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<th>Date</th>
<th>16 November 2006</th>
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<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Young People's Learning Committee</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>National LSC, London Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>9:30 - 13:00</td>
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<td>LSC office</td>
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Present
- Ian Ferguson
- Saif Ahmad
- Bob Bischoff
- Kath Boullen
- Maggie Galliers
- Ian Gartshore
- Christine Gaskell
- Ruth Harker
- David McGahey
- Lynne Morris
- Sue Peacock
- Mark Sanders

In attendance
- Elaine Hendry (DfES)
- Carolyn Murphy (Guest)

LSC staff
- Julia Dowd
- Melanie Hunt
- Stephen Gardner
- Kevin Street (for item 5)
- Colin Stronach (for item 6)
- Debbie Watson

Apologies
- Apologies have been received from:
  - Hilary Anslow
  - Paul Curry

Item 1. Welcome and introductions
1.1 Carolyn Murphy was welcomed to the meeting as the guest of Maggie Galliers. Carolyn was visiting Leicester College from New Zealand where she is Group Manager of the Liaison and Development group of the Tertiary Education Commission.
Item 2. Chairman’s Report

2.1 The chairman set the scene for the visit of the Minister for Schools and 14-19 Learners to the committee meeting. He reiterated that the committee’s purpose is to advise council and ministers, and suggested that members should take this opportunity to act as critical friends to the minister.

Item 3. Feedback from sub-groups

3.1 Employer Engagement
The employer engagement sub-group is focusing its attention on specialised diplomas as this is a key area for employer engagement. Members of the group have attended regional conferences discussing employer engagement and have highlighted several concerns:

- Funding for employer engagement
- Setting and monitoring quality standards
- The role of brokerage organisations
- Clarity about CRB checks

Nominations were sought for additional members to sit on the group.

3.2 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)
The IAG group is focusing on the transition of Connexions to local authorities and continuity of IAG across boundaries (pre-16 to post-16 and pre-19 to post-19)

A number of areas are being investigated:

- Structures and their effectiveness, particularly with regard to young people not in education, employment and training
- Quality standards, feeding into the DfES review of quality for IAG.
- Integration of IAG horizontally into the rest of 14-19 reform and vertically across age ranges.

Item 4. Discussion with Minister for Schools and 14-19 Learners, Jim Knight

4.1 The minister gave his view on current progress with 14-19 reform and expressed his enthusiasm and excitement at the opportunities offered by the creation of the new diplomas. He also recognised the risks and concerns that many people have about the delivery of 14-19 reform and asked for the committee’s views.

4.2 The committee raised issues around:

- The constraints of the boundary between compulsory and post-compulsory education
- The need to enrich and diversify the provider base to deliver the new diplomas
- The quality and impartiality of information, advice and guidance
• The engagement of employers in the delivery of diplomas and their understanding of the value of diplomas
• The need to ensure that all schools offer young people the opportunity of a diploma
• The concern that diplomas may become too theoretical and may not motivate the learners that they are aimed at engaging
• The constraints around being able to offer appropriate provision to re-engage young people who are not in education, employment or training

The minister responded to all these points positively and thanked the committee for their comments and their hard work over the last five years.

4.3 A more detailed note of this part of the meeting is contained in the YPLC Advice Note to Council for November 2007 which is attached to these minutes.

Item 5. Consultation on 14-19 funding model

5.1 Kevin Street introduced the latest thinking on how funding for young people across the 14-19 phase could be more closely aligned pre and post-16. The committee raise concerns about:
• The timescale for the consultation and for making changes to systems
• The engagement of colleagues in the Schools Directorate of DfES to ensure a coherent system
• The potential for confusion through having separate consultations on 14-16 funding and on 16-19 funding
• The need for funding to cover the additional costs of collaboration

The committee agreed that there needs to be a mature relationship between the LSC and providers with regular reviews of a plan and adjustment if necessary but without rigid adherence to 100% reconciliation.

Item 6. LSC Performance Report

6.1 The LSC performance report for the quarter to October 06 was discussed. It was agreed that the overall increase in participation at 16-18 and increase in attainment of L2 at 19 were very encouraging. The apprenticeship programme was also felt to be performing well but there were some concerns about the numbers on entry-to-employment programmes and the impact this might have on strategies to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training.

Item 7. Draft LSC Response to “Care Matters” Green Paper

7.1 The draft response to the “Care Matters” green paper was welcomed and it was agreed that individual comments from members should be fed back to the executive and a final version of the response would be circulated.

Action: Final response to “Care Matters” green paper to be circulated
Item 8. Post theme-7 Young People’s Learning Team and LSC 14-19 group

8.1 The new structure of the Young People’s Learning team comprising four directors at national office who work with nine directors in the regions was explained. The team has a dual role in working with DfES to translate the wishes of ministers into strategies for delivery, and in gathering intelligence from delivery on the ground to inform the development of strategies and policies.

8.2 The committee discussed the value of non-executive support for executive governance arrangements and agreed that Julia should ensure appropriate external expertise is used when required.

Item 9. Director of Learning’s report

9.1 The committee received the report and commented on the work with DfES to satisfy ministers that the LSC is acting properly in progressing applications for capital funding for school sixth forms put forward under the presumption arrangements. The Committee raised concerns about the impact of different arrangements for capital allocations on collaboration at a local level and asked for a future agenda item to consider competition in practice.

Action: Agenda item at a future meeting on competition in practice

Item 10. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

10.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved and there were no matters arising

Item 11. Any other business

11.1 There were no items of other business

Item 12. Date of next meeting

12.1 The next meeting will take place on 21st/22nd February 2007. The venue was confirmed as Birmingham and the meeting will include a visit to Bourneville School hosted by Ruth Harker.

Meeting chair: Ian Ferguson
Minute taker: Debbie Watson
Date created: 17 November 2006