

Minutes



Learning+Skills Council

35th BOARD MEETING

Date: 17 February 2004
Time: 17.00 hours
Venue: Lancashire Learning and Skills Council
Chair: John Oliver

In attendance:

Board Members

Reg Chapman
Jeff Cowburn
Linda Crabtree
Tony Gill
Derek Hall
Alyson Malach
Ray McManus
Steve Palmer, Executive Director
Janice Parker
Greg Turner

Observers:

Alan Dick

Directors:

Dave Cresswell
Andy Fawcett
Viv King
Sandra Whyte

Apologies:

Board Members

Neville Chamberlain
Hazel Harding
Malcolm McVicar

Observers:

Phil Burgess
Nigel Burke
Steve Johnson

ACTION

1. Chairman's opening remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all present including Jayne Dooley, Equality and Diversity Manager who was attending for Item 4.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Phil Burgess, Nigel Burke, Neville Chamberlain, Hazel Harding, Steve Johnson and Malcolm McVicar.

Minutes from previous meeting

There were no previous minutes as the January meeting was the Awayday.

3. Matters not arising elsewhere on the agenda

All actions from the December meeting were cleared at the January Awayday.

4. Equality and Diversity Annual Report to Local Council

4.1 Jayne Dooley was pleased to inform the Board that there had been a steady rise in work based learning provision inspection grades for equality and diversity from acceptable to good. She reported that when comparing Lancashire with the rest of the region Lancashire is doing very well. We have no grades below acceptable and are working to continue the trend which is reflected in the provider performance review process.

4.2 Jayne Dooley reported that there are two critical challenges that face the LSC, Lancashire in this area.

- Young male participation is 4% less than for females, and
- We are encountering young people coming into learning provision with mental health problems that challenge the supporting structure.

Jayne highlighted that nationally it is believed that within the 16-19 population 6% males suffer from mental health problems compared with 16% females.

Jayne Dooley stated that organisations need to ensure that their procedures are robust to prevent litigation through the Race Relations Act etc.

4.3 The Board requested a pre board training session on this subject. Jayne Dooley to contact Tony Gill to discuss various training consultancies.

JD

5. Business Plan 2004/05

5.1 Andy Fawcett thanked Board Members for their comments on the draft plan which had been built into the final draft that was submitted to Mark Haysom.

Discussion was held in respect of the headline targets for LSC, Lancashire e.g. increasing numbers in 16-18 participation, increase in adult basic skills level 2/3, 30% growth in e2e target across the county and a substantial increase in Modern Apprenticeships in the public sector.

Alyson Malach suggested that work be done to establish and extend equality and diversity impact measures with Lancashire's own providers. Andy Fawcett agreed that there was more work to be done with regard to the balance of gender and cluster groupings.

AF

Andy Fawcett highlighted major new activities that will be undertaken. The Board gave specific guidance on each area and overall endorsement.

6. Evaluation of the January Awayday and Recommendations of the Future Structure of Board Meetings

6.1 The Board agreed to continue meeting monthly focussing on specific topics that are in line with the work of the Board sub groups.

In addition these would be interspersed with Board meetings focused on the new business planning and performance cycle, i.e. determining key objectives and assessing our own and provider progress. A schedule for the annual cycle of Board meetings will be published in advance.

SP/JO

7. Executive Director's Report

7.1 Steve Palmer updated the Board on current issues.

Steve Palmer reminded the Board that the April meeting would be held at Jobcentre Plus, Marton Mere, Mythop Road, Blackpool commencing at 5pm. However, Steve Johnson had offered to give Board members a tour of two sites in Blackpool therefore Board members would need to arrive at the Marton Mere office by 2pm. It was agreed that 2pm was too early for the majority of Board Members therefore it was agreed that a later start would be more convenient. Further details will be given at the March Board meeting.

All

7.2 Concern was raised over the figures used to reflect the categories of work based learning providers in colleges. Viv King explained that further detail would be provided in future to prevent further confusion.

VK

7.3 Steve Palmer reported that Lancashire had put forward a proposal for an Employer Training Pilot.

The National Steering Group (NSG) meet on 25 February to consider all proposals and to agree recommendations to Ministers. An official announcement will be made by the Treasury in the Budget on or around the 17 March. Steve Palmer will keep the Board up to date.

SP

8. Any Other Business

Steve Palmer reminded Board Members of the forthcoming Be Inspired Business Awards evenings on Friday 20th February and 27th February and if anyone was interested in attending to advise Brenda Livesey.

Steve Palmer informed the Board that he was pausing submission of capital bids to the Board for a short while due to the strategic area review process. A report will be completed by the end of March when the pause will be lifted.

John Oliver announced that this meeting was Reg Chapman's last one as he was retiring. John thanked Reg for his support and contribution to the Board during the past three years and wished him well in his retirement.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday, 16 March 2004 at LSC Lancashire
5pm – 7pm