

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 11 April 2008  
**Subject** NE Region LSC Equality & Diversity Steering Group  
**Location** LSC, Wynyard Park House, Wynyard Avenue, Wynyard, Billingham, TS22 5TB  
**Time** 10.00 am – 12 noon  
**LSC office** North East Region  
**Publication intent** External

**Present**  
Pat Whaley - NIACE  
David Barker – Percy Hedley Foundation  
Abdul Khan - BECON  
Diane MacTavish - Barnardos  
Jacki Holmes – Wood Holmes Group  
Clare Galland - Wood Holmes Group  
Nadeem Ahmad – NE Strategic Migration Partnership  
Joe McGuigan - TUC  
Mark Wright – Commission for Race Equality  
Steven Martin – Job Centre Plus  
Liz Reay – Equality North East  
Angela O’Donoghue – City of Sunderland College  
John Lawson - MESMAC

**LSC staff**  
Simon Lindsay  
Richard Brannen  
Stuart Linden

**Apologies**  
Apologies have been received from:  
Elizabeth Killoran - TUC  
Janis Jones – North East Employer Coalition  
Jackie Doughty - GONE  
Mike Lazzari – ONE North East

## **Item 1 Welcome and Introductions – Minutes & Actions from Last Meeting**

- 1.1 Pat welcomed everyone to Wynyard and thanked the LSC for their hospitality.
- 1.2 Minutes from the last meeting were accepted as an accurate account.  
Page 1.2 **Mental health Project**: Pat gave an update and said that there was another year's funding available for future events. Pat announced that Neil Kelly had retired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and commented that he had been a very helpful colleague and that interviews will take place in April for his successor.
- Action 2.1 Simon has actioned
- Action 3.3 Pat has actioned and reported that it was an excellent event. Pat circulated a booklet "Learning and Skills Council Single Equality Scheme Support Programme" and gave an overview of the programme.
- Action 4.1 Simon has actioned.
- Action 7.1 Report has been circulated and Wood Holmes Group are to make a presentation at today's meeting.

## **Item 2 LSC Update**

- 2.1 The two projects approved for funding by the group have been completed.
- The DVD linked to Refugees and Asylum Seekers learning experiences has been produced and will be launched at the Celebration of VCS role in New and Emerging Communities event on 15 May.
  - The Equality NE Networking for Change project to attract more providers to the network was successful in engaging over 60 additional providers
- 2.2 A final progress review of the LSC NE Equality and Diversity Plan for 2007-08 will be completed By May 2008: the review report will be circulated to members.
- 2.3 Work on the 2008-09 plan commences this month. Key drivers will include:
- Regional EDIMs
  - NE Equality and Diversity Partnership (NEEDP) action plan
  - Outcomes of the Wood Holmes Group project (see below)
  - LSC Single Equality Scheme
  - Machinery of Government Changes
  - Our Strategy for Refugees and Asylum Seekers
  - Integrating Employment and Skills
  - Train to Gain
  - LSC Annual Statement of Priorities
  - National Apprenticeship Review
- 2.4 The recently published proposals for Machinery of Government Changes mean that by 2010 all LSC responsibilities will have transferred to alternative bodies. This will clearly have implications for the Steering Group. It was

agreed that Simon would investigate possible links between this group, and the NEEDP Employment and Skills group.

- 2.5 The LSC Single Equality Scheme Provider Support programme is progressing well:
- The launch event on 29 January was well attended by NE providers
  - The Virtual Learning Environment is fast becoming a useful and popular resource for providers and other partners
  - In the North East there are 7 providers taking part in Action Working projects (original target was 4 or 5): 3 FE Colleges, a 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, a local authority, and 2 work based learning providers.
  - Training for LSC Partnership teams will take place in June.
  - The closing Regional Conference will take place on 10 July.

### **Item 3 EDIMS (Equality and Diversity Impact Measures) Review**

- 3.1 The EDIMS Review report had been circulated to the Group and members invited to contribute to the report. Simon gave an overview of the Report and described the key findings and recommendations.
- 3.2 Members agreed that the EDIM on Apprentice Completion rates for learners with a learning difficulty or disability should **not** be broadened out to relate to ALL learners with a disability, as focus and degree of impact would be lost. Angela asked how the LSC would support improving apprenticeship completion rates for these learners. Simon explained that there will be more detailed analyses made by Partnership Team area, and additional remedial activities would be built into our future planning.
- 3.3 Simon circulated a handout “Age Split of Learners on an NVQ Programme” and explained how the percentages were worked out and how these link in with LSC priorities. ILR data shows that whilst the overall number of 50 plus learners has been decreasing in recent years, the % undertaking full NVQs has been increasing. There was discussion around the handout. Pat asked the Group did they think this should be taken forward as an EDIM. It was agreed that this would depend on the outcome of further analysis being carried out by the LSC Data Manager: if the upward participation trend of 50 plus learners is replicated in **all** full level 2 and above learning, then this issue would not be identified as a regional EDIM.
- 3.4 Simon went on to state that regardless of the outcome of the further analysis, LSC recognised the demographic importance of older learners, and outlined related current and future activity, including:
- Increased communication and joint working with Age Concern
  - Involvement in the regional Productive Ageing task group
  - Older learners identified as priority groups in LSC funded ESF projects

- Dissemination of information and good practice such as recent learndirect / Ufi resources:
  - o <http://www.fiftyforward.co.uk/learn.php>
  - o <http://www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/features/news/lifebeginsat50/>
- Building on the success of Train to Gain in engaging learners aged 45 plus

3.5 Angela asked if the data for Entry to Employment (E2E) could be broken down by locality, as the nature and delivery structure of E2E provision varied by area. Simon confirmed that further analysis would be carried out to take this into account.

**Action LSC to forward final Regional EDIMs to members on completion of further analysis around older learners**

#### **Item 4 Wood Holmes Group Final Report**

4.1 Jacki from Wood Holmes Group gave a presentation and explained the background of their report and what their recommendations were. Handouts were circulated and Jacki asked the Group to split into two groups and consider the recommendations of the Wood Holmes Group Report and to choose 5 main priorities. The groups gave feedback on their priorities. Pat stated that comments would be welcome over the next two weeks. Angela asked that a summary version of the report be sent to all college principals in the region.

**Action LSC to forward summary version of report to all NE Colleges**

**Action Members to forward any further comments to Simon by 25 April LSC**

4.2 Simon confirmed that LSC will take full account of the recommendations and members' comments in planning Equality and Diversity objectives and activities for 2008-09.

#### **Item 5 Offender Learning Update (Chris Dixon)**

5.1 Chris gave apologies for Jo Tate from the Area Prison Service who was unable to come to the meeting. Chris introduced himself and gave a presentation on OLASS. The presentation is attached to these minutes. Pat said that she would like to take OLASS forward in relation to other issues and parallel strategies. Angela explained that there is a risk to Providers in taking on offenders and it was also costly but the LSC does not take this into account when allocating funding.

## **Item 6 Any Other Business**

6.1 There was no other business to discuss.

## **Item 7 Date and Time for Next Meeting**

7.1 The date and time for the next meeting is Friday 11 July 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. The provisional venue is Northern Counties College, Jesmond - to be confirmed in due course.

<b>Publication no.</b>	Publication Number
<b>Meeting chair</b>	Pat Whaley
<b>Minute taker</b>	Mary Revill
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