

Update on 16-19 transition in the Eastern region

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

The Bill went 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 1st 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.

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 moved into shadow operation on 5 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 also went into operation on 5 October and further information and structure

The 16-19 teams will aim to re-locate to local authority offices by 31st 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 of 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.

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.

