

Minutes



Learning+Skills Council

43rd BOARD MEETING

Date: 16 November 2004
Time: 17.00 hours
Venue: Taylor House, Caxton Road, Fulwood, Preston
Chair: Tony Gill

In attendance:

Board Members

Jeff Cowburn
Margaret Dudley
Ray McManus
Peter Neill
Steve Palmer, Executive Director
Greg Turner

Observers:

Charlie Hooper
Steve Johnson
Ekwaeju Ohwoisi

Directors:

Andy Fawcett
Viv King
Sandra Whyte

Apologies:

Board Members

Nancy Cookson
Neville Chamberlain
Linda Crabtree
Hazel Harding
Alyson Malach
Malcolm McVicar
Janice Parker
Khalid Saifullah

Observers:

Phil Burgess
Nigel Burke
Karen O'Donoghue

Dave Cresswell

ACTION

1. Chairman's opening remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all present including Charlie Hooper who represented Karen O'Donoghue and Ekwaeju Ohwoisi representing Nigel Burke.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nancy Cookson, Neville Chamberlain, Linda Crabtree, Hazel Harding, Alyson Malach, Malcolm McVicar, Janice Parker, Khalid Saifullah, Phil Burgess, Nigel Burke and Karen O'Donoghue.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2004 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters not arising elsewhere on the agenda

Steve Palmer briefed the Board on the visit he and John Oliver made to Time Group and Simon Jersey in October. He and John concluded

that it would be better to meet Lancashire's larger employers in small groups rather than individually.

5. FE Performance Data for 2003/04 and 2004/05

Steve Palmer reported that Paper 1 issued in advance was incorrect and tabled the correct paper at the meeting.

The paper detailed how colleges in Lancashire are performing when comparing the estimated outturn position against the 2003/04 cash allocation.

It was noted that 65% of LSC cash goes to further education colleges.

If a college performs at 97% then the following years funding would be negotiated depending if the college could justify an increase in student numbers.

To remain within plan-led Colleges have to be at 97% by the end of their audited year. For those below 97% against the cash allocation the LSC manages the return of funds to ensure they reach this level.

LSC will prevent this happening in future years through appropriate planning. Institutions have not grasped the new change over from the FEFC funding allocation processes to the LSC funding and planning systems.

It was noted that LSC Lancashire should ensure that all funds are spent and that provision is planned appropriately and matched with achievable allocations, rather than risk returning funds to the regional or national pot.

The LSC will aim to support over performing institutions regarding additional costs linked to 16-18 year olds.

Numbers are developed from previous years allocation that are stretched and negotiated at the planning stage.

Ray McManus requested clarification on numbers given for Skelmersdale College. Steve Palmer agreed to meet with Ray and Jane Silcox to talk through this issue on a separate occasion. **SP**

6. Reforming Adult Learning

Sandra Whyte reported that the LSC consultation document 'Reforming the Funding and Planning Arrangements for First Step, Personal and Community Development Learning for Adults' had been available to download from the LSC website since 29 September. The consultation outlines how the reform of planning and funding of adult courses with no external accreditation will be taken forward.

A number of events are planned during the consultation period with local LSC staff, providers and national representative bodies. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 17 December. Board

members views and comments are welcome to Sandra Whyte. **All**

7. Executive Director's Report

Steve Palmer raised the following points from his report.

It was confirmed that the substantive item for the Board Awayday in January would be looking at the issues and recommendations arising from the Strategic Area Review (StAR).

Steve Palmer said he would welcome other agenda themes from Board Members for the January Awayday and offered an hour slot in the agenda for this purpose.

The Business Link merger has been agreed and Clive Memmott, Chief Executive would be replacing Phil Burgess at future Board meetings. Steve Palmer will write to both thanking Phil for his contribution to the Board and welcoming Clive accordingly. **SP**

Professor Moverley, Principal of Myerscough College will replace Neville Chamberlain as the representative from Northwest Development Agency.

Discussion was held around the lack of understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Schools Liaison Officers. It was agreed that Connexions, LSC and School Liaison Officers would meet on a regular basis to agree the big issues around information advice and guidance. **SP**

Ray McManus reported on the event he, Tony Gill and Linda Crabtree attended at Lancaster House with Ivan Lewis and Charles Clarke. Ray McManus agreed to forward issues to Steve Palmer who would draft a letter on behalf of the Board to Ivan Lewis copying in Charles Clarke. **RMcM**

8. Any Other Business

Charlie Hooper asked if the LSC would be responding to the footprint raising awareness from Education and Social Services. Steve Palmer reported that discussions are underway with Local Education Authorities and a response/recommendations will be forwarded in due course. **SP**

Steve Palmer informed the Board that Paul Holme, Executive Director for LSC Greater Merseyside had been appointed to the post of Regional Director of Skills from 15 November until 31 December 2005. This role has been created to drive forward the skills agenda working with the National Skills Forum and influencing the Northwest Development Agency. Elaine Bowker has taken over as interim Executive Director at Greater Merseyside.

Steve Palmer reminded Board members if they wish to attend the Launch of the National Statement of Priorities being held on 2 December at Haydock Park Race Course to contact Brenda Livesey

by Friday 19 November.

All

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 21 December 2004, 5.00 pm at Taylor House.