

Principals of Colleges in the Further Education and Sixth Form College sector

21 July 2010

PL/Jul/13/sb

Dear Colleague

Simplifying Funding for 16-19 Education and Training

You should by now have seen the news about the simplification of 16-19 education and training arrangements which was announced on 19 July by the Secretary of State for Education. The key points in the announcement were:

- to reaffirm the local authority role in securing 16-19 education and opportunities for young people, as part of their wider strategic role in education;
- to simplify the previously planned system by introducing a streamlined funding system with more decisions on learning opportunities being taken by schools, colleges and other providers;
- to ask the YPLA directly to fund general FE and Sixth Form Colleges, HEIs and other providers for 16-19 provision¹ rather than funds being directed through local authorities. This applies from the start of 2010/11 onwards.

The YPLA is now taking immediate steps to implement these decisions as follows:

- We will issue letters of intent to all colleges for their 16 – 19 provision, and you will receive details this week. The letters of intent will be valid until the end of October by when full funding agreements will be issued. The letters ask colleges to send back details of the bank account into which they want the YPLA to pay funds. We would like all colleges to reply as soon as possible even if your banking details have not changed since April.
- The YPLA will pay colleges direct for 16-19 learning from mid August.

¹ Local Authorities will continue to fund maintained schools for their sixth form provision and the National Apprenticeship Service will continue to fund apprenticeships. HEIs relate to those that deliver 16 - 19 learner responsive provision.

- We have withdrawn the National Commissioning Framework with immediate effect and will work with partners on a new simplified system which will be available by the end of September and which will set out the steps in the allocation process for the 2011/12 academic year.

As the Secretary of State has set out, a key change in the allocations for 2011/12 will be to move to funding colleges and schools on the equivalent of lagged pupil numbers. While this in effect embeds the principle of consolidating learning numbers from one year to the next, the details of how this will work – and how new provision will be supported – will be of vital importance and remain to be finalised.

A further important change is to abolish the requirement for local authorities to form sub regional groups and to come together in regional planning groups – although I expect some local authorities will wish to continue with collaborative arrangements on a voluntary basis where these provide efficient and effective ways of shaping provision.

As we develop these new arrangements, I am clear that they will need to support local authorities' key strategic role in education and children's services, and in particular that they should support local authorities in identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market.

These are significant changes, aimed at simplifying and streamlining the system and freeing up colleges and other providers to decide on the offer and mix of provision that best meets the needs of young learners.

More detail will follow shortly on how the YPLA will work to implement the new arrangements. However should you have any questions in the interim please contact your YPLA Regional Director who will be on hand to offer support and advice during transition.

You can contact your YPLA Regional Director as follows:

North West: Jane Cowell 0161 2610309

Yorkshire and Humber Andy Brown 0127 4444182

North East: Dorothy Smith 0191 4926430

East of England: Martin Lamb 01473 883031

West Midlands: Sue Reekie 0121 3454584

South West: Catherine Christie 0117 3726402

London: Mike Pettifer 0203 0148302

East Midlands: Nick Rashley 0116 2281724

South East: Sue Samson 01483 884801

Our mission, to champion young people's learning, remains at the centre of our work and I know this is a mission we share. I am determined to ensure that this new transition for general further education and sixth form colleges is as seamless as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lauener', with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Peter Lauener
Chief Executive
Tel: 02476 823293
e-mail: peter.lauener@ypla.gov.uk