

Date 28 January 2011
Subject **REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP**
Location YPLA offices, Mercury House, 4 Manchester Road,
Bradford BD5 0QL
Time 10.00 am
Publication intent NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Present

- Pete Dwyer (York)
- Andy Brown (YPLA)
- Ross Palmer (East Riding)
- Cristina George (YPLA)
- Cindy Peek (Bradford)
- Meryl White (South Yorkshire SRG)
- Richard Amos (Leeds)
- Karen Borthwick (Rotherham)
- Jane Vose (Doncaster)
- Simon Baddeley (Sheffield)
- Annie Websdell (Barnsley)
- Anne Craven (Calderdale)
- Kate O'Connell (NAS)
- Dan Green (Wakefield)
- David Kent (NE Lincs)

Apologies

Apologies have been received from:

- Alison Michalska (East Riding) – alternate Ross Palmer
- Helen McMullen (GOYH)
- Judith Harwood (Hull)
- Sharon Pickering (Barnsley) – alternate Annie Websdell
- Jane Bracewell (Skills Funding Agency)
- Cynthia Welbourn (North Yorks)
- Denis Grainger (Kirklees)
- Cheryl Hobson (Wakefield) – alternate Dan Green
- Nick Wilson (NAS) – alternate Kate O'Connell

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies – see above

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting (11 November) and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record other than the omission of David Kent and Cindy Peek from attendance list.
- 2.2 It was noted that a list has been received naming a provider representative to attend each future RPG meeting – no-one had been put forward for this meeting.
- 2.3 **Item 2.2 ESF:** The ESF bidding process is finished. The letters re contract awards have been delayed due to issues in other regions and, it is expected, will go out on Wednesday, 2nd February. There will be a 10 day period for requests for further information or legal appeals.
- 2.4 **Item 3.11 Hardship Fund:** Still awaiting information.

Item 3. Discussion on key policy documents issued since last meeting

- 3.1 Andy highlighted the main points of the white paper and the Guidance document including:
- Raising the participation age
 - Local Authority key strategic rule
 - Filling gaps by fostering new types of provision.
 - New school system - the transition to a greater number of academies and the introduction of 16-19 academies.
 - Formation of University Technical Colleges
 - Formation of Alternative provision academies (eg special schools)
 - Introduction of National funding formula for schools – to be consulted on
 - YPLA to dissolve on 31 March 2012
 - Creation of the Education Funding Agency which will be part of the Department for Education
- 3.2 Members expressed concern about the cut in Entitlement provision, although it was noted that there is a transitional protection in the first year of 3%.
- 3.3 With regard to the issue of notices to improve, Local Authorities will be kept fully informed and will have a role in monitoring and decision making if replacement provision is needed.

- 3.4 It was noted that the LA has power to contact Ofsted to request an inspection of any Academy 6th form which is causing concern.
- 3.5 Both Lagged numbers and rates will be a concern for all providers.
- 3.6 There was a discussion around anticipated problems for schools with regard to MLP and more particularly transition to equal funding with further education.
- 3.7 **Statutory Guidance Document and Funding Statement** had been circulated with the papers

Item 4. 16-19 latest situation on student numbers and lagged funding

- 4.1 A paper was tabled on data around lagged learner numbers.
- 4.2 Andy went through the figures.
- 4.3 Providers need to look at cutting costs and, at the same time, recruiting more learners.
- 4.4 It is the responsibility of providers to attract the learners.
- 4.5 There was a lengthy discussion around the impact on providers.
- 4.6 Letters will go out next week setting out provisional allocation of learner numbers to each provider. Copies will be sent to relevant LAs.
- 4.7 It was noted that the 16-19 funding system applies equally to academies and maintained schools unless a contract specified otherwise.

Item 5. Local Authority funding settlement implications – Feedback from LAs

- 5.1 It was acknowledged that funding settlements are challenging.
- 5.2 There was concern across the region about how reduced funding is impacting on delivery.

Item 6. Update on LLDD

- 6.1 A green paper is due out at the end of February.
- 6.2 The testing of the Learning for Living and Work Framework is going well – the final Framework should be available for use by LAs from September 2011.
- 6.3 Members were asked to note that testing of the Framework is being co-ordinated by the YPLA but this is a resource developed to support the future work of Local Authorities.
- 6.4 The LGA will send a statement out at the beginning of next week about the Framework.
- 6.5 Cristina went through the update which had been included in the papers.
- 6.6 Work is continuing on modelling in preparation for the planned transfer of budgets relating to LLDD to Local Authorities in 2012.
- 6.7 When more information is available on the modelling the group will be informed.
Action: Cristina
- 6.8 Members were alerted that current predictions for use of the specialist placement budget exceed the numbers and cost that were predicted at this

time last year. If, ultimately, the budget does not come within the regional share of the national budget there will be a need to consider allocations of the available resource by Local Authority District.

Item 7. Update on apprenticeships

- 7.1 A presentation was tabled, a copy of which will be circulated electronically.
- 7.2 Kate went through the slides, expanding on detail.
- 7.3 The use of the apprenticeship vacancy system is improving significantly.
- 7.4 Engaging more with smaller employers across the region.
- 7.5 Still work to be done to engage larger employers.
- 7.6 It was noted that the figures are distorted as Y & H began with higher participation rates than the rest of the country.
- 7.7 The Pre Apprenticeship Programme has been approved, in principle, by Ministers.
- 7.8 Concern that some colleges have already advertised Pre Apprenticeship Programmes.
- 7.9 A request was made for breakdown of PLAs who are finishing at the end of February to enable the planning of progression routes for affected learners.

Action: Kate O'Connell

Item 8. Date of next meeting

- 8.1 The next meeting will be held on Friday 18th March at 10.00 at YPLA offices, Mercury House, 4 Manchester Road, Bradford BD5 0QL

Any Other Business:

- There is growing concern about ***lack of notification of funding streams*** in terms of young apprenticeships.
- Also concern regarding the ***funding gap*** following the end of Connexions service and the beginning of the All Age Career Service. The Skills Funding Agency will be the contracting body – there will be money available to support vulnerable learners. Need to raise awareness for forward planning.
- ***Offender learning*** – need to be aware whether will receive contracts.
- ***Request for updated SFA planning and allocations process*** – members need to contact SFA for this.

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