

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	13th September 2006
Subject	South West Regional Board
Location	Dillington House
Time	09.00 to 12.30
LSC office	South West Region
Publication intent	Internal

Present	John Savage CBE (Chair) Jane Barrie OBE Catherine Christie John Chudley Richard Dimpleby Malcolm Gillespie Richard Greenwood Brian Kemp Paul Lucken Paul May Denis Miles Trish Taylor Mike Davies (Secretary)
----------------	---

Guests	Ray Dowd (LSC Agenda for Change Champion)
---------------	---

Apologies	Pauline Bailey Professor John Bull Bryan McGinity Marinos Paphitis
------------------	---

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Ray Dowd from National Office and Area Directors John Chudley and Richard Greenwood who were attending for the first time.

Items 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising

3.1 Brian Kemp referred to paragraph 2.10 regarding language training and said that he was aware of a national strategy but not a regional one. Paul Lucken confirmed the possibility of using Train to Gain (TtG) to address the need and Catherine Christie said that it will also be part of the regional strategic analysis.

Item 4. Agenda for Change

- 4.1 Ray Dowd the LSC Agenda for change Champion gave an update on the progress with themes 1 to 6. An electronic copy of the presentation will be sent to members.
- 4.2 Paul May commented on the need to manage bureaucracy at the front line. Trish Taylor referred to Every Child matters and the possibility of the bureaucracies of Local Authorities and Government Office having an impact.
- 4.3 Richard Dimpleby raised the issue of leadership and Ray Dowd said that this is a joint responsibility of the LSC and College Principals. Catherine Christie highlighted 2 examples where this was happening; the 14-19 implementation progress checks and the development of specialised diplomas.
- 4.4 Brian Kemp commented on the LSC's inability to influence the use of post 16 funding for schools when the funding levels matched or in some cases exceeded that for Further Education Colleges.
- 4.5 Jane Barrie stressed the importance of progressing work with the independent sector and the new diplomas.
- 4.6 Richard Dimpleby emphasised the need for valid comparable performance data for all types of provider.

Items 5 Role of Regional Boards and local Councils

5.1 John Savage reported that Chris Banks would shortly make recommendations to Ministers that would mean the establishment of Regional Boards with a broader employer led membership. Consequently that will lead to the cessation of local Councils. Each Chair and every Council member would shortly receive a letter from Chris Banks giving a full explanation of the proposals. John Savage stressed the importance of the local Council in the interim and asked all local Chairs to continue to encourage and support their members.

Item 6 Regional audit Committee arrangements

6.1 John Savage said that a new Regional Audit Committee will meet for the first time on 30th October. At this meeting a Committee Chair will be appointed and the terms of reference will be agreed. Denis Miles suggested that the agenda may include the regional Audit Plan, Risk Management and the inherited assurance issues from local Audit

committees.

Item 7. Regional Directors Report

- 7.1 Malcolm Gillespie referred to his report and circulated a chart showing the high level management structure that was now in place. He highlighted the role of Pauline Bailey the Transition Director and the detailed work being carried out on roles and responsibilities across the key functions and business processes. In the calendar there are a series of visits to each of the Area sites from people who work in the newly formed regional teams. In addition there is a regional leadership conference on the 22nd September for LSC Directors and above, to which John Savage will attend and address the pre-conference get-together. A new leadership development programme has been commissioned and will be rolled out across the country this autumn.
- 7.2 Catherine Christie circulated 2 papers for information, one was a report on performance and the other was a table showing comparisons of plans and trajectories for each of the regions. For future meetings Brian Kemp asked for performance charts on the 4 key business priorities.

Action: Catherine Christie to prepare performance charts for future meetings.

- 7.3 Brian Kemp suggested that future agendas include an update from the Regional Skills Partnership meetings.

Action: Paul Lucken to provide feedback from the Regional Skills Partnership at future meetings.

Item 8. Train to Gain update

- 8.1 Paul Lucken presented a progress update and circulated issue 1 of the regional Train to Gain newsletter.

Item 9. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) expenditure

- 9.1 Brian Kemp expressed concerns that the budget for this provision could be cut back especially as the spend in the south west is low already. The need is for integrating immigrant workers who are already skilled but are under-utilised because of the language barrier.
- 9.2 Paul Lucken believed that the political pressure will be on the Skills for Life budget and that ESOL funding would not be directed towards people who already have a qualification as there will be an expectation of employers to take some responsibility for this category. However the south west is above the national average for spend on ESOL and there may be a shift in policy to allow European Social Fund (ESF) co-financing to be used.

Item 10. National Nuclear Skills Academy

- 10.1 Jane Barrie tabled a paper that described an expression of interest submitted to DfES of the possibility of a new academy with training centres across the country including one in the south west. The Board were asked to consider the proposals in the paper which included a request to endorse a bid for funding based on delivery through Bridgwater College.
- 10.2 The Board approved the project, in principle, to go to the next stage. It noted that other colleges in the SW have existing links with the nuclear industry (including de-commissioning) and confirmed the need for Bridgwater College to work closely with such colleges in developing what is seen as a regional bid.

Item 11. Any other business

- 11.1 There were no other items.

Item 12. Future agenda items and dates of the next meetings

- 12.1 Members asked for an item on national skills academies so that a considered rather than a reactive approach can be taken in future.
- 12.2 The meeting scheduled for the 20th October is cancelled so the next one will be on the 20th December starting with lunch and finishing approximately at 4pm.