

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 1 December 2006
Subject Sixty Seventh Council Meeting
Location LSC London North, Dumayne House
Time 08.30 - 10.30
LSC office London North
Publication intent Public

Present

Peter Lyne (Chair)	Ian Turner
Paul Butler	Mary Vine-Morris
Ian Ferguson	Keith Weller
Grace Igbasi	Yolande Burgess
Colin Madden	Sarah Carrick
David Plank	Hazel Sheridan (note-taker)

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Alison Dickens Carol Gibson
Nick Drane

Item 1. Welcome and minutes of last meeting

1.1 Item 5.5 – DP would like to add to the minutes that the Council agreed to support the transition arrangements until the new governance structure was in place

Action: HS to amend the minutes to reflect this.

1.2 Minutes were otherwise agreed as accurate.

Item 2. Matters arising

2.1 There were no matters arising.

Item 3. LLDD regional priorities

3.1 SC gave a presentation (copy attached – Appendix 1) to Council members on the LSC national strategy for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities entitled 'Learning for Living and Work'. The LSC is making LLDD one of their top priorities

3.2 Following an independent review, research and consultation the national strategy was launched in October 2006. The document gives a better definition of LLDD provision and agreement on responsibilities across government departments. £35 million is being invested nationally to kick-

start the review and refocusing of this provision. Specialist units in colleges and additional layered support with other providers will be looked at.

3.3 A regional London LLDD Strategy Group has been set up which is chaired by the Principal of Orchard Hill College (a specialist college) and includes members from Social Services and other partners. The purpose of the group is to identify regional priorities and develop strategies and a plan for implementation both regionally and by sub-regional LLDD groups. Skills for work and enabling full participation in society are key drivers.

3.4 SC has set up a local strategic LLDD group with membership and Terms of Reference to be agreed at the meeting scheduled in January 2007. Partnership Teams will be leading the development work in their particular boroughs.

3.5 *Comments/queries:*

- a. Learners with LDD are a very large and diverse group and statutory responsibilities have to be taken into consideration. The strategy appears very light on numbers of learners and specific actions required.
- b. It is very difficult to develop national and regional strategies without any framework as guidance. A national coordinated approach is required to prevent too many different programmes from being set up across the country.
- c. No budget has been assigned yet for 2007/08 and we need to have an idea of how much money would be required to supply the necessary projects and schemes. Linking budget available with other organisations would help to coordinate expenditure.
- d. There appears to be no link with Local Authorities. It was suggested that Directors of Education be asked to attend local groups.
- e. No reference to assessment of learning. This would be useful for students, their families and the LSC to monitor progress made.
- f. As a large proportion of LLDD are unemployed, the focus should be on routes to employment.
- g. It was suggested that the LSC looks at the types of students, their needs, who can provide the specialised learning, what the LSC needs to do to fulfil students' needs and the cost involved.

Item 4. Review of performance 05/06 – 06/07

4.1 MVM reported that she had met with David Hughes to discuss the Autumn Review, in preparation for his meeting with Mark Haysom. The main focus was performance against PSA targets. Local office performance is compared with regional and national performance as well as against other local offices. Areas for attention as well as successes were discussed and London North is performing well.

4.2 The regional budget for 2007/08 is yet to be agreed. The methodology for allocating the FE budget is currently being worked on and discussions with providers will continue until May 2007.

4.3 YB gave a presentation to Council members on the projections and progress against targets at London North for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

- a. There is a continuing upward trend in the participation of young people (16-18). There has been growth at some colleges and sixth form schools but cohort growth is now levelling off. The number of part-time learners has dropped significantly and this will be discussed with providers at their planning review meetings to be held over the next two months.
- b. 16-18 Level 2 and 3 numbers have also increased and the 06/07 target figures will be reworked.
- c. 76.84% of 16-18 funding is targeted towards priority areas. The residual block of funding for 16-18 provision (which does not fall within the one of the LSC's priority areas) represents a large amount of activity for London North.
- d. We bought more advanced apprenticeships this year and they were more successful. The nature of the work in some occupational sectors means they have differential success rates. Feedback from providers has suggested that apprenticeships are available but there is a lack of response from young people. This is atypical, however it is early days. 06/07 Connexions data will be analysed carefully to identify young people's destinations after leaving school.
- e. There has not been much movement in E2E participation; however it has shown a slight downward trend. The rate of decline at London North is however slower than the regional rate. London North has a higher length of stay than average and our number of positive destinations is now better than the regional and national percentages.
- f. The downward trend in adult learner participation is partly due to the fact that we stopped funding small programmes and there was a 4% reduction in the adult budget last year. It was noted it does not include provision where adults and employers are paying for more courses (our figures only include LSC funded provision).
- g. 45.81% of adult funding is allocated to priority areas. The 54.19% residual funding still covers some target areas such as LLDD and some Skills for Life provision which does not fall within the SfL priority target areas.
- h. The bulk of SfL provision is for ESOL and this may need to be rebalanced in line with policy shifts indicated in our Annual Statement of Priorities.
- i. Success rates have improved; they show an upward trend in all areas and are above the national average.
- j. WBL providers have significantly improved their performance and most are now above the national benchmark for framework completions.

Action: YB to include target contribution figures in all future reports on performance.

Item 5. Outline of annual plan 2007/08

- 5.1 MVM presented the outline of the draft local annual plan to Council members. The plan is largely populated by regional office and key actions are listed next to the priorities.
- 5.2 It was suggested that a brief history should be included so it can be easily seen how much progress has been made; more detail should be included in the milestones; and Haringey Sixth Form Centre should be mentioned in the Foreword.

Action: Any further comments to be emailed to MVM and YB by 22nd December.

Item 6. LID funding

- 6.1 SC updated Council members with the current situation of the LID fund (table attached – Appendix 2). Additional funds have been received and it was proposed to allocate £300K of this to Haringey Sixth Form Centre (but against the 2007/08 transitional cost commitment).
- 6.2 Other projects to receive funding are focussed on care-leavers in Haringey and sector work in Waltham Forest.
- 6.3 The remaining element of the contingency fund of £45K would now be allocated to Barnet and Enfield to raise the attainment of priority learners, e.g. NEET and those at risk of becoming NEET, care-leavers. At the recent provider briefing it was suggested that a NEET conference be arranged to discuss what is working and what is not.
- 6.4 Council agreed with the funding proposals.

Item 7. Train to Gain update

- 7.1 Ray Kinsella presented an update on Train to Gain (TtG) to Council members. Contracts are agreed with 48 providers across the region; 36 of these are in consortiums. Contracts are for two years however targets set by the LSC are for one year and will be reviewed for the second year.
- 7.2 At Level 2 there are seven TtG providers in London North but delivery is across the region. Starts at Level 2 are very low at present and this is being analysed by the TtG team. Some providers were not happy to commence provision on receiving a letter of intent and have waited for the contract to be agreed.
- 7.3 TtG brokers have to maintain a 90% satisfaction rating. It was noted that only 10% of the total TtG budget is allocated for brokerage.
- 7.4 The TtG team will in the future be able to provide more detailed data about brokerage, provider performance and demand in the area.
- 7.5 Type C budget (the 20% of the original TtG budget held back for regional response fund) will be available in the New Year and the bidding is expected to start in January 2007. This fund will be used to fund increased delivery from providers whose demand from employers exceeds their current contract and new providers (subject to satisfactory financial status and passing the

quality standard). Regional proposals for this budget will be agreed by 18th December and full details will be available on the TtG website.

Item 8. Any other business

8.1 IT – The achievement of young, white, working-class boys has had national coverage in the media. SC informed Council that our current white boys project is due to be evaluated and the results will be circulated at a future Council meeting.

8.2 CM – The LDA has recently undergone a restructuring process.

Action: CM to send new LDA organisational structure chart to HS for Council members.

8.3 DP – The light attendance at this and the last Council meeting is of concern. Chair will be writing to Council members about future attendance.

Item 9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The next meeting will be on Friday 2nd February 2007, 08.30 at Dumayne House.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

Peter Lyne

Minute taker

Hazel Sheridan

Date created

1 December 2006

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