

Date 9 March 2011
Subject Advisory Forum
Location 1 Victoria Street
Time 11:00-14:30

Attendees:

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| Sue Samson | YPLA (Chair) |
| Jane Cowell | YPLA |
| Paul Williamson | YPLA |
| Geoff Daniels | YPLA |
| David Hughes | Skills Funding Agency |
| Julie Nugent | Skills Funding Agency |
| Susan Pember | Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) |
| Ruth Curry | BIS |
| Sue Baldwin | Department of Education (DoE) |
| Julian Gravatt | Association of Colleges (AoC) |
| Sue Rimmer | AoC |
| Marion Plant | AoC |
| Graham Hoyle OBE | Association of Learning Providers (ALP) |
| Stewart Segal | ALP |
| David Igoe | Sixth Form Colleges Forum (SFCF) |
| Andrew Jones | SFCF |
| Tim Ward | Third Sector National Learning Alliance (TSNLA) |
| David Kendall | NatSpec |
| Malcolm Trobe | Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) |
| David Grigg | ASCL |
| Bob Powell | HOLEX |
| Donald Rae | Local Government Association (LGA) |
| Alastair Thomson | NIACE |
| Mark Ravenhall | NIACE |
| David Lawrence | Landex |
| David Howells | 157 Group |
| Nigel Robins | Tertiary Colleges Group (TCG) |
| Alastair Moon | Independent Academies Association (IAA) |
| Juliette Sargeant | Universities UK (UUK) |

Apologies:

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| Jo Thomas | Department of Education |
| Angela O'Donoghue | 157 Group |
| Jonathan Fawcett | ASCL |
| Jim Chambers | ALP |
| David Way | NAS |
| Alan Tuckett | NIACE |

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Sue Samson welcomed the group

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 Sue went through the minutes of the previous meeting and the action points.
- 2.2 The action on transport issues was carried over:
- 2.3 SEN – Green Paper now out (today). To be discussed at next meeting,
- 2.4 LLDD – impact of funding allocations to be discussed at a future meeting.
- 2.5 Wolf Review – need a more substantive discussion at a future meeting.

Action: Transport issues – DR to organise a meeting with SS / JG / DL

Action: MF to add SEN Green Paper, LLDD – impact of funding allocations and Wolf Review to future agendas

Decision: It was agreed to invite the QCF Issues Group to discuss Wolf and refer back to the Advisory Forum.

Item 3. Youth funding update

- 3.1 Jane Cowell introduced her paper. She explained that the slides showed the January figures so excluded funding for disadvantage, which should be allocated soon.
- 3.2 Questions/issues raised were:
 - Would have been helpful to see changes in funding/learners instead. Jane agreed to do this once all the allocations and business cases were finalised.
 - Looking at all GFEs might miss the impact on specialist colleges. Jane Cowell agreed to provide this as well.

- GFE key issue seems to be shortfall in numbers in 10/11 of a c.5% and the impact that has on funding in the following year as well as what might happen as a result of withdrawal of EMAs.
- Impact of this shortfall on what was a growth figure needs to be analysed looking ahead to 'full participation' and there is a need to include the apprenticeship figures as well in the overall picture. Jane agreed to bring the paper back to the next meeting.
- Clear that there is displacement, so need to see this, as well as apprenticeship numbers and NEET numbers
- New funding per SLN will be confirmed with allocations before the end of March

Action: Jane to address the issues set out at a future meeting

Item 4. YPLA simplification project

- 4.1 Geoff Daniels gave a verbal report on the project. He is leading on YPLA Funding Simplification reviews with the sector; including consultation on the whole wider system including data, audit and funding. Views of the sector are being sought to feed into the changes. Representative bodies, colleges, other institutions are invited to unpick what could be simplified. Views being expressed not wholly consistent, but some themes emerging:
- a. Context for work is changing with White Paper on schools funding and Wolf Report.
 - b. Funding arrangements should be preceded by decision by government on what learning programmes young people should follow, ie: what should a full time programme look like, should drive the funding system design
 - c. There are differences between schools/academies/GFE/SFC in ways system works, so consistency would aid collaboration
 - d. There is scope for data and audit simplification, eg: prior achievement could be transferred from ULN
 - e. Looking at standard rate of funding per learner, but views vary, although many believe it is worth pursuing. This would need to have a degree of programme weighting and area costs. Consistency pre and post 16 is an issue on this.
 - f. Big issue on success rate measure inconsistency so might want to decouple the success rate from funding system/calculation
 - g. ALS and disadvantage – bringing these together might simplify things, based on prior achievement and not postcodes / free school dinners etc

4.2 Questions/issues raised were:

- Welcome the direction of travel, but need weighting on facilities as well as delivery time
- Success Rates – it is not too complex so could keep it
- Important to set out curriculum entitlement for 16-19 year olds and Wolf stressed this in her report; although should not lead to prescription
- Success Rates are overseen by Ofsted so doesn't need to be in funding calculation
- We often pull back from changing funding model for fear of turbulence; we need to be bolder if it is right and have transitional arrangements in place
- Need to look at what funding is there to deliver including curriculum, progression, job outcomes etc, social mobility, how pupil premium might work post 16
- Geoff offered to meet with members to discuss this further
- Need to consider Success Rates – how measured, what is timeliness, role of transparent info and MLP application
- Geoff is reporting to the YPLA Chief Executive at the end of May so will bring interim report to future Advisory Forum

Action: Geoff to meet with members and bring interim report to the Advisory Forum in June

Item 5. Learners with Learning Difficulties

5.1 Paul Williamson introduced his paper and Donald Rae supported with a brief overview of today's Green Paper issues.

5.2 Questions and issues raised were:

- In the new proposed framework an assessment of the support between sites and classes needs to happen before learner attends college
- Specialist colleges reported not being fully engaged by the LA in pilots
- Pilots are testing various issues, rather than piloting a new approach
- The framework is complex and is a big change, but not well understood in colleges.
- The local authority pilots are varied but are leading to some new partnerships which are promising, especially the linking of SEN and LLDD issues / players

- Potential for placing the Learning for Living and Work framework in the context of the Green Paper and simplifying it.

Action: Paul W and Donald R to discuss how special colleges can be fully engaged in the testing

5.3 Donald said it feels like a pre 16 SEN Green Paper, with less on post 16, but ambition for single plan for education, health and care from 0-25 is good. Chapters on early identification; putting parents more in charge; workforce development; preparing for adulthood; services supporting families.

5.4 A number of issues were highlighted :

- Who does the assessment?
- Mediation preferred to tribunals
- More integration needed between SEN and LLDD
- Structural issues might need to be considered
- Implementation probably from 12/13 on, so piloting and testing will be used before
- Suggests statements will be replaced by a single education, health and care plan
- There might be a new indicator in performance tables
- Need to understand how a 'new' statement might work post 16, and link to 139a statements
- Interesting to understand how funding will flow for a single education health and care plan
- LGA/AoC/Natspec have a joint conference on 28 March about wider issues. We may want to ensure there are opportunities to discuss the Green Paper for Advisory Forum members

Action: DR / PW to consider how to engage with the Forum on this

Item 6. Single Point of Contact

6.1 David Hughes introduced the paper.

6.2 Questions and issues raised were:

- Need to highlight the role of the Local Authority in school funding
- Broad support for the approach and particularly sensible proposal around allocations

6.3 David Hughes and Paul Williamson stressed that this is a broad framework and we are keen to do what makes sense for providers, as the over-riding

principle is to make the arrangements support good relationships with providers/colleges

Item 7. Skills Funding Agency update

7.1 Julie Nugent introduced the paper.

7.2 Questions and issues raised were:

- A number of issues raised about MCL, ACTOR and transitional support

Item 8. AoC/ALP presentation on Accountability

8.1 Julian Gravatt and Graham Hoyle presented their paper.

8.2 Questions and issues raised were:

- Context for this is the new freedoms/flexibilities which new the government has granted and the desire of the Skills Funding Agency to work with the sector to agree how best to ensure that colleges and providers are accountable. This is particularly important given that national targets are no longer set at national and provider level.
- It ties in with work on transparent performance indicators by the sector and with NIACE/AoC/157 Group inquiry into the role of colleges in their communities
- Local community is key but some colleges/providers have wider set of stakeholders which may be national/regional/sectoral/cities of interest not just of place
- LAs have a duty to ensure all 16-19 have a place in learning, so we need to ensure this is taken into account

Item 9. Any other business

9.1 NAO are carrying out two new studies on Apprenticeships and VFM of regulation, it was agreed to invite them to a future meeting.

9.2 18-18 VFM report out soon and will come to future meeting (possibly May)

Action: NAO to be invited to a future meeting and 16-18 VFM report to be added to agenda for May

Action: MF to add Wolf, Green Paper and Operational/Funding issues to April agenda

Minutes

Item 10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The next meeting will take place on 20 April, 11:00-14:30 in Room 15B, Cheylesmore House, Coventry.

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| Meeting chair | Sue Samson |
| Minutes creator | David Hughes |
| Date created | 16 March 2011 |