

## **Update on 16-19 Transition in the Eastern Region Bulletin 5**

Welcome to the fifth 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.

### **Provider Briefing Event**

We ran an event for 16-19 providers in the region on 26<sup>th</sup> November. This gave all of our providers an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the new 16-19 system will work, the responsibilities of all of the parties involved, how this fits in with local authority working, targets and ambitions and how we will ensure the linking of youth and adult agendas in the future. There was also an opportunity for discussion on how providers can make a contribution to both the development of the strategy for learning and the delivery of that learning and associated services. It was a really worthwhile day and we have had excellent feedback. We are producing a Q&A from the event and this will be available on the Acer website shortly at [www.acer.ac.uk](http://www.acer.ac.uk). Slides and handouts from the event area also available here.

### **National Statement of Priorities and 2010/11 allocations**

The LSC continues to have the statutory responsibility for the funding of provision up to the end March 2010 and is working closely with local authority colleagues on managing the process and reviewing the underlying data.

The National Statement of Priorities has been slightly delayed this year, but it is expected that it will be published w/c 11<sup>th</sup> January. Once we have this and confirmation of the national budget, we will be able to complete our work commence discussions with providers about funding for 2010/11.

Look out for information on provider briefings in your area in January. These will give you an opportunity to hear the detail of the national priorities for learning and to discuss your contribution to the local delivery.

Dates are as follows:

- Cambridgeshire – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Essex, Southend and Thurrock - Wednesday 13th January
- Norfolk - Thursday 14th January
- Hertfordshire - Monday 18th January
- Peterborough - Monday 18th January
- Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire - Thursday 21st January
- Suffolk - Friday 22nd January
- Luton - Thursday 28th January

### **National Commissioning Framework**

The National Commissioning Framework (NCF) was published in October and can be found on the DCSF website here:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00933-2009&>

This document explains how the commissioning process and timelines will work for the 2011/12 business cycle – starting in the Summer of 2010 – and who will do what. There is a higher level document, then a further annexe containing more detail on some key areas.

We will be running a very small NCF consultation event in the region in January and have invited a range of provider representatives and stakeholders to gather their perspectives. There is also an opportunity for you to provide feedback directly, as explained in the documents.

The consultation closes on 5<sup>th</sup> February and a final version of the NCF will then be published by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) in April 2010.

### **Preparing for Transition**

Now that LSC staff have been matched into their new roles, those who are moving across to local authorities are already working closely with them to develop the new teams, structures and processes that will enable a smooth transition of responsibility on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

16-19 delivery contracts (for the 2009/10 academic year) will be passed over to local authorities to manage from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. We start work on this handover in January 2010, so providers will be contacted by the LSC in the New Year with information on this process.

### **The Adult System**

The Skills Funding Agency is now operating in shadow form, working with EEDA on establishing the capacity needed to develop the regional skills strategy.

The SFA are also developing a national account management system to simplify the negotiations and contracting with providers and all providers have now been notified of their personal account manager contact.

### **The National Apprenticeship Service**

NAS is now working with local authorities to identify 16-18 apprenticeship needs in readiness for the 2010/11 commissioning and we are particularly looking at this need linked to economic development activity and specific plans that local authorities have in place to support economic recovery.

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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. The Transition Programme Manager, Lynne Tabone, can be contacted on Tel: 07780 957468 or email: [lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

**We wish you an excellent start to the New Year.**

*Caroline Neville, Regional Director, East of England, Learning and Skills Council*

*Paul Greenhalgh, Corporate Director Children and Learning Southend on Sea, on behalf of Directors of Children's Services in the Eastern Region*

*4 January*