

REVIEW OF POST-16 PROVISION IN TRAFFORD



Leading learning and skills

NOTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING

13 June 2006 at Trafford Town Hall

Present	Jane Bracewell (chair) Sue Denny Tarun Kapur Bernice Kostick David Lawrence David McNulty Elaine Nelson Dana Ross-Wawrzynski David Wilson Margaret Woodhouse
In attendance	Nina Ketcher (LSC Greater Manchester) Derrick Jones (KPMG) John Tomlinson (KPMG) Will Todd (KPMG)
Apologies	Derek Davies Kathy Leaver Bill Moorcroft Suzanna Prout (KPMG)

Welcome and introductions

1 Jane welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the steering group and, for the benefit of those attending for the first time, everyone introduced themselves round-the-table.

2 Jane advised the group of the front page article in the *Sale and Altrincham Messenger* on 8 June which had the headline 'Colleges in Merger Talks' and included quotations from a union official and two local MPs. Sue explained that Connexions has taken calls from concerned parents and their children asking if they should be looking for another college for September - Connexions staff are reassuring callers that they should go ahead as planned and no changes are imminent.

Notes of previous meeting

3 The notes were agreed.

Matters arising

4 The only action not covered later on the agenda was data for pupils at St John Vianney School: as the school is independent, pupil data are not included on any PLASC return. Instead the LSC and Trafford MBC will supply KPMG with information on students funded at independent special schools and colleges.

ACTION: LSC/Trafford MBC/KPMG.

Update on demand side analysis

5 Derrick gave an update on work to date:

- completed - the context for Trafford, employer demand: current and future skills needs, skills priorities
- underway - mapping employer demand, MOSAIC analyses, travel to learn for each educational sector
- planned - HE data analysis, strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats analysis and gap analysis.

Derrick explained that the HE analysis would look at the level of current HE qualifications amongst Trafford residents and qualifications currently being studied, as well as progression rates.

6 A general overview suggests clear patterns of low qualifications in some areas, as expected.

Update on supply side analysis

7 John circulated a booklet with draft data analyses in for schools, colleges and work-based learning providers: in the report the data will be presented according to the different 'brands' identified in the project specification. The group discussed the pros and cons of using 2004/05 data (complete, includes achievements, but portfolio of provision has changed since then) and 2005/06 data (not yet full year, no achievements, more up-to-date view of provision). KPMG confirmed that the most appropriate 'fit' is used and John explained that providers are being asked, as part of their stakeholder interviews, to advise of any significant changes. Stakeholders are also invited to email any 'after thoughts' to the interviewer.

8 There appeared to be some errors in the analysis of the schools' data which it was agreed to follow-up outside the meeting. It was agreed that schools should be invited to verify their data to ensure accuracy. **ACTION: KPMG, Trafford MBC.**

9 The adult and community learning (ACL) data cover three providers - Cheshire County Council, Manchester City Council and Trafford MBC - who between them enrol 95% of Trafford residents who access ACL provision.

Similarly the work-based learning (WBL) data cover all WBL providers with more than 10 Trafford residents with them.

10 It was noted that the lists of schools with specialisms and colleges with Centres of Vocational Excellence needs updating. **ACTION: LSC/Trafford MBC/KPMG.**

11 KPMG confirmed that other elements the group wished to see referenced are included in the analyses: unemployment (included in the demand side - looking at geographic location), gender, achievement rates, value-added at key stage 5 in schools.

Emerging themes from stakeholder interviews

12 Derrick circulated a list of interviews/focus group which had been undertaken, were planned or were still to be arranged. The interviews should be concluded by mid June. He explained that the interviews are structured to contain a common core of issues and then varied according to the sector/grouping.

13 Derrick reported that:

- schools' themes were around their desire to work collaboratively, some discussion around schools wishing to develop their own sixth forms, the positive relationships with the colleges, school sixth form provision complementing FE provision, positive links with HE. Positive feedback on information, advice and guidance to school pupils
- the colleges outside Trafford have tended to be interested in the potential for merger of North Trafford and South Trafford colleges and the opportunities for collaboration across local authority boundaries
- in their focus groups, learners have generally been positive about their learning experiences in Trafford. Common themes have been information, advice and guidance, learning environments and choice/type of provision
- common themes from WBL providers have also been generally positive but expressed concern about the lack of Entry to Employment (E2E) provision in Trafford. Another common theme for them has been information, advice and guidance to young people and their parents.

Derrick noted that stakeholders' perceptions are, by their nature, subjective but explained that in making judgements and recommendations, KPMG will balance stakeholders' views in the context of other evidence. Derrick also explained that the supply side analysis will consider the provision that learners access outside of Trafford.

14 Jane reported feedback from the joint meeting of Trafford headteachers and college principals, where some of those who had been interviewed felt that their

interviewer did not understand fully the selective (grammar school) system in Trafford and the barrier which this could pose to greater collaboration, due to the pupil/parental expectations that the system engenders. Derrick reassured the group that this would be borne in mind when the interview outcomes are reviewed, and he reinforced the need to balance perceptions with evidence in drawing conclusions.

Next steps

15 At the next meeting, the group will have an opportunity to comment on the key findings and themes and the strategic options proposed as a result of the review. The group will also consider whether a further meeting is necessary.

Date of next meeting

Monday 3 July 14.30 to 16.30 at Sale West Development Centre