

DERBYSHIRE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS MEETING

HELD ON 29 JULY 2004

AT DERBYSHIRE CHAMBER, CHESTERFIELD

Present:

Peter Brammall
Alan Charles
Olivia Dean
John Kirkland (Chair)
Ann Tipple
Carol Taylor
Roger Taylor

In Attendance:

Bev Hunt
Andrew Martin
Maureen James
Debra Blackshaw (Minutes)

Observers:

Garry Bryant, GOEM
Andrew Flack, Derby City LEA
Cathy Frost, Jobcentre Plus
John Gibb, Connexions Derbyshire

ITEM

ACTION

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Council Members

Hardyal Dhindsa, Carol Dibbs, Michael Hall, Simon Hemmings, Pat Morgan-Webb, Russell Rigby, Mohammed Sharief, Ken Spencer, David Williams.

JK congratulated Hugh Hastie, Chief Executive, Connexions Derbyshire, on his OBE. Congratulations to Hardyal Dhindsa on his re-election to Derby City Council and to Carol Dibbs on High View School being removed from Special Measures.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Employer Sub Group

The Employer Sub Group are waiting the completion of a research project and will be meeting after this is received.

4. EDs Report

Council Members were invited to comment on/ask questions arising from the

EDs report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

PB informed members that the BSEM contracts have been put back until March 2005 to allow the discussions around the development of the BSEM offer to continue.

Mark Haysom was scheduled to visit DLSC on 27 July but unfortunately due to illness was unable to attend and his visit will be rearranged. Bob Laxton MP attended the Ground Breaking Ceremony for Derby College's Joseph Wright Sixth Form Centre in place of Mark.

5. **14-19 Area Wide Inspection**

BH updated the members on the recent Area Wide Inspection (AWI). Members were reminded of the confidential nature of this information, which is still subject to moderation by Ofsted prior to publication of their full report.

Derby City LEA and DLSC will have sight of the report in August and will be given the opportunity to comment. The full draft publication is due in October 2004, after which an Action Plan will need to be drawn up by December 2004/January 2005.

GB explained the role of GOEM in the AWI. GOEM will be asked to comment on the plan before it is presented to the Secretary of State. A letter from the Secretary of State outlining the expectation of DfES will be sent to Mark Haysom, and in turn to David Hughes. LSC National Office and GOEM have been asked to work with DLSC on their plan and also stated that the needs of the learner must be central to the plan.

6. **Financial Expenditure 2004/05**

AM presented the paper on the Financial Expenditure for this year.

DLSC will receive £1.3M less (1%) less for 2004/05 than for 2003/04. Part of this is due to proper discussions taking place with FE College on their allocations that will reflect more accurately their delivery, in previous years the process has resulted in funding being tied up within college allocations even where these were unlikely to be achieved. Concern was expressed about DLSC returning funds from FE back to the region. PB confirmed this was not a matter of choosing to give funds back rather than using them for other non-FE activities; it is instead about aligning FE allocations with underlying activity levels across the East Midlands in a way which has not been done before.

Guidance has been received from National Office to clarify the eligibility for E2E which will be targeted towards those who can progress to a positive destination in a reasonable timescale. Concerns were expressed about the impact on the NEET group. PB explained that the LSC will be working to ensure adequate provision exists for the 'Pre-E2E' cohort, involving a mix of ESF provision (that is already in place and that from the forth coming

tendering round), along with the wide range of entry/level 1 provision already in place.

This issue will be monitored closely as the new contract period commences from the beginning of August by the Connexions/LEA/LSC NEET Reduction Sub Group. It will also be discussed further at the next Council Individual Sub Committee meeting.

Valuable Skills is now entering its 3rd year and the numbers of employers and learner engaged are increasing year on year. However due to previous years' over estimation of delivery funding has been diverted from the ETP budget to meet other priority activity such as Apprenticeships. The intention is to top up the ETP budget in the latter part of the contract year as activity increases. DLSC are likely to require such a 'top up' earlier than this as current activity suggests we will exceed our allocation by December/January.

There is also an overall reduction in the Administration budget for DLSC. This is partly due to functions such as PFA being performed regionally, the budget for these being held by National Office, and also linked to the national reshaping exercise.

Currently there is nothing in the admin budget that is giving cause for concern. There has been a small reduction in the admin costs as David Hughes and Terry Laws' costs have been recharged to Nottinghamshire LSC from 1 March until 1 June.

7. StAR Progress Report, FE Curriculum Update

AM gave a presentation on the FE Curriculum mapping exercise that had recently taken place. A copy of the slides are attached.

AM informed members that this information will be shared with all providers in the county, including both LEAs. RT suggested that there should be a matching exercise with ACL as some of the data now to hand challenged prevailing assumptions around adult learning activity. AT suggested that this information would be of interest to Derbyshire Chamber's Research team to map employment information against the travel to learn information and look at the trends.

8. DLSC Management Information

AM tabled a paper on Performance Reporting. Members are asked to feedback comments via email/telephone to Andrew Martin. Please note the figures in the report are not factual and are used purely to illustrate the type of format/data intended for use.

9. LIDF

Members were asked to note the paper which outlined the main areas of LIDF expenditure for 2004-05, the current level of over commitment and the

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proposals for managing expenditure to budget in-year. A detailed list of projects will be presented at a future meeting.

10. Outcome of ESF Tendering Round

Members were asked to note the paper.

11. Feedback from Sub GroupsIndividuals Sub Group

AC informed members that the Individuals Sub Group had looked at the role and remit of the group. It was agreed at the last meeting that the members of this group would look at a number of issues including ethnicity and rurality. Concern was expressed that there had been no Bitesize funding this year. £10K has been made available through ROWA for this to take place later this year/early next year.

Provision

A presentation on the new MA framework was given at the last meeting. The group will continue to monitor the quality of provision. PPR and CoVEs.

It was agreed that PB will attend the Individuals Sub Group, AM the Employers Sub Group and BH the Provision Sub Group.

12. Any Other BusinessAwayday

Members are asked to email DB any ideas, issues, topics for the awayday scheduled for 29 September as soon as possible. It was suggested that that part of the day be used to consider StAR findings and the framework for determining the options for change.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting the awayday which is scheduled to take place on 29 September at SEDC. Please inform DB of any dietary requirements.