

## **Update on 16-19 Transition in the Eastern Region Bulletin 4**

Welcome to the fourth information bulletin for partners, providers and stakeholders across the East of England on the joint work being undertaken by the Directors of Children's Services, the LSC, Government Office and EEDA to plan and implement the transition of responsibility and funding for 16-19 provision in April 2010.

### **The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill**

The Bill goes back to the Lords in mid-October for its final reading so, subject to the will of Parliament, the Bill will be enacted in November and the changeover to the new system will gather pace as we move to the transition date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

The shape of the new young people's system is emerging fast and local authorities and the LSC have been working together to ensure that, right across the East of England, we are well-placed for a smooth transfer to the new system. There is undoubtedly much more work to be done and we are reaching the most challenging point over the Autumn as we also move into the business cycle for 2010/11, but we will work jointly with our partners and providers to ensure we develop a system that will benefit all of our learners.

### **LSC staff matching outcomes**

Over the past few months, much work has been done to ensure that LSC staff could be matched into suitable posts across the proposed new system and, in this region, we have achieved a very favourable outcome. Most local authorities have strong teams ready to go and, where there are vacancies, we will move to fill these as soon as possible and have plans in place to provide support across the region in the interim.

The next step is to develop the roles, structures and governance fully and to ensure that all LSC staff are provided with the development they need to take their places within the various parts of the new system.

## **Working together in the transition period**

Work has been done over the summer to develop plans for how the local authorities, Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and Government Office for the region will work together in the future to deliver a seamless service for learners. Transition plans are in place to ensure a 'soft landing' and we are confident that, working together, we can achieve that.

The Young People's Learning System moves into shadow operation as of 5<sup>th</sup> October. This means that, although staff will still be physically located in their current LSC offices for most of the time, new local 16-19 teams will start to integrate with local authorities and take up their new roles. The Shadow YPLA will also be in operation from 5<sup>th</sup> October and further information and structure charts will be published on the LSC East of England web page shortly at: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/>

Each local authority will have a 16-19 commissioning team working with them and these people will be responsible for representing the local authority and working with providers throughout the 2010/11 allocations round.

There will naturally be some shifting around of workloads as staff within the new young people's system and the adult system move into their new roles, but we have plans in place to ensure effective handover and to reduce the risks of gaps appearing in the system. It is important to all of us that the work of the LSC be effectively maintained during this transition period in order to deliver the outcomes we need for our learners and that, as far as possible, it is 'business as usual' for providers.

The 16-19 teams will aim to re-locate to local authority offices by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

## **Managing the 2010/11 business cycle**

The LSC continues to have the statutory responsibility for the funding of provision up to the end March 2010, so will lead on the allocations, which will be completed, for 16-19 learner responsive funding, by this date. Through this, the LSC 16-19 staff will work very closely with the local authorities to ensure that we jointly develop a plan that the local authorities can deliver in the following year and which fits the identified needs of local learners.

Over the coming months, many providers will be dealing with the people they already know from previous years. These staff are very familiar with the process, the local providers and the needs of residents in the localities, so are well-placed to continue this work within their new roles.

The 16-19 teams are working right now with their local authorities on developing a Local Area Statement of Need which identified the needs of the area and the priorities for commissioning in 2010/11. The Regional Planning Group has also recently done work on developing the regional priorities. October/November will see the start of dialogue with providers as gather data to feed into the allocation of Learner Responsive Funding to school sixth forms, colleges and E2E / FLT providers. The Shadow YPLA team will have a role in overseeing the planning, managing the allocations process and ensuring the fit of the regional budget to the needs of the area.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November, we plan to hold a Provider Briefing where we will talk about both the forthcoming changes to the system and the national and regional funding priorities for 2010/11. Information on this will be sent out shortly.

### **National Commissioning Framework**

The LSC is working with the DCSF and the Local Government Association's React Team to develop a National Commissioning Framework for 2011/12, which will provide a detailed guide to how every aspect of the commissioning process works, from initial identification of need through to the contracting and performance management. This will be an important document for everyone involved in commissioning or delivering 16-19 provision because it explains the role of every organisation in the new system and the timings and processes that you can expect. We expect this to be published in draft form, for consultation, in late October. A final version will then be published by the YPLA in April 2010.

### **The adult system**

The Skills Funding Agency will move to shadow operating structures over the Autumn. Since the BIS announcement in August, regarding the potential transfer of the strategic skills function to Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), discussions continue on how this might operate and which LSC staff are likely to transfer across to EEDA.

In the meantime, the SFA are developing a national account management system to simplify the negotiations and contracting with providers. In the new system, each provider will have a single account manager for all of their business and sites, no matter where in the country they operate.

The SFA plan to hold an event early in the New Year to share the future vision and ways of working with providers and stakeholders. Further details will be made available on that once arrangements are finalised.

## **The National Apprenticeship Service**

NAS staff have already moved into their new roles and NAS is now working with local authorities to identify 16-18 apprenticeship needs and work to deliver these. Negotiations with all apprenticeship providers (for all age groups) will be undertaken by the Skills Funding Agency account management staff so that providers delivering across the range of apprenticeships, Train to Gain and other programmes will only need to have one discussion and a single contract for all of their employer responsive funded provision.

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We remain committed to informing and involving stakeholders as we develop the arrangements for future commissioning and we are working through local and regional groups and organisations such as ACER, local FE fora and 14-19 partnerships to ensure involvement in the process and we will issue further bulletins as new information becomes available. The Transition Programme Manager, Lynne Tabone, can be contacted on Tel: 07780 057468 or email: [lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

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