

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

<b>Date</b>	24 July 2007
<b>Subject</b>	Learning and Skills Council 42nd Meeting
<b>Location</b>	Longford Room
<b>Time</b>	14:00 PM
<b>LSC office</b>	London West
<b>Publication intent</b>	Internal

**Present**

Rod Kenyon (Chairman)  
Andrea Berkeley (AB)  
John Hensley (JH)  
Saeed Gillani (SG)

**LSC staff**

Clare Arnold(CA)  
Abs Malik (AM)  
Neil Roberts(NR)  
Angele Bedi-Leblanc(ABL)

**Apologies**

Apologies have been received from:  
Vijay Amin (VA)  
Angela Chiswell (AC)  
Jeremy Crook (JC)  
Rachel Davies (RD)  
Sue Ferns (SF)  
Javed Khan (JK)  
Paul Raina (PR)  
Frank Wingate (FW)  
Ellen Quaye (EQ)

## **Item 1. Welcome and introductions**

- 1.1 RK (The Chairman) welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.
- 1.2 Appreciation of Rachel Davies and Geoff Crispin's work within the Council was expressed as they have now resigned.
- 1.3 RK stressed the importance of the Council remaining in operation until the new Regional Council is established.

## **Item 2. Minutes and Matters arising**

2.1 The minutes of the Council meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> May were agreed.

2.2 CA spoke of organising a dinner to recognise the contribution of Council members, but emphasised that it would be appropriate to do this only when the date of the last meeting was known.

- It was likely that this would be held at the Pillars Restaurant Thames Valley University in early December. Invitations would be extended to everyone who had served on the London West Council.

## **Item 3. Annual Plan – Update 2007/2008 – Abs Malik**

AM - commented that the annual plan contained actions under 5 broad headings:-

1. Improve educational opportunities for all young people.
2. Tackle London's skills and Employment Gap.
3. Raise the effectiveness and performance of the Learning and Skills Sector.
4. Integrate skills within Economic Development and local and regional regeneration.
5. Equip Londoners with the skills they need to benefit from participating in the London 2012 Olympics and the Paralympic games.

3.1 AM - commented on the launch of "Choice" website which provides information on post – 16 education and training options.

- There are some issues with the functionality of search capability.
- RK - raised questions as to how we would find "Choice"?
- AM - said that it is available at [www.yourlondon.gov.uk/choices](http://www.yourlondon.gov.uk/choices) but it is not easy to get to. Feedback has indicated that key words such as "Apprenticeships" do not necessarily give desired results.
- JH - commented that the customer may not have heard of "Choice" so therefore will not be able to search for it.
- CA - said "Choice" was intended to be used as a tool for those who are making post 16 choices and generally potential users will be directed to the site by careers or Connexions advice.
- The site is owned by the LSC and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) with Local Authorities.
- AM – Processes and technicalities have caused problems, but feedback has been sought by the site owners.
- AM – commented that post 16 participation numbers have increased by 2% year on year in sixth forms and colleges but apprenticeships remain a concern. Employer demand for apprenticeships does not reflect government targets. Further education success rates are good – above the regional average. In work based learning completion rates are 56%, marginally above the regional average but below the national average

- AM – NEET figures remain below the national average at 7.1%
- AM – commented on the diploma, where five West London boroughs are now well into planning for 2008. Hounslow - Creative & Media, Hillingdon – Engineering & IT, Ealing – Creative & Media and Construction, Harrow – Creative & Media, Hammersmith & Fulham – IT.
- CA. – As these are pilots, will only be available to a limited number of students from September 2008.

3.2 AM – Progress has been made with Train to Gain, numbers have increased significantly. As at the end of May there have been 1,932 T2G starts in London West. Changes in Train to Gain provision for 2007/08 (more providers, ability to deliver stand alone Skills for Life at level 1 and 2) should increase the numbers of learners.

- The Employability Demonstration and London Gas projects at the College of North West London are examples of other work funded by the LSC linking skills and employability.
- **Action** – AM to arrange for RK to visit College of North West London to discuss both the employability demonstration and the London Gas projects.
- CA – Skills campaign has started, its aim is to get people to take responsibility for their own learning and development. (Details attached with minutes) The advertisement can be viewed on “You Tube”.
- AM – Capital plans for Uxbridge and College of North West London are being developed. Harrow has experienced difficulties and costs have now hit £128 million.

3.3 We have also received an application for support for the Application in Principle stage from Stanmore, clearly any further capital projects in Harrow will need to be considered alongside the Collegiate and Harrow Capital Project.

3.4 AM – The College of North West London has commenced delivery of the pre-volunteer programme which is linked to both the Olympics and the new Wembley stadium.

- Development of Public Sector Apprentices continues with local authorities, using both Joint Area Reviews and Local Authority Agreements as levers. There are also apprentices “at risk” with Metronet and a new intake of 35 due to start in September. Assurances have been given about employment by the company.

#### **Item 4. Ethnicity, Participation and Success – Neil Roberts**

4.1 NR. – Paper follows on from previous Council paper.

4.2 Focus on 2004-5, 2005-6 and 2006-7 recruitment to WBL.

4.3 Information on LW residents regardless of provider:-

- Data from ILR/MI regional office/2001 Census.
- The paper indicates participation and success by ethnicity and indicates that all ethnic groups are broadly represented with the exception of Chinese.

- 4.4 Data for “White” as opposed to “White British” includes Irish and Europeans and specifically Eastern Europeans from EC member states.
- 4.5 Trends show decline in entry to apprenticeships which in time will impact on progression volumes to advanced apprenticeships.
- 4.6 On E2E the percentage of White participants is lower than the comparator borough statistics as are the numbers from Asian or Asian British groups. Black or Black British groups are higher than population figures. Caution over the size of cohort should be exercised as small numbers of entrants from specific ethnic groups can have a major impact in percentage rate data.
- 4.7 On the Apprenticeship programme: White group reflects demographics.
- Asian and British Asian about half the size of demographics.
  - Advanced: - White group significantly higher though will be impacted by reduced numbers coming through.
  - Asian and British Asians about half the size of London demographics.
  - Black or Black British participation is in relation to demographics although again caution over cohort size.
- 4.8 AB – Comments on the way in which perceptions have changed over the years about apprenticeships amongst ethnic minority groups.
- 4.9 NR – We should put it into Regional and National context.
- 4.10 CA – Comments that we should add tables to make the comparisons clearer – paper to be brought back to future Council meetings.

#### **Item 5. West London Working Update – Clare Arnold**

5.1 CA reminded the Council that West London Working is an initiative covering all 6 London West boroughs, tasked with delivering a sustainable increase in the number of residents in employment and child poverty. Work is currently focusing on the delivery of key “work packages”.

- West London Working Passport – developing a management Information system to track resident’s progress into employment and skills development.
- West London Quality Mark – development of a performance based quality rating to aid customer choice.
- West London Investment and Target Group – to improve delivery/ addressing any duplication / direct any funding.
- West London Guidance, skills brokerage confederation – to create a network of quality marked providers a/fund working with pooled capacity building resources / implementing referral route ways.

It is intended to match employers of the West London Working Board with a specific “work package” and so far Cisco are associated with the “Passport” and KPMG with the “Quality Mark” Further details are in the attached sheet.

## **Item 6. LSC Changes due to the Cabinet Reshuffle – Clare Arnold**

6.1 CA – In the last 3 to 4 weeks, following Gordon Brown's initiatives 2 departments –the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) – have replaced DfES.

6.2 DCSF will have responsibility for funding 16-19 year olds the local authorities. The LSC is responsible to DIUS who will hold the adult learning budget.

- CA – commented that the change of responsibility was not a reflection of the LSC's performance. There has been a lot of acknowledgement for the LSC's work from the ministers concerned.
- The LSC has established 3 transition groups to work with the new departments and ensure a smooth transition:-
  - .14-16
  - Post 19 Delivery
  - Future Planning

6.3 RK – LSC has achieved a lot since it was formed. The changes are a reflection of other developments and are not a comment on the LSC's effectiveness.

6.4 JH – Raised the issue of London West recognizing, for example, excellence in learning, employer's staff development. Excellence had been recognised in the past by local award ceremonies.

CA – Replied that such excellence was now recognised at regional events.

## **Item 7. Date of next meeting**

7.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	Rod Kenyon
<b>Minute taker</b>	Angele Bedi-Leblanc
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