

# Minutes

**Date** 19 November 2010  
**Subject** SFA/YPLA Advisory Forum  
**Location** Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street  
**Time** 13:00-16:00  
**Publication intent** NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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**Attendees:**

Rob Wye	YPLA (Co-Chair) (from 13:45)
David Hughes	Skills Funding Agency (Co-Chair)
Jane Cowell	YPLA
Julie Nugent	Skills Funding Agency
Sue Baldwin	Department for Education
Susan Pember	Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
Ruth Curry	Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
Sue Rimmer	Association of Colleges
Jim Chambers	Association of Learning Providers
Stewart Segal	Association of Learning Providers
David Igoe	Sixth Form Colleges Forum
Andrew Jones	Sixth Form Colleges Forum
David Kendall	NatSpec
Sam Ellis	Association of School and College Leaders
David Grigg	Association of School and College Leaders
Bob Powell	HOLEX
Donald Rae	Local Government Association
Philip Mind	Local Government Association
Alan Tuckett	NIACE
David Lawrence	Landex
Nigel Robins	Tertiary Colleges Forum
Alastair Moon	Independent Academies Association
Juliette Sargeant	Universities UK (until 14:45)
Angela Hands	National Audit Office (from 14:30)
James Comer	National Audit Office

**Skills Funding Agency**

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An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

**Apologies:**

David Way	National Apprenticeship Service
Julian Gravatt	Association of Colleges
Marion Plant	Association of Colleges
Graham Hoyle	Association of Learning Providers
Paul Warner	Association of Learning Providers
Tim Ward	Third Sector National Learning Alliance
Malcolm Trobe	Association of School and College Leaders
Jonathan Fawcett	Association of School and College Leaders
Ian Keating	Local Government Association
Angela O'Donohue	157 Group

**Item 1. Welcome and introductions**

- 1.1 David welcomed the group and advised that the order of the agenda would be slightly changed to allow colleagues to attend for their items.

**Item 2. Minutes of the previous meeting and Terms of Reference and Membership**

- 2.1 The group agreed the minutes of the previous meeting and agreed a small number of minor amendments to the ToR and membership.

**Action: MF to circulate revised ToR & Membership**

**Item 3. Update on new funding system proposal and Skills Investment Strategy (Items 5 & 6 on the agenda)**

- 3.1 DH presented the Skills Funding Agency slides (attached) to the group and the following issues/questions were raised and discussed – they need to be resolved in future communications:
  - There is still a desire from colleges and providers for virement between 16-18 and 19+ funds.
  - Will loans be available for full-time and part-time, as has been agreed in HE?
  - Has the notion and priority of firstness in level 2 qualifications gone?
  - Will there still be funding for Level 3, or will this only be focused on those with an entitlement (19-25)?
  - Will interest rates be the same for FE students as for HE students?
  - Have the equality and diversity impacts been assessed?
  - Does automatic fee remission only apply to those on JSA and ESA? Does that mean that people on other benefits are expected to pay fees?
  - What is happening to Foundation Learning Tier?
  - How is the Adult Safeguard budget being reformed?

- What is the future local authority role in Adult Safeguarded Learning? Are they going to become the lead accountable body?
- Will the Skills Funding Agency and YPLA work together to ensure that the Minimum Contract Levels do not result in Sixth Form Colleges losing funding for those 19 year olds completing their full time courses?
- Assumption that money coming from SFA (for these learners and/or other 19+ provision) should flow via YPLA – joint communication/guidance on that would be helpful
- Beware of the multiplier – in impacts:
  - Rate reduction
  - Loss of the SFL uplift
  - Changes to automatic fee remission
  - rural issue / transport support changes

Will all impact on some colleges and providers?

**Action: Donald Rae/Rob Wye/David Lawrence to meet to assess the transport changes**

- How will allocations work on the Train to Gain element of the current funding?
- Will the new funding system support people who need to enter into employment and those who are disadvantaged?
- What are the expectations around level 3 Apprenticeship growth...ie: not a target, but sector expected to deliver more.

#### **Item 4. Spending Review Outcomes/Implications (Item 3 on the agenda)**

4.1 DH and RW updated the group through their presentations.

#### **Item 5. Update on 16-18 funding system (Item 4 on the agenda)**

5.1 Rob presented in confidence to the group on the outcomes of the CSR and possible YPLA funding. The following issues were raised – to be considered in context of final decisions and announcements:

- Success rates – taking this out of the funding calculation/provider factor might have perverse impact
- What about sparsely populated areas and viability issues if rates are decreased?
- Especially with transport issue – LA duty to secure provision remains
- If Academies take off then competition increases may undermine organisational viability and quality
- Can changes be implemented over 3-4 year period and prevent a destabilising affect in 2011-12?
- Enrichment is critical to retain

- EMA – why not same £ in a different way? Will hit retention and participation
- Programme led apprenticeships – worried about whether can find jobs for them, but used pre-app programme and need to find £ for it 16-18 (as well as 19+)
- LLDD – what are the assumptions about numbers/funding/rates etc
  - Growth in volume and no more funding
  - So need more in mainstream
  - Need to support 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations to meet needs

### **Item 6. NAO 16-18 Value For Money study (Item 7 on the agenda)**

6.1 Angela Hands and James Comer presented their study 'Getting value from education for 16-18 year olds' to the group, highlighting that their aim was to look at value for money at delivery organisation level to 'illuminate' how things work and how good providers achieve value for money. The following issues were raised:

- There is concern about not looking at 16-18 Apprenticeships
- Concern about Equality and Diversity issues and the need to understand what value for money means in very different settings/diverse learners
- EMA has had a big impact on attendance
- Collaboration and shared services undermined by VAT impact
- Issues of outcomes and how they can be measured
- Progression pre and post 16-18
- The future of 14-19 partnerships

### **Item 7. Framework for Excellence (Item 8 on the agenda)**

7.1 DH updated the group and presented the paper.

### **Item 8. Date of next meeting**

8.1 The next meeting of the Advisory Forum will take place on **14 January 2011 11:00-14:30** in Coventry.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	David Hughes / Rob Wye
<b>Minutes creator</b>	Miranda Floy
<b>Date created</b>	26 November 2010