

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 1 September 2006
Subject Sixty Fourth Council Meeting
Location First Rung Ltd (Edmonton)
Time 8.30-10.30
LSC office London North
Publication intent Public

Present Peter Lyne Alison Dickens
Joan McVittie Carol Gibson
Colin Madden (for Tony Medawar)
Lenny Kinnear

In attendance Viv Chapman (First Rung)

LSC staff Sarah Carrick Yolande Burgess
Hazel Sheridan Clare Kearns

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Nick Drane Ian Ferguson
Grace Igbasi David Plank
Ian Turner Mary Vine-Morris
Keith Weller

Item 1. Welcome and minutes of last meeting

1.1 Previous meeting's minutes approved as accurate.

Item 2. Matters arising

- 2.1 Train to Gain – Chair ran through a summary of Council members' concerns from the last meeting. Raymond Kinsella (Regional Train-to-Gain Manager) has offered members individual meetings to address their concerns. He is also going to update members at Council meetings every 3 months.
- 2.2 YB provided tables for the proportion of adults with a Level 2 in north London (2001 Census). YB has asked National Office to provide more up-to-date data from the Labour Force Survey and will provide this information at a later date. YB also asked members for patience in data requests as Management Information (MI) is being restructured.

Item 3. NEET Characteristics in North London (Lenny Kinnear, Connexions)

- 3.1 LK made a presentation to members on the characteristics of the NEET group in north London as requested at the last Council meeting (attached).
- 3.2 LK highlighted that there is now a very positive multi-agency emphasis to addressing the need of the NEET group. However, the Partnership's ability to undertake trend analysis has recently been impaired since the DfES are now

uploading data to the national database and have started experimenting with different report forms. The definition of NEET has also changed slightly and several improvements have been made to the way local data is collected and reported.

3.3 He alerted members to the need to consider the relationship between the cohort size and 'not-known' level since the relationship between the two elements affects the NEET level

3.4 The Council expressed some interest in the ethnicity analysis.

ACTION: LK to produce additional figures on the incidence of NEET by ethnicity in relation to the cohort as a proportion of the 16-18 population. LK to produce further information on the proportion of statemented, school action plus and school action students within the cohort.

Comments/ Questions:

3.5 Waltham Forest College ran two programmes to pick up 16/17 year olds when they first leave education (new entrants to NEET group). It would be interesting to compare approaches to this across providers. YB suggested picking this up in the planning review meetings.

3.6 Issues around the varied performance of sub-contractors – what is the long-term plan to address this? LK – this partly depends on the result of the IAG consultation, but the Connexions database is now a good way of holding providers accountable.

3.7 Members highlighted the need to keep on top of absence /drop-outs as Connexions need to have accurate and timely information.

3.8 Suggestion that the North London Principals Group discusses how to get information/data to Connexions in a more systematic way.

Action: Carol Gibson to raise at next SCNLP meeting (28/9/06)

Item 4. First Rung (Viv Chapman)

4.1 Viv Chapman gave an overview of the work of First Rung, which is primarily Entry to Employment (E2E) and the issues facing the organisation in terms of targets, the circumstance of the young people they work with, and the impact of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) on recruitment.

Questions/ Comments:

4.2 The gap between E2E and Level 2 apprenticeships is an issue for many learners. Colin Madden suggested that perhaps there is a need to fund Level 1 and the possibility that this could be discussed with the LDA.

4.3 Discussion around the 'poverty trap' and the impact the EMA has on whether learners in London can afford to undertake training.

4.4 Members thanked Viv Chapman for an insightful and valuable presentation, and for hosting the meeting on First Rung's premises.

Item 5. Streamlining Accountability & Review of Mayor's Powers

5.1 The most recent information papers were included in the meeting pack.

5.2 Chair – there was a London Regional Board meeting in the summer, but no more information has been given since then.

- 5.3 Members flagged concern regarding the amount of people proposed for regional Board – danger that it may become unwieldy if group is too large.
- 5.4 Chair suggested that it is increasingly likely that there will be no immediate discernible change for local councils for the next 12-18 months – non-executives will still need to operate at the local level.
- 5.5 The London Skills and Employment Board (the group the Mayor will chair to provide strategic oversight on skills) is to be established within the next 2-3 months.
- 5.6 Mayor's involvement in skills is positive as it will increase the profile of the LSC and promote the adult skills agenda in London.
- 5.7 The Chair had been encouraged to invite applications from London North Council members to both the new LSC Regional Board and the London Skills and Employment Board.
- 5.8 It was agreed that Streamlining Accountability should not be included in the next meeting agenda unless a significant change occurs.

Item 6. Any other business

- 6.1 AD – The NLSA is lobbying for Assisted Area status for the Upper Lea Valley (ULV) as it has 'dropped off' the London map. They are also working on a new vision for ULV to inject some more energy. AD will be able to talk more about this at a later date. AD also drew members' attention to the consultation underway about new European funding (March 2007).
- 6.2 SC – LSC strategy for learners with LLDD is to be launched on 17th October. Work is being carried out on a national strategic framework, suggested by a regional working group and local implementation group. SC will talk to members about ideas and representation on the group. It is high on list of regional priorities
<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/LSC/2006/research/consultation/nat-throughinclusionontoexcellenceanalysisofresponses>
- 6.3 CM – LDA is moving to premises near Waterloo on 22nd September.
- 6.4 CK has taken up a post at London Region so is leaving London North. Chair thanked Clare for all her hard work and support and introduced Hazel Sheridan as the new Clerk to the Council.

ACTION: CK to send reminder to members for London regional meeting of Chair & Council Member meeting on evening of 11th September.

Item 7. Date of next meeting

- 7.1 The next Council meeting will be held on Friday 6th October, 08.30-10.30, at Dumayne House.

MEETING NOTE: The number of members present did not fulfil the quorate criteria however no decisions were taken.

Meeting chair	Peter Lyne
Minute taker	Clare Kearns
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