Date 19 April 2007
Subject Young People's Learning Committee
Location National LSC, London Office
Time 9:30 – 13:00
LSC office National Office
Publication intent Public

Present Ian Ferguson
Bob Bischof
Kath Boullen
Maggie Galliers
Ian Gartshore
Ruth Harker
David McGahey
Lynne Morris
Sue Peacock
John Rourke

In attendance Hilary Anslow
Jon Coles (DfES)

LSC staff Stephen Gardner
Gareth Griffiths
Melanie Hunt
Debbie Watson

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Saif Ahmad
Christine Gaskell
Mark Sanders
Paul Curry

Item 1. Welcome and introductions
1.1 The Chairman noted that this would have been Saif Ahmad’s last meeting as a member and proposed that he should continue to be invited to meetings as an observer until the new committee structures are finalised.

Item 2. Raising Expectations Green Paper Consultation
2.1 Jon Coles gave an overview of the recent green paper on raising the age of compulsory participation in education and training to 18. He stressed that the proposals have backing at the highest level in government and that the consultation is about the implementation rather than the direction of policy.
2.2 The committee welcomed the policy direction and made the following comments:

- Funding and targets must cover all young people and there needs to be a further work to ensure that all the costs of engaging and supporting young people are identified.
- Incentives rather than sanctions should be used to ensure participation although there was recognition that there needs to be a last resort that could be criminal proceedings for either the young person or the parents.
- Financial and other support will still be needed by some young people to be able to participate and not be driven into the ‘black market’ economy.
- There may be cultural reasons why young people do not participate post-16 and it will be important to ensure an entitlement in all circumstances (e.g. through regulated home education).
- There will need to be the equivalent of pupil referral units post-16 to offer safe places and appropriate education for the minority who have been excluded from mainstream post-16 providers.
- The definition of ‘useful engagement’ will need to be flexible enough to allow for individual choice and the diversity of talents and aspirations of young people.
- Employers will need to be supported so that they do not simply stop employing 16-18 year olds but are able to offer appropriate training to young people entering employment.

2.3 The committee’s views will be taken into account in drafting the LSC’s response to the consultation which will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

**Item 3. Schools Progression Measure Consultation**

3.1 Gareth Griffiths presented the proposals for a schools progression measure that will hold schools to account for young people’s destinations at 16 with the aim of preventing disengagement from learning pre-16 and informing the choices of parents/carers.

3.2 The committee was concerned that the measure proposed will not achieve any of the stated aims and does not take into account the socio-economic or geographical circumstances of schools.

**Item 4. Feedback from sub-groups**

4.1 Employer Engagement

The outcomes of the DfES/LSC joint review of work-related learning were discussed to inform the action plan that will follow the publication of the review in June.

The committee made the following comments:

- The definition of work-related learning is key to ensuring that employers can understand what is required of them and how they can effectively engage both in the universal exposure of young people to the workplace and in supporting the development of specific skills.
Current structures are fragmented or non-existent and are outside of the provider network so there is a lack of ownership and cohesion.

Delivery should be through 14-19 partnerships but there is a lack of consistency in the way that this is approached.

Work-related learning needs to be integrated with IAG and focused on aspirations and outcomes for young people rather than specific types of activity.

4.2 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)
The group has had substantial discussion around the quality standards for IAG which it feels are well-defined and expressed but there are still concerns around the delivery model. A paper on issues and challenges will be presented at the next meeting.

Item 5. Chairman’s report
5.1 The chairman summarised the outcome of the stock-take discussion at the evening seminar session and updated the committee on progress with the new non-executive structures.

Item 6. Area prospectuses progress report
6.1 Gareth Griffiths presented an overview of area prospectus developments. The committee recognised that the approach taken had resulted in some areas in local ownership and innovative models but felt there was a need for a national framework to ensure consistency and links with other information systems to maximise the use of resources.

Item 7. Apprenticeships performance report and strategy update
7.1 Stephen Gardner presented the most recent performance data and outlined the development of an action plan to deliver the apprenticeship entitlement for young people and contribute to the targets set in the Leitch Review of Skills.

7.2 The committee endorsed the strategy for programme-led apprenticeships as a key part of the action plan and recognised that although there had been significant progress in the last few years there was still more to do.

Item 8. Financial report and CSR update
8.1 There was no further update available on the CSR settlement as DfES officials were still in discussion about allocations within the Department.

Item 9. Director of Learning’s report
9.1 The committee received the report and commented on the following areas:

- The strategy for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should not assume that these young people can not achieve at higher levels if properly supported.
- The lack of awareness and understanding of diplomas amongst teachers should be highlighted to the DfES and QCA as being a major concern.
Item 10. LSC Quarterly Performance Report
10.1 This item was for information only.

Item 11. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
11.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

Item 12. Any other business
12.1 There were no items of other business.

Item 13. Date of next meeting
13.1 The next meeting will take place on 24th May in London.

Meeting chair       Ian Ferguson
Minute taker        Debbie Watson