck University on 24 May to discuss the latest draft *Progression of College Learners and to Higher Education in London* report. The research findings provide a detailed analysis of the nature of the progression of learners from London further education colleges, trends in progression rates over time and progression to higher education in both further education colleges and universities. A companion report, *Progression of Apprentices to Higher Education in London*, has also been produced. Final drafting will occur through the summer and the reports will be published and disseminated in October.
- 1.3 YPES has also been working with the University of East London to undertake research into the progression of 18-24 year old London residents into full-time and part-time, first or undergraduate degree study at UK universities. The report will also look at the outcomes from higher education study by looking at the degree classifications achieved by London residents who completed their university study in 2010/11, and their post-degree destinations, including employment. The report (together with individual borough summaries) will be available this summer.
- 1.4 The feasibility of taking forward the RPA pan-London drop-out and referral system project has been appraised, which has included a survey to test out the appetite for the project. Diana Choulerton was commissioned to undertake this work and will be feeding-back to OSG to determine next steps.

## 2 Improving Choices for Young People

- 2.1 Based on the work undertaken by the Careers Guidance and Education Task and Finish Group, and findings from the Survey on Careers Education and Guidance issued by YPES, a support document for schools and colleges called *Pioneering Careers Work* in London has been drafted. It was tabled at the last Improving Choices for Young People (ICYP) Group Meeting on 26 April, and members have since provided some specific feedback electronically. The document will be released later this month along with the full findings of the survey.
- 2.2 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. The last ICYP Group Meeting agreed that a joint DAG and ICYP Task and Finish Group should be set-up to investigate how data can be best utilised to support RPA objectives and the tracking of young people.

## 3 External Funding

- 3.1 The External Funding Group met on 22 May (next meeting is 5 September).

### ***Programmes***

- 3.2 *ESF 2007-2013 Programmes:* The ESF programme on the (EFA funded/Skills Funding Agency contracted) NEET prevention (EET) programme continues to operate strongly. Starts are over 90% of the total contracted to the end of April 2014, even taking into account increases in contracts due to previous solid performance. Retention at 13 and 26 weeks is also good. Performance of the NEET reengagement (NEET to EET) programme has improved significantly. Starts are now 98% of profile overall and progression and retention are improving. This programme is contracted to finish in March 2015. The contract value of the vulnerable NEET programme has been decreased to reflect under performance. The provider took part in the Raising the Participation Age vulnerable young people event and is following up leads generated. Although the volunteering into EET programme has good progression and retention rates against profile (including at 13 and particularly 26 weeks) the number of starts is a concern. The Skills Funding Agency is undertaking reviews in specific clusters.
- 3.3 The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) programmes continue to underperform, in some cases significantly.
- 3.4 The Greater London Authority (GLA) has not yet carried out its first performance reviews of its providers, though their programmes have been slow in taking off. Recruitment on Day-One Support to Young People (the GLA/Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) programme) remains far greater than anticipated.
- 3.5 *Support to local authorities:* Greater London Enterprise (GLE) is planning to hold a pan-London conference before the end of the academic year to identify and share best practice with a view to informing the 2014-20 round. An event for the SW London Cluster will have been held on 6 June and the potential for further support to cluster areas is also being explored.
- 3.6 *Extension of the 2007-2013 round:* As a result of consultation with YPES and the fact that the, relatively successful, Preventative NEET Programme is due to come to an end in autumn 2013, the EFA has agreed that the additional ESF funding identified will be used to tender for provision that targets the same client group in London. This 'extension' will cover the period until 2015, when the new ESF round should be underway. The specifications for this programme were issued on 16 May for return on 17 June and with the programme starting in September. The specifications, though part of a national procurement exercise, provide for a programme specific to London sub-divided into the existing ESF cluster areas and reflecting local authority priorities. The

total is approximately £9m. YPES has provided some background information to bidders to facilitate early contact with local authorities and other providers.

- 3.7 *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
- 3.7.1 the programme's priorities, given the new emphasis on growth – and a paper is expected shortly from the GLA/LEP outlining the latest thinking on priorities and responding more fully to the guidance issued by DWP on behalf of the government and based on the LEP's Jobs and Growth Plan;
  - 3.7.2 management of the programme (especially in London); and
  - 3.7.3 the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships in the management and delivery of the Programme. London Councils held an event for local authorities on 15 April and the presentations are available from the [London Councils](#) website
- 3.8 *Youth Contract*: Take-up is still building (270 starts in north London and 171 in south London.) In addition there have been some further changes in local delivery partners, including the withdrawal of Urban Futures (Springboard and City Gateway have replaced Urban Futures in Camden, Islington and City; remaining local authorities should make referrals to Prevista) Prevista is exploring with some local authorities the possibility of the authorities becoming direct delivery partners in order to boost performance. With the end of the academic year approaching they are also interested in ideas for getting information on the Youth Contract into schools – please contact Mark Sargeant at [marks@prevista.co.uk](mailto:marks@prevista.co.uk). We are supporting Prevista to organise a networking event in the summer to exchange good practice and continue to build effective relationships.
- 3.9 *Talent Match*: London Youth has selected the Local Delivery Partnership bids and bids from specialist organisations (for young people with disabilities and young parents/carers) plus an Enterprise partner. Work will now proceed to develop a business plan for submission to Big Lottery. Updates are available on the [London Youth](#) website.
- 3.10 *Get Young People Working - The Youth Offer*: The City of London Corporation meeting on 18 April approved the majority of borough bids for grant. There were a number of interesting proposals to address issues of youth unemployment including some highly targeted work and approaches to support young people 'navigating the system'. We will be supporting City of London to run an event to share information and practice.

## **4 LLDD**

- 4.1 The High Needs Student Funding task and finish group is working with a wider group of colleagues to consider and agree a set of guiding principles that will:
- 4.1.1 support local authorities across the capital to commission education and support that leads to greater independence for young people with SEND;
  - 4.1.2 clearly articulate local authority expectations to service providers about the requirement for provision to lead to young people making successful transitions to adulthood, including finding paid work, living independently and participating in their community;
  - 4.1.3 shift the focus from cost to quality to drive more cost effective service delivery with better life outcomes.

- 4.2 The group is also arranging an event (to take place in July) for local authority commissioners to come together with officers from London's colleges to discuss how 16-19 study programmes can contribute to delivering better life outcomes for young people with SEND.
- 4.3 The Department for Education (DfE) has published the revised post 16 [Dedicated Schools Grant](#) (DSG) transfer spreadsheet along with a supporting [technical note](#) and [operational guidance](#). The technical note explains the changes that have been made since the DSG was first calculated in December 2012.
- 4.4 As a result of funding adjustments and successful local authority submissions in February the DSG was increased by £46.4million. £11,470,999 (25 percent of the national increase) is included in London local authority budgets.
- 4.5 The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has confirmed that [Independent Specialist Colleges](#) and specialist provision in [Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges](#) will receive transitional protection for the next two years to cover their high needs funding.
- 4.6 To aid consideration of the special educational needs (SEN) clauses in part 3 of the Children and Families Bill the DfE has released an [indicative draft Code of Practice](#),
- 4.7 The Department will be producing a subsequent draft for formal consultation later in 2013 prior to a final draft being placed before Parliament for approval in time for it to come into force alongside the Children and Families legislation.

## **5 Apprenticeships**

- 5.1 Government has released a detailed Framework for the delivery of Traineeships, which will launch in August 2013. Initially they will be delivered by existing apprenticeship providers with SFA funding, or providers of 16-19 provision with EFA funding, with good or excellent Ofsted gradings. The core components of a traineeship will be English and maths, work preparation training and at least 6 weeks work experience. The whole traineeship will last no more than 6 months, and is designed for those who are keen to enter an apprenticeship (or other work) but need a relatively small amount of support and work experience. They are not designed for those in need of intensive support.
- 5.2 London Councils has been funded by the National Apprenticeship Service to work with 7 boroughs on a range of employer engagement activity. These projects will increase the number of apprenticeship vacancies available, and will also encourage employers to consider taking on a 16-18 year old. The borough projects will dovetail with other activity funded by NAS to improve the employability of 16-18 year old candidates.
- 5.3 The National Apprenticeship Service and the Association of Employment and Learning Providers have [announced](#) the details of the lead organisations that are to be funded by the Apprenticeship Application Support Fund. Training organisations submitted bids to run projects around the country designed to increase the quality and success rate of applications for apprenticeship vacancies made by young people 16-20. Lead providers for London include 15billion, Catch22, Kensington and Chelsea College and Prevista.
- 5.4 TfL has launched a discount travelcard for all apprentices aged over 18 that live in London and are in the first year of their apprenticeship (this extends the current travel concessions available to 16-18 year olds). Apprentices must apply for the card through the TfL website and need their ILR number to apply.
- 5.5 Loans for learners aged 24 and above, taking a level 3 or higher qualification, launch in August. The loans will apply for apprentices taking a level 3 apprenticeship or above. There is some concern amongst providers that the loans will have an impact on the number of learners taking up an apprenticeship.

- 5.6 The London Enterprise Panel (LEP) has agreed to fund an enhanced employer grant in London. Currently all employers with under 1000 employees that have not taken on an apprentice in the last 12 months are entitled to a grant of £1,500. The LEP will be increasing this to £3,000 for businesses in London. NAS and the GLA are currently working on the delivery mechanism for the additional grant.

## **6 Learner Voice London**

- 6.1 Learner Voice London now has a strong presence on social media channels – these include the website, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. Four videos are being marketed across all platforms, accompanied by relevant reports and links to other organisations work which is similar to ours to encourage networking and more visibility for our sites.
- 6.2 Numbers to our social media accounts are steadily increasing, with over 400 Twitter followers. Our Facebook account has now reached a level where we can begin to analyse our reach and we will be exploring the feasibility of a short marketing campaign on Facebook targeting 16-19 London learners.
- 6.3 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 Following talks with a couple of organisations around engaging young people in schools and colleges we are now writing up a six month strategy to increase our reach to young people and ensure interaction on the website.

## **7 Academic Partner**

- 7.1 London Councils and the Institute of Education (IoE) have published the [latest report](#) produced as part of the IoE’s commission as YPES’s Academic Partner. Looking at the current condition of partnership working in education and training for 14-19 year-olds in London, the report considers ways in which collaboration might be developed to improve opportunities for young people in the current national and regional contexts. The report was produced after a period of research in which several boroughs actively engaged. Its key finding is that, following a difficult period between 2010 and 2012, there now appears to be an increase in 14-19 partnership activity based on the need to implement Raising the Participation Age.