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Principals of ISPs

21 July 2010

PL/Jul/16/sb

Dear Colleague

Simplifying Funding for 16-19 Education and Training

The Secretary of State for Education has announced a number of decisions to simplify and streamline the structures and processes relating to funding 16 – 19 education and training provision.

Local authorities will continue to fulfil their key strategic role in education and children's services, and in particular will retain the duty to secure provision for all learners, including those with learning difficulties and or disabilities in their area through identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market, and they will work closely with the YPLA in order to maintain control of the available budget.

It is proposed that the YPLA continues to work with local authorities during 2010/11, to develop, model, test and implement a rational, integrated system for funding additional support for post-16 year olds across all provider types. This will bring together the SEN block grant which local authorities receive to cover the costs of meeting their statutory duties towards those aged 16-19 with special educational needs in schools; funding for high cost Additional Learning Support (ALS) in further education colleges and private and charitable training providers and provision funded through the learners with LDD 'placement' budget for a young person at an Independent Specialist Provider.

The processes relating to ISPs for the academic year 2011/12, described in the National Commissioning Framework (published in April 2010) will continue to be developed.

I have asked YPLA Regional Directors to make contact with local authorities to discuss how best to manage this transition, and they will then contact colleges and other providers in order to outline arrangements for further briefings on the revised approach.

These are some significant changes, aimed at simplifying and streamlining the system and at freeing up colleges and other providers to decide on the offer and mix of provision that best meets the needs of young learners. Our mission, to champion young people's learning, remains at the centre of our work and I know this is a mission we share. We are determined to work with providers to secure seamless learning pathways for learners with LDD up to the age of 25 and for those with a Learning Difficulty Assessment and to put in place the funding infrastructure to enable participation through flexible and responsive funding.

More details will follow shortly on how the YPLA will work to implement the new arrangements. However, should you have any questions please contact your YPLA Regional Director.

Yours sincerely

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

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