

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date 4 February 2005
Subject Council Meeting
Location Alexandra
Time 08.30
LSC office London North
Publication intent Internal

Present

Peter Lyne (Chairman)	Lenny Kinnear
Paul Butler	Andy Mitchell
Alison Dickens	David Plank
Ros Dunn	Robin Somerville
Janette Faherty	Ian Turner
Carol Gibson	Keith Weller
Steve Hart	Alwyn Willams
Grace Igbasi	

LSC staff

Philippa Langton
Lindsay Bates
Mary Vine-Morris
Doug Norris
Jim Morning (JMM Consulting)

Apologies

Apologies were received from:
Afzal Akram
Denis Dillon
Ian Ferguson
Joan McVittie

Item 1. Welcome to new members

1.1 PL welcomed the new Council members.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

Decision: The minutes were AGREED as accurate.

Action: LB to obtain a copy of SO4 analysis from Peter Lewis to circulate to Council members – carried forward.

2.1 LB reported on progress with the new institution in Haringey. Contracts on the property should soon be exchanged. The issue of transitional costs is still unresolved. DP requested a more detailed presentation.

Action: A presentation on the Haringey Institution should be included as part of the agenda for April.

LB to circulate to Council members details of the new Bernie Grant Centre.

- 2.2 PL reported back on meetings with Enfield and Southgate Colleges. These had been positive.
- 2.3 MVM informed the Council of the results of the most recent OfSTED monitoring visits. Both institutions have been classified as making 'reasonable progress' overall. This is in line with the minimum expectation at this stage. DP queried quality assurance; MVM replied that this area is improving but there are still difficulties in some parts of the curriculum. IT noted that both visits relied on very small samples and that the level of LSC support needs to be maintained.
- 2.4 Capel and CoNEL have been mentioned in despatches by OfSTED.

Item 3. LSCLN planning context

- 3.1 PAL gave a presentation on the LSC national and regional priorities and highlighted their relevance to the LSCLN area.
- 3.2 LB informed the Council of the outcomes of the StAR consultation.
- 3.3 PB queried the respective roles of the LSC and the LDA; RD said that it is the role of the RSP was to prioritise expenditure.
- 3.4 AD said she does not understand how LSC programmes will be embedded into economic development activities. JF contended that strategic discussions to date with the LDA have been a complete waste of time.
- 3.5 The role of the new National Quality Improvement Body was discussed; duplication of other quality initiatives needs to be avoided. CG highlighted the role of the HMI Annual Assessment visits. She pointed out that LSC staff do not have the skills to intervene on quality issues related to teaching and learning. JF emphasised the value of independent external advice on quality.
- 3.6 JF and PL commented on the difficulty of delivering level 3 Apprenticeship programmes to the current cohort of young people coming forward for this provision. SH highlighted the particular issues facing different ethnic groups.
- 3.7 KW asked about SSCs and the development of vocational pathways; LB responded that this should be a joint collaborative activity.
- 3.8 AD queried how the LSC will actually determine whether learning is truly 'demand led'. PAL said that this should be addressed using the full range of resources available to the London Skills Commission. RD pointed out that the focus of activity should be on the private sector and on upskilling for employment at level 3 and above. CG said that many employers need the costs of training to be subsidised.
- 3.9 DP said that we need to consider the implications of the priorities for activities that we cannot afford eg: second chance learning. He also highlighted the crucial role of information and advice in schools and the differential achievement levels of boys and certain minority groups.
- 3.10 RS said that many SMEs doubt the real value of Apprenticeship programmes; this is a greater issue than affordability. IT said we need to engage with employers outside the LN area. JP supported these points. PL emphasised the role of the public sector in influencing its contractors: much more could be done here.

Item 4. Draft Annual Plan

- 4.1 JM explained the format and process. The Council considered the draft plan section by section. JM and LB made notes of all the issues identified in the discussion.

4.2 The following points were raised:

- Inclusion of the September Guarantee on p3 (PB).
- 'Three year measures' should be more specific and less aspirational (PL, LK, IT).
- Greater emphasis on the London Skills Commission (RD)
- The term 'reluctant' (p6) should be turned into a more positive statement (CG).
- Differential achievement rates of ethnic groups should be included (PB).
- Targets for BME groups are needed (PB).
- The term 'Employer Skills Offer' must be clarified (IT, PAL).
- More comparisons with regional and national averages are needed (AD).
- A wider range of methods of gauging employer demand needs to be included (JF).
- Differential achievement by sex and race is inadequately covered in the activities for young people (DP, KW).
- Efficiency gains should be stressed (RD).
- Targets should be stretching (IT).
- Council members should be satisfied that targets are sufficiently ambitious (RS).

Decision: It was AGREED that any Council member who has significant comments on individual targets should direct these to PL.

- The new Haringey Institution should be included (PAL).
- The Annual Plan must be set in a longer term strategic context (DP).
- Targets should be referenced to earlier years' performance (LK).
- The number of outcomes/targets needs to be reduced (LK, PAL).
- Greater stress on partners' roles and external constraints is needed (LK, RD).
- A reference to working collaboratively with local authorities on 'Every Child Matters' may be useful (AM, DP).
- Remove the reference to Apprenticeship marketing on p17 (JP, PAL).
- Be clear about what activities will be scaled down/discontinued (DP).
- Promote good practice in SfL (JF).
- National ESOL/SfL targets are unachievable (CG).
- Greater emphasis on StAR recommendation for information and advice (PAL).
- Capital should be identified as a separate resourcing issues (AD, PL).
- The first sentence of p31 is the outstanding highlight of the whole plan (DP).

Action: LB and JM to update the plan taking into account members' comments.

Item 5. Any other business

LB Enfield

Decision: The Council AGREED that PAL may sign the LB Enfield Post Area Inspection Plan.

Childcare

PL requested that an illustration of the vocational pathway for Childcare be compiled.

Item 6. Date of next meeting

6.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on Friday, 4 March 2005, 08.30 at Dumayne House.

Publication no.**Meeting chair**

Peter Lyne

Minute taker

Doug Norris

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LSC office

Learning and Skills Council London North
Dumayne House 1 Fox Lane Palmers Green London
N13 4AB

T 0845 019 4158 **F** 020 8882 5931

www.lsc.gov.uk/londonnorth