

Minutes



Learning+Skills Council

42nd BOARD MEETING

Date: 19 October 2004
Time: 17.00 hours
Venue: Taylor House, Caxton Road, Fulwood, Preston
Chair: John Oliver

In attendance:

Board Members

Nancy Cookson
Jeff Cowburn
Linda Crabtree
Margaret Dudley
Tony Gill
Alyson Malach
Ray McManus
Malcolm McVicar
Peter Neill
Steve Palmer, Executive Director
Janice Parker
Khalid Saifullah

Observers:

Karen O'Donoghue

Directors:

Dave Cresswell
Andy Fawcett
Viv King

Apologies:

Board Members

Neville Chamberlain
Hazel Harding
Greg Turner

Observers:

Phil Burgess
Nigel Burke
Steve Johnson

Sandra Whyte

ACTION

1. **Chairman's opening remarks**
 - 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all present including Khalid Saifullah, Chief Executive of the Asian Business Federation who had recently been appointed as a new Board Member.
2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Phil Burgess, Nigel Burke, Neville Chamberlain, Steve Johnson and Greg Turner.
3. **Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2004 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters not arising elsewhere on the agenda

Steve Palmer reported that Runshaw College had accepted 10% capital support in regard to their capital bid.

Andy Fawcett will provide the Board with quarterly updates on the targets for Not Engaged in Education or Training. **AF**

Steve Palmer reported that there were no suitable candidates identified from the applications received for the post of Chair. Re-advertisement will take place in due course. Letters to larger businesses in the area will be sent to try to stimulate some interest. Some leads had been received but after the deadline. These will be encouraged to apply at the next round. **SP**

Steve Palmer to report at the November meeting the outcomes from the employer visits he and John Oliver made during October. **SP**

5. Strategic Area Review (StAR) Update

Andy Fawcett gave the Board an update on the progress in respect of the Strategic Area Review and asked the Board for comments on the recommendations set out in the paper with regard to the future options for post 16 provision in Lancashire.

Andy Fawcett explained that comments had been received on the issues paper from consultation events, meetings and direct from organisations. Additional guidance had been received from the DfES and incorporated in the strategic options and recommendations to take the review forward.

It was noted that there should be an aim to reduce duplication of post 16 education and ensure that learners are at the heart of decisions. More work is required with regard to L1 and L2.

There was some concern that the document made very little reference to further education institutions. It was felt that it was important to have more options given the 3-4 year planning horizon.

Board members were clear that we should build on excellence and the investment that the LSC has already made to date in FE colleges.

Tracking of learners needs to be explored more with regard to those learners who choose employment prior to training so that we can bring them back into education as they develop through employment.

It was agreed that this item would be discussed further at the January Board Awayday and any detail to be forwarded to Board members at the earliest opportunity. **AF**

6. Executive Director's Report

Steve Palmer reported to the Board that Skelmersdale College had been awarded 7 grade 3s and 1 grade 4 from their recent inspection. It was confirmed that Burnley College would be inspected later in the term.

It was confirmed that Work Based Learning Providers take the review process seriously especially over the last two years and there is concern with regard to the new grading and inspection system.

Board members requested copies of future MPs Bulletins. Andy Fawcett's team to coordinate.

AF

Steve Palmer reported the following with regard to the Performance Scorecard:

16-18 participation – weak position but a lot of work going on here

Apprenticeship starts - good position

FE success – good position

WBL success – strongest position in the region

Budget position – 7% under budget

The Lancashire office has the lowest sickness rates in the region

Steve Palmer agreed to send out a note to all members informing them of the arrangements for the January Board Awayday.

SP

7. ESF Co-Finance – Progress Report

Andy Fawcett confirmed that there had been some delay in closing reports but no risks associated with the projects. The ESF and Management Information Managers were working together to try and reduce this burden.

Confirmation letters to bidding organisation will be sent out on Thursday 21 October explaining the outcome of their individual bids.

The Board confirmed its acceptance of the proposed actions/recommendation set out in the paper.

8. Any Other Business

14-19 Curriculum and Qualifications Reform

Viv King tabled the Final Report of the Tomlinson Working Group on 14-19 Reform Summary to the Board and gave an overview of what this would mean.

A new 14-19 diploma framework is being proposed which would allow young people to progress at their own pace, stretching the most able and helping less able students to reach their potential. Diplomas would be awarded at four progressively more demanding levels: entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced. The diplomas would replace existing qualifications taken by 14-19 year olds. Mike Tomlinson has

accepted an invitation to come to Blackburn on 2 December to talk to Lancashire's Headteachers, Principals, Training Providers and stakeholders. Board members are welcome to attend.

It was agreed this item should be brought back to a future meeting.

Tony Gill gave the Board a brief update on the Chairs' Day he attended on behalf of John Oliver. Tony felt that the day was a success and was happy to hear that local Boards were becoming more involved.

VK

Tony Gill announced that this was John Oliver's last Board meeting as he had decided to step down as Chair. Tony thanked John for the huge support and commitment he had given the local office and his excellent Chairing of both the Board and North West Chairs meetings. John expressed his good wishes to the Board and the LSC for the future.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 16 November 2004, 5.00 pm at Taylor House.