

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 8 March 2007
Subject local Council Meeting
Location LSC Office, North Hykeham
Time 17:00
LSC office Lincolnshire and Rutland
Publication intent Public

Present Roger Begy, Chair, LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland
John Allen, Lincoln College
John Crosby, Independent
Peter Duxbury, Lincolnshire Local Authority
Nev Jackson, Amicus
Heather Lee, Lincolnshire Co-Operative Society
Frances Mannsaker, University of Lincoln
Maureen O'Callaghan, Independent
Nick Rashley, Area Director, LSC
Pam Smith, EM & AP Smith
Tony Worth, QV Foods Ltd

In attendance Joanne Oliver, National Probation Service: Lincolnshire Area

LSC staff Gareth Griffiths, 14-19 Provision and Attainment Director, National LSC
Chris Harris, Partnerships Director
Sharon Ritchie, PA to Area Director

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Haydn Biddle, George Bateman and Sons Ltd
Marion Blake, Jobcentre Plus
Carol Chambers, Rutland Local Authority
Rachel Crookston, Government Office for the East Midlands
John Kearsey, Jobcentre Plus
Michael LeGoff, JSFM Consulting Ltd
Rob Mayall, Connexions
Tina McEwan, Business Link
Lynda Poole, Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School
Alan Robson, Rural Chaplain

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the members of the local Council and Observers to the meeting. He introduced Gareth Griffiths to the members and advised him that the local Council were very pleased that he was able to join the meeting and give his presentation as the Council members have real concerns about the 14-19 Diplomas.
- 1.2 Members of the local Council introduced themselves.

Item 2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 Members were asked to declare any interest in items to be discussed immediately prior to the appropriate agenda item.

Item 3. Apologies

- 3.1 Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Item 4. 14-19 Diploma Development – Presentation by Gareth Griffiths, 14-19 Provision and Attainment Director, National LSC

- 4.1 Gareth Griffiths introduced himself to the members of the local Council and gave a brief outline of what he would cover in his presentation.
- 4.2 Upon completion of the presentation a number of discussion points were raised.
 - Pam Smith stated that she believes that the message is not clear to employers. There is confusion and this is added to because 14-19 Diplomas do not have an agreed name.
 - Gareth Griffiths advised that it is not within the LSC' remit and that he would pass the message on to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).
 - Pam Smith expressed concerns with regard to the extent of work experience and practical learning within the Diplomas.
 - Pam Smith stated that the Diplomas should be practically based, if not, it could disadvantage those who are not academic.
 - Gareth Griffiths confirmed that the Diplomas are aimed at practical learning and that this is critical for their development.
 - With regard to quality, the safeguard is that each Diploma is signed off by, amongst others, the relevant Sector Skills Council (SSC).
 - Nev Jackson stated that he is confused by the programme and therefore parents will be too, they will not understand what their children will gain from this diploma. Nev Jackson continued to say that a 10 day work experience would not be sufficient.

Frances Mannsåker arrived 1735 hrs

 - Gareth Griffiths advised that the Diploma is a blend of theoretical and applied learning and the intention is that a student could go straight to employment or higher education from this route.

- Tony Worth said that as an employer, he had no understanding of what the Diploma was about.
 - Gareth Griffiths advised that the first tranche of Diplomas will be ready by end of March / April and that this will give clarity. He continued to say that the first Diplomas are not delivered until 2008 and to a limited cohort. The DfES have deliberately not come out with a lot of information because it is being delivered to a limited cohort.
- The Chair stated that he agreed that this is a key priority; when it came out initially it was clear and simple; this was giving an opportunity for people who are bored with academia. He continued to say that his concern was that the Diplomas were getting too complicated and so confusing for employers, parents and young people.

Peter Duxbury arrived 1745 hrs

- Maureen O'Callaghan asked if the LSC was going to wait for the outcome of DfES funded consultation with young people before progressing.
 - Gareth Griffiths confirmed that they would.
- John Allen stated that he believed that the Diplomas should be delayed by a least one year to allow further development. He continued to say that it is not vocational training but vocational education. Schools are not geared up to deliver vocational training.
- The Chair raised the point that independent Information, Advice and Guidance needs to be a high priority.
- The Area Director stated that this was an important point. He continued to say that the local clusters were looking at Diplomas positively and were keen to be involved early.
- Frances Mannsåker stated that the critical issue is about timing. Relying on the SSCs is a risk as they are all at different stages of development.
 - Gareth Griffiths stated that the first five Diplomas in 2008 had the most developed SSCs.
- Nev Jackson said that we need to look at what we are training for. Within the engineering sector 5000 jobs had been lost in last 12 months in this region. He continued to say that there is a loss of expertise, and the industry is already experiencing this. The academics need to look at what the UK wishes to do.
- The Chair stated that generally they believed in the 14-19 Diploma and want to see the opportunity taken and the theory turned into practise. He continued to say that the local Council would support the linking of business and the education sector to ensure it happens locally.

4.3 The Chair thanked Gareth for his informative presentation and input.

Gareth Griffiths left the meeting at 1800 hrs

Item 5. Minutes of the meeting of the local Council held on 11 January 2007

5.1 Members of the local Council **approved** the minutes of the meeting of the local Council held on 11 January 2007.

Item 6. Actions since the meeting held on 11 January 2007

6.1 Members noted that there were no actions resulting from the meeting of the local Council held on 11 January 2007.

Item 7. The local Annual Plan for Learning and Skills Council Lincolnshire and Rutland (2007/08)

7.1 The Area Director stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to set out for review the Local Annual Plan for 2007/08 for Learning and Skills Council Lincolnshire and Rutland.

7.2 The plan had been developed through the input of LSC staff and the local Council, along with discussions with partners and stakeholders. It utilises a standard template which applies for each local area.

7.3 The local LSC office is still negotiating funding and volumes for 2007/08. Therefore, Section 5 of the plan on commissioning and Section 6 on planned volumes still have values to be confirmed. The local Council will be kept informed as this work progresses.

7.4 As agreed at the January 2007 local Council Meeting, the draft plan was circulated to local Council members and observers for review and comment during February 2007.

7.5 The local Plan will be reviewed at the March 2007 meeting of the LSC Regional Board for the East Midlands.

7.6 The Area Director highlighted to the members the main activities against each of the priorities. This led to a number of points being raised:

- Under employment – within rural areas there can be under employment rather than unemployment.
- The need to attract skilled adults to replace those that leave the area.
- Concern regarding changes to funding arrangements for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
- The importance of the 14-19 entitlement. LSC funding and targets are aligned with other agencies in this field within the Local Area Agreements and the Children and Young People plans.

7.7 The Chair confirmed that the Local Annual Plan will be taken to the next Regional Board meeting.

Heather Lee left at 1858 hrs

7.8 Members of the local Council **approved** the Local Annual Plan for 2007/08 for the Learning and Skills Council Lincolnshire and Rutland.

Item 8. Expression of Interest for an Academy in Lincoln by The Priory Federation of Academies

- 8.1 The supporting paper for this item provided the local Council with information regarding a draft Expression of Interest developed for an Academy in Lincoln by The Priory Federation of Academies.
- 8.2 The role of the LSC regarding the formal development of proposals for Academies is set out in a protocol agreed between the LSC and the Department for Education and Skills' Academies Group. This role was detailed for the local Council at the December 2006 meeting.
- 8.3 Peter Duxbury gave an update advising the members of the stage the process was at.
- 8.4 Discussion covered a number of points which included:
- The three separate phases leading to the establishment of an Academy. These are:
 - Pre-Feasibility Phase.
 - Feasibility Phase.
 - Implementation Phase.
 - Advice the LSC will give on the local 14 to 19 strategy, collaborative arrangements, gaps in provision, the characteristics of young people not participating in learning.
 - Impact of the Academy on Lincoln including the possibility of the migration of families into specific areas, to enable admissions into it. The extent of consultation was queried.
 - Future pupil numbers at both 11-16 and post-16 levels in the Expression of Interest.
 - The scope for the Academies to increase participation by focussing on those pupils who leave Year 11 and who do not remain in Education, Employment and Training (the NEET Group).
 - The Academies' provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- 8.5 It was concluded that close liaison with the future development of this proposal was required.

Decision: Members of the local Council **approved** that the Area Director is to write in support of the Expression of Interest noting the additional investment this will bring to Lincoln. The letter should outline an expectation that:

- There is specific discussion with the LSC regarding detailed projected learner numbers (post-16).
- The Academies play a full role in the local 14-19 cluster including the development of diplomas and the development of specialist provision.
- There is further detailed work around the Academies' provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Action: The Area Director to write a letter of support as outlined above.

Item 9. Area Director's Report

9.1 The local Council received the Area Director's Report providing updates on the following items:

- Lincolnshire Wolds 16-19 'Competition'
- Lincoln College Capital Grant Support
- Stamford / Rutland Options Review
- Risk Register
- Purdah Guidance for Local Elections on 3 May 2007
- Regional LSC Board Meeting
- Regional Audit Committee Meeting
- Lincolnshire and Rutland Management Accounts April to December 2006
- National Skills Academy (Food and Drink Manufacturing)
- Demand Led Funding Consultation

9.2 The Partnership Director advised members of the local Council with regard to the Lincolnshire Wolds 16-19 'Competition' that as soon as the Property Assessment and the Financial Assessment were received they would be sent by email for consideration by the members.

Action: The Partnership Director to circulate the Property and Financial Assessment for consideration by members.

Item 10. Dates of future meetings

- Thursday 10 May 2007, 1700 hrs
- Thursday 12 July 2007, 1700 hrs

Meeting ended at 1925 hrs

Publication no.

Meeting chair

Roger Begy

Minute taker

Sharon Ritchie

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