

Chair's Update – November 2010

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Agenda item	6

Summary

Reason for bringing this to the YPLA Board

This is a regular report.

Issues covered

- Departmental reviews
- Update from the Board sub group on the new 16-19 system guidance
- National Audit Office review of performance and reporting frameworks
- Welcome to a new observer

Main Paper

1. This month has seen a huge amount of activity from central government by way of announcements and reviews. The Chief Executive's report covers the announcements in some detail. This paper provides information on the YPLA responses to two reviews being conducted by the Department for Education: Sarah Teather's review on Special Education Needs and Disabilities and the Wolf Review on Vocational Education.
2. **YPLA response to the Green Paper: *Children and Young People With Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Call for Views***. The Green Paper: Children and Young People With Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Call for Views was announced on 10 September. The Board's sub group on learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) developed the response attached at annex A on behalf of the Board.
3. By drawing on the YPLA's current experience of funding provision for young people with LDD across the post 16 sector, the response builds upon the principles which the sub group brought to the September Board meeting. The sub group also agreed, that we would take the opportunity to highlight where our funding reforms for the provision for young people with LDD might be helpful to the consideration of a way forward for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities more broadly. In submitting the response to the *Call for Views* to the Minister, I have invited Sarah Teather to meet the sub group to discuss the response further.
4. Our executive team have compiled a set of data and analyses for the **Wolf Review on Vocational Education** and attended a meeting with Professor Wolf. I have also discussed the review with Professor Wolf and enjoyed the rare opportunity to share my historical knowledge of the comprehensive system! I found Professor Wolf to be very open to new thinking and possible solutions and I look forward to her first report which is due in January.
5. At the last Board meeting we agreed to convene a sub group in October to review the emerging guidance for the 16-19 funding system. I attended this group and valued the opportunity to walk step-by-step through the funding and allocations process. The group were asked to reflect again on the values of the YPLA and I was reminded of how important it is that we remain true to these in our technical work of system design. The outcome of the sub group discussions and the latest version of the funding system for 16-19 education and training will be discussed at our meeting.
6. By the time the Board meets, Peter Lauener and I will have attended a review with Lord Hill, the DfE Minister for the YPLA, covering our second quarter performance. I will provide an update on this discussion at our Board meeting.

7. Some (if not all) of you will have been contacted by the National Audit Office (NAO) in the last few weeks. We have invited the NAO to **review our performance framework and Board reporting systems**. I think this is an important activity to undertake even at this relatively early stage. It has already highlighted some successes in the framework and also the work we have to do to ensure we are making the best use of the information given to us. I would like all members of the Board to be able to engage well with the performance data and feel confident about making decisions based on this information. If further training is needed to enable this then we should consider this together. Thank you all for your responses to the survey, we expect to have a report by the middle of November.
8. Finally I would like to welcome a new observer to the Board. Frankie Sulke will replace Anne Marie Carrie as the observer representing Directors of Children's Services. Frankie is the Association of Directors of Children's Services lead on 14-19 and attends the Ministerial Advisory Group and I am very pleased that she is also able to be our ADCS observer and work with the YPLA Board.

Meetings and events attended since the last Board meeting

23 September	Steve Mumby CEO National College of School Leaders
28 September	Visit to Barnfield College Luton
29 September	Marion Davis president ADCD
1 October	Visit to Wyke Sixth Form College
5 October	Evening event with SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
6 October	Independent Academies Association conference and dinner
12 October	Prof Alison Wolf, vocational qualifications review
15 October	Association of Colleges North East
20 October	National Audit Office, interview for performance review
27 October	Martin Doel AoC

Forthcoming meetings

2 November	Hereford Sixth Form College
2 November	DfE Chairs Group Meeting
4 November	157 Group Annual Reception
4 November	Lord Hill review of YPAL performance

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