

Date 19 July 2010
Subject **REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP**
Location GOYH, Leeds
Time 14:00
Publication intent NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Present

- Edna Sutton, Barnsley (Chair)
- Andy Brown, YPLA
- Clare Kiernan, YPLA
- Carol Graves, YPLA
- Liz Butcher, GOYH
- Gary Milner, Education Leeds
- Ross Palmer, East Riding
- Simon Baddeley, Sheffield
- Cheryl Hobson, Wakefield
- David Anderson, Calderdale
- David Yates, Bradford
- Denis Grainger, Kirklees
- Jane Bracewell, Skills Funding Agency
- John Thompson, York
- Judith Harwood, Hull
- Karen Borthwick, Rotherham
- Meryl White, South Yorkshire SRG
- Judy Williamson, NE Lincs
- Alison Hall, NE Lincs

Apologies

Apologies have been received from:

- Mike Lowe, Leeds
- Helen McMullen, GOYH
- Ruth Adams, Yorkshire Forward
- Denise Hyde, N. Lincs
- Alison Michalska, East Riding
- Elaine McHale, Wakefield
- Cynthia Welbourn, N Yorks

Alison O'Sullivan, Kirklees
Pete Dwyer, York
Nigel Richardson, Hull
Jo Moxon, N. Lins
Nick Wilson, NAS
Joyce Thacker, Rotherham

Item 1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting (2nd June 2010) and matters arising

2.1 Agreed as a correct record.

2.2 **Item 3.7:** Jane Bracewell explained the relationship between the Skills Funding Agency and the local authorities. Provider Services is responsible for managing all (over 120 in Yorkshire and the Humber) of the Skills Funding Agency provider contracts. If a general FE College is in difficulty or is undergoing some potential reorganisation the Skills Funding Agency would work with and consult the relevant local authority to get a view in terms of 16-18 funding provided and their view as local stakeholder.

Item 3. LLDD Budget – brief update

3.1 The latest version of the budgetary situation was tabled.

3.2 Current estimates still shows spend to be slightly under the relevant part of the national budget.

3.3 With regard to exceptional cases, the LLDD sub group has agreed criteria to enable a consistent approach across the region.

Item 4. ESF – brief update

4.1 There was a short discussion regarding representation on the ESF Co-Finance Board. There had been some confusion over the members who had expressed an interest. Cindy Peek (Bradford), Judith Harwood (Hull) and Eleanor Dearle (Barnsley) had all put their names forward. It was agreed that two representatives would be acceptable and this will be resolved before the next meeting.

Action: Andy Brown

4.2 Jane Bracewell explained the current position regarding NEET contracts.

4.3 There could be conflict of interest for local authorities.

- 4.4 There is likely to be a change in deliverers and there was concern that the time frame is unknown and bids need to be compiled as soon as possible.
- 4.5 A request was made for a formal note of the details of Jane's explanation and this will be circulated with the minutes.

Action: Carol Graves

- 4.6 ESF will be discussed at the next meeting in more depth.

Action: Carol Graves – for agenda

Item 5. Presentation on regional strategic analysis

- 5.1 A presentation has been circulated with the papers and Andy Brown went through highlighting key issues.

Item 6. Brief verbal update on key local issues for the Regional Commissioning Statement

- 6.1 It had been agreed that the 4 SRG chairs would each give a briefing on key local issues for the Regional Commissioning statement.
- 6.2 Meryl White tabled a paper for South Yorkshire which will be circulated with the minutes. It was noted that this is a draft and will be discussed further with the DCS. Meryl went through the paper
- 6.3 N & NE Lincs – issues were very similar to South Yorkshire. Judy Williamson went through a presentation which had been prepared by David Kent for the meeting. This will be circulated with the minutes.
- 6.4 John Thompson reported that the process in North and East Yorkshire is similar to South Yorkshire. Most of the priorities identified are the same as last year including:
- Strong focus on participation.
 - Static NEET levels.
 - Priority around developing foundation learning programmes with built in progression from key stage 4.
 - Clear priorities around raising attainment of people on free school meals.

Concerns were raised about:

- The demise of programme-led apprenticeships and cuts to public sector workforce and recruitment.
 - Possible conflict between academies and 6th form colleges.
- 6.5 West Yorkshire has re-shaped and reviewed arrangements for their SRG group. They focussed on a number of key areas in terms of the Regional Commissioning Statement:
- NEETs. It was agreed that NEETs would be included on the next agenda to look at progression at 19+.
- Action:** Carol Graves for agenda
- LLDD

- Reshaping additional learner support funding.
- Apprenticeships in terms of the current economic context and among all public sector organisations
- Programme led issue.
- Travel to learn is a key issue and challenge.
- Foundation learning;
- Employer engagement
- Offender learning.

Item 7. Implications of recent policy announcements for the RPG

7.1 The YPLA are awaiting an announcement about significant changes following which letters will be going out to all local authorities and providers.

7.2 Andy Brown shared with members some of the changes envisaged:

- The payment system will be simplified. There will be a direct payment for FE colleges and 6th form colleges for their 16-19 funding from YPLA.
- School 6th forms will still be directly paid by the local authorities.
- The concept of lagged funding. There will be a retrospective look based on historical patterns
- RPG and SRGs will become a permissive structure rather than a required structure.
- The local authorities' strategic role remains a very strong part of the system and a collaborative approach will be encouraged.
- LLDD - the planning of LLDD remains a very strong part of the system although this will be simplified (details of which are still awaited)
- Provider flexibility.
- The system will be driven by what learners choose to do rather than by the plan.
- The local vision and the communication with providers about provision will become more important.

Various questions were raised, some of which are listed below with provisional answers. Details will be in the guidance in September.

- **When will the payment system be simplified?**

The YPLA is being asked to issue letters of intent in the next few days and actually make the payment in August.

Funding for school 6th forms will go to the local authorities.

- **If we don't have payment responsibility for 6th form colleges what does that mean for the designated status which they elected to join?**

This will form part of the guidance expected late September.

- **If we don't have payment responsibility for 6th form colleges or general FE what are the implications for those responsibilities that were going our way. Like approving the 3 year plan; responsibility for the data, H & S etc. Where will they go as a result of this change?**

The compliance work would sit with the YPLA – details will be available with the September guidance.

- **Why is it simpler for colleges – will adult learner budgets continue to go through Skills Funding Agency? What happens with the apprenticeship budgets?**

Colleges will still get two sources of funding.

19+ adult budgets and all apprenticeship funding will go to colleges via the Skills Funding Agency

- **It had been understood that the funding for ISPs was going in the direction of LA from 2013 but does that still hold or does it follow from the LLDD role?**

There is to be a detailed review of LLDD arrangements on a longer timescale.

- **The YPLA is growing here in terms of roles and responsibilities – do they have the staffing resources to deal with this?**

This is simplification not an increase in YPLA responsibility.

- **What happens to the EBP and young apprenticeships?**

It is assumed that there is no change.

a) **Economic development issues:** Local authorities will decide on any sub regional/regional structures. Will the future focus be local enterprise partnerships and travel to learn?

b) **Implications of Area Based Grants reduction:** It was noted that the ABG has already been cut and local authorities are managing down. This is of concern as it is affecting Children's services across the region. The budget will reduce significantly every year over the next 4 years.

There were also concerns about losing Building Schools for the Future funding.

c) 19+ and apprenticeship issues

In year information regarding adult learning will be published to enable LAs to have information on their provider base.

e) **Academies:** Preparation for September converters is under way.

Item 8. Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting of the Group will now take place on **4th October 2010** from 10.30 to 12.30 (changed from 16th September) – venue Government Office, Leeds.

Publication no.

Meeting chair Edna Sutton

Minutes creator Carol Graves

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