Date 22 February 2007
Subject Young People's Learning Committee
Location Harborne Hill School, Birmingham
Time 12:00 - 13:30
LSC office National Office
Publication intent Public

Present
Ian Ferguson
Hilary Anslow
Bob Bischoff
Kath Boullen
Maggie Galliers
Ian Gartshore
Christine Gaskell
Ruth Harker
Lynne Morris
John Rourke

In attendance
Chris Rivington (DfES)

LSC staff
Julia Dowd
Gareth Griffiths
Joan Richardson
Debbie Watson

Apologies
Apologies have been received from:
Paul Curry
Jon Coles
David McGahey
Sue Peacock

Item 1. Welcome and introductions
1.1 Chris Rivington was welcomed to the committee meeting as the DfES observer.

Item 2. Update on young people not in education, employment or training
2.1 Julia Dowd gave an overview of recent ministerial meetings about young people who are NEET. The following points were noted:
There is still concern within the LSC about the accuracy of data from the CCIS system and its usefulness in identifying the young people who need an intervention.

The funding that the LSC has identified for ‘Parents to be’ programmes has been welcomed by ministers.

Jon Coles now has responsibility for the NEETs reduction strategy in the DfES as part of 14-19 reform.

2.2 The committee agreed that it should continue to focus on this area of work as there are still some significant concerns.

**Item 3. Raising of Compulsory Participation Age**

3.1 Julia Dowd presented initial thinking from DfES on the raising of compulsory participation age. The committee welcomed the policy objective but expressed concern about the elements of compulsion being proposed for young people and employers.

**Item 4. Update on the diploma gateway process**

4.1 Gareth Griffiths discussed his paper which brought together the gateway process and the select committee investigation into the diplomas. The committee was pleased to note the high quality of successful diploma partnerships even though this may result in fewer students taking diplomas in the first phase. The potential impact on timing was noted and the need for other vocational qualifications to remain available until the diplomas are fully established was re-iterated.

**Item 5. Feedback from sub-groups**

5.1 Funding and Performance

The recent meeting of the group focused on ensuring that the increase in funding required for collaborative delivery of vocational pathways and increased participation were fully costed in the comprehensive spending review.

5.2 Employer Engagement

The group will provide a paper for the next committee meeting that will set out the issues and concerns that should be taken forward by any future non-executive structures.

5.3 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

The group had considered the LSC’s response to the DfES consultation on quality standards for IAG and recommended that the committee endorsed the paper due to be considered under item 7 of this meeting.

The group is developing a briefing paper on its work and will bring this to the next meeting of the committee.
Item 6. Chairman’s report
6.1 The chairman updated the committee on progress with the new non-executive structures.
6.2 The chairman reminded the committee that he would shortly be meeting with Jim Knight and Bill Rammell and would use the committee’s views to inform these discussions.

Item 7. Response to the DfES consultation on quality standards for IAG
7.1 The committee endorsed the proposed response subject to minor corrections.

Item 8. Director of Learning’s report
8.1 The committee received the report and made no comment.

Item 9. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
9.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

Item 10. Any other business
10.1 Ruth Harker was thanked for hosting the first part of the meeting at Bourneville School, and Andrew Wright was thanked for hosting the meeting at Harborne Hill School. The committee agreed that visiting schools and colleges and meeting staff and learners provided important insights into the implementation of polices they have helped to develop.

Item 11. Date of next meeting
11.1 The next meeting will take place on 18th/19th April at Grosvenor Gardens, London.

Meeting chair       Ian Ferguson
Minute taker        Debbie Watson
Date created        25 February 2007