

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	15 April 2005
Subject	London Regional Board
Location	Centre Point
Time	9.00am – 11am
LSC office	London North
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Rod Kenyon (LW - Chair) Jacqui Henderson (RD) Yvonne Thompson (LC) Verity Bullough (ROD – LC) Peter Pledger (LW) Peter Lyne (LN) Philippa Langton (LN) Vivien Cutler (LE) Richard Carter (LS) Jay Mercer (LS)
In attendance	Doug Norris (Note-taker) Brian Godbold (RFD)
Apologies	Ken Coello (LE)

Item 1. Action points from the previous meeting

The minutes were **agreed** as accurate.

JH confirmed that a printed version of the Regional Statement of Priorities will be made available along with a two page summary suitable for employers.

YT has volunteered to lead on equality and diversity. RK suggested a separate Chairs' meeting on lead roles etc. He congratulated LSC staff for the successful regional awards dinner.

Item 2. Performance data

VB explained the performance scorecard data and asked for comments on presentation. The commentary is an update of the presentation made to Mark Haysom on 1st March.

She confirmed that £2.4m extra funding is available for additional WBL places. RK worried that some older potential apprentices may have been turned away.

VB highlighted the poor performance on WBL completions, but predicted that current PSA starts target will be met, albeit with some difficulty. There is a dip in young people doing level 2 in FE which may be due to improved GSCE results in schools. SfL achievements have been going well. E2E positive destinations are improving; LW is particularly successful. Pre E2E young people are often accommodated on ESF programmes.

FE success rates are improving, but WBL is well below the national average.

Action: DN to ask the regional quality group to compile a comparison of inspection results in London to the rest of the country for consideration at the next LRB.

VB explained that employer engagement does not yet have any performance measures; PL said this is a major gap. She highlighted overall strengths, weaknesses and issues. RC asked why so much data is historical. VB explained that there have been IT and validation problems. RC also suggested a greater focus on actions to improve current performance. DN explained that a national group has been convened to define the concept of and then devise measures for employer engagement. PP said LW is looking at the number of employers purchasing learning and the amount of money involved; RC supported this approach. JM stated that full-cost courses do not appear in the figures.

RK said that he is happy with the presentation of the data. VB suggested a focus on one key performance issue per meeting; this was AGREED. VB informed the group that the paper on performance for the next LRB would be the report presented to Mark Haysom at the Spring Performance Review.

Action: DN to circulate to members in advance of the next meeting.

Item 3. Budgets

BG updated the group on the allocations process and changes to budgets compared to 04/05. The extra LIDF (i.e. the excess over 04/05) is being retained at the regional office to cover pan-London strategic priorities. VB reported that the FE budgets have been confirmed for the 05/06 financial year. The national formula has been used for Workforce Development.

PP pointed out that some budgets (eg: IAG) are real term reductions, although London has been treated the same as other regions. JH said that despite an overall increase in the funds available, things will be very tight in 05/06. PL said we should focus on areas where adverse effects will be felt; RC supported the need for a simple explanation of the implications of the budget.

Action: Each local office to send to DN a concise summary of the key 'pinch points' arising from the budget allocations by 27th April. DN to circulate these to LRB members.

Item 4. CoVEs

JH talked through the background papers. 82% of employers using CoVEs rate the quality of training as “excellent” or “good”. Research is being commissioned to gather further data on employer usage of CoVEs. Greg Cejer will be mapping specialist schools and their links to CoVEs. JH explained that she will be presenting a more detailed report at a later date.

Item 5. Skill City

The event is scheduled for July 2005. JD gave a presentation on progress to date with the preparations. The LSC will not have its own stand but will use branded field marketers to engage with visitors. The LSC will have a VIP reception area. YT asked about getting to the BME market; JD explained the targeted marketing strategy. Any further suggestions on promotional activity should be sent to JD. JH confirmed that the LSC is the biggest sponsor. The LSC role will be promoted to teachers at a dedicated seminar and our profile will be raised with key influencers. YT asked about minority representation at Manchester. PL suggested approaching TfL about free travel to the exhibition.

Action: JD to obtain a breakdown of attendees at the Manchester event and pass this to DN for circulation to LRB members.

JH confirmed that there is no financial risk. PP said that managing the flow of children is important. VC said that consultation in advance with teachers will help; JD confirmed that a sub-group has been set up. LSC is hosting a VIP event, to which all Council members will be invited.

Item 6. Regional Skills Partnership

JH highlighted the key points of the final draft of the prospectus. We are now working on the action plan and engaging with a regional funders’ group to get a proper spread of expenditure across London.

Item 7. Regional event

JH explained the plans for the next regional reception on 14th June at Centre Point. Chris Banks is planning to attend. The Mark Haysom FE roadshow for London will be held on the morning of the same day. PL suggested tackling the reservations held by some local Council members about the regional structure. RC agreed and proposed that the discussion topics should be more specific eg: to create a regional identity for London and/or looking at specific sectors. JH said that local Councils should be producing three year visions based on StAR and this could influence the agenda. PAL suggested a focused summary of progress. RK said we need to harness the skills and energies of all our non-executives. JM suggested placing interest groups together (eg: head teachers/LEAs, employers). YT said that local Council meetings should be used to ‘warm up’ attendees. The event should be presented as an opportunity to influence the shaping of the London agenda.

Item 8. AOB

The group wished YT a happy birthday!

Date of next meeting: Friday 17th June, 9am – 11am, Centre Point, Blue Room

Meeting chair Rod Kenyon
Minute taker Doug Norris
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