

Date 21 April 2010
Subject **REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP**
Location YPLA, Mercury House, 4 Manchester Road, Bradford BD5 0QL
Time 14:00
Publication intent NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Present Ruth Adams, Yorkshire Forward (Chair)
David Yates (Bradford)
Denis Grainger (Kirklees)
David Kent (NE Lincs)
Liz Butcher (GOYH)
John Thompson (York)
Richard Stevans (Hull)
Anthony Evans (Rotherham)
Meryl White (SY SRG)
Mike Lowe (Leeds)
Nick Wilson (NAS)
John Thompson (York)
Peter Roberts (rep from RPPG)
Cristina George (YPLA)
Andy Brown (YPLA)
Carol Graves (YPLA)

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Edna Sutton (Chair), Barnsley
Helen McMullan, GOYH
Alison Michalska (East Riding)
Joyce Thacker (Rotherham) (alternate Karen Borthwick)
Pete Dwyer (alternate John Thompson), York
Jo Moxon (North Lincs)
David Anderson (Calderdale)
Cynthia Welbourn (North Yorks)

Item 1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Ruth Adams had agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of Edna Sutton. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies – see above.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting (21st January 2010) and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

- 2.2 **Item 4: Apprenticeships:** Nick Wilson, Regional Director of the National Apprenticeship Service, gave an update on how recruitment was progressing.

- He reported that records currently show that providers are proposing provision which may mean targets for starts have been exceeded but the validity of the information is currently being checked.
- In terms of progress check indicators, he has been advised that DCSF and Government Office will measure the progress check indicators based on period 6 starts, recorded at period 7. It was noted that the apprenticeship indicator will not be measured as part of the current run. This information will be discussed with local authorities but not scored.
- For 2011 progress check indicators there are 3 options to be considered:
 - i. Starts measure similar to 2010 indicator with no account taken
 - ii. Starts measure similar to this years which takes into account each authority's participation rate
 - iii. Measure based on framework completions rather than starts.

No decision has been taken but option (ii) is the most likely.

- The MI report will be shared with RPG members each quarter with core data sets available to all LAs. There was a concern expressed by the representative of the Provider Group regarding the sharing of information with providers. This will be the responsibility of the local authority.
 - **Programme-led apprenticeships** – some guidance has been received from the Department outlining the expected timescales for the new policy and this has been shared with the YPLA Policy and Performance Action Group. However, the intention is that no new programme led apprenticeship starts will be funded by April 2011 and from 1st August 2010 they will only be funded for 6 months.
 - A group of regional stakeholders will be convened by NAS to discuss the implications of this policy to the region and they will be seeking representatives from each group. It was noted, however, that all providers will be made aware of this by the Skills Funding Agency and local authorities were requested not to discuss this with them directly.
- 2.3 **Item 5:** Feedback from Rotherham re approach to allocations will be discussed at a future meeting.

Item 3. National Regional integrated skills strategy and changes to the regional economy

- 3.1 Yorkshire Forward presented a set of slides designed to commence the new cycle of commissioning with a clear understanding of changes to the economy and skills needs. A copy of these slides is attached with the minutes.
- 3.2 Ruth Adams went over the process by which the integrated strategy for the region is developed.
- 3.3 It was noted that the information offered may change following the forthcoming general election.
- 3.4 Yorkshire Forward is currently working together with the YPLA to obtain accurate data.
- 3.5 Out of the evidence gathered, key policy options will be developed and these will go out to consultation. After revision the integrated strategy will be developed.
- 3.6 It is difficult to plan for the future economy in terms of provision in particular sectors.
- 3.7 The introduction of non-compulsory retirement will have a significant affect on the number of jobs available.

Item 4. Review of data and analysis information to support the refresh of 14-19 plans and local commissioning statements

- 4.1 Andy Brown talked to the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Detailed discussions have taken place in sub regional Data groups.
- 4.2 The proposal was that a regional data sub-group to facilitate a more detailed interface over the data needs should be convened. This group would meet only when necessary and not on a regular basis. This was agreed.
- 4.3 It was noted that the first set of data is already on the Provider Gateway and the YPLA are looking to provide a suitable range of pivot tables.

Item 5. ESF

- 5.1 A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting to update members.
- 5.2 The Annexes referred to were tabled
- 5.3 Members were asked to consider if they wished to have representation on the Co-Financing Board. As many attendees were acting as alternates it was agreed that the YPLA would initially represent the RPG and this would be reviewed if necessary at the next meeting.
Action: YPLA
- 5.4 It was recommended that the split in contracts between 14-16 and 16-19 in South Yorkshire should be merged for the second half of the programme and this will be considered.
Action: Cristina George

5.5 There was a discussion around the current phase of the ESF programme and the underspend on NEETs. The opportunity to carry out an in depth review was welcomed.

5.6 It was agreed to support a review of the current ESF contracts and to receive a report in June 2010 with recommendations for reprofiling and/or redistribution of funding.

Action: Cristina George

Item 6. Update on LLDD placement budget and plans

6.1 The latest information on the use of the Independent Specialist Placement Budget was reviewed. It was agreed that the allocations to date reasonably reflect the outcomes of discussions between individual LAs and the YPLA and the approaches agreed in the LLDD sub group. A copy of the paper is attached.

Item 7. Annual Business cycle for the Regional Planning Group

7.1 Andy Brown talked to papers which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

7.2 There was some concern regarding in year adjustments within the planning cycle and assurances were given that reconciliation in year would only be necessary in extreme circumstances.

7.3 Following a discussion, it was agreed, in light of national guidance, to re-visit the business cycle and the remit of the Regional Planning Group. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

7.4 Academies will also be an agenda item for the July meeting.

Action: Carol Graves for the agenda

Item 8. Paper for information to note

Item 9. Date of next meeting 2nd June 2010

9.1 Venue: YPLA office at Mercury House.

Publication no.

Meeting chair Ruth Adams

Agenda creator Carol Graves

Date created 22 April 2010

Document ref. H:\YPLA from August 2009\REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP\21.4.10 MEETING\YPLA-regionalplanninggroup-publicminutes-21apr2010.doc