

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

14-19 Steering Group Meeting – Higher Education Providers and Local Authorities

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4th February 2011

Start time 1330 hours

Finish time 1445 hours

Present: Steve Challenger (Chair), Joanne Beaumont, Sue Holland, Jonathan Higgins, Jan Edge, Christine Byrne, Michelle Nall, Michael Cuthbert, Alison Hedley Rachel Dawson, Julia Calver, Neelam Mirza, Paul Butler, Rachel Ryan and Joanna Puzo (note taker).

Apologies: Emma Sullivan, Steve Smith, Diane Ayre, Ceri Nursaw, Dave Russell, Brian Duffy, Christine Jarvis, Vicky Pointing, Tracy Wilkinson, Randall Whittaker, Jon Barber, Paul Sharp and Sarah Tate

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2010.

3. Matters Arising

Minute 4.3, Joanne reported that the activities are moving forward. The Sector Groups are currently working on their work plans and projects, and 14-19 activities are being built into these where appropriate opportunities occur.

Minute 5.1, There had been a request for any evidence for the Wolf report from the Local Authorities, there had not been any received and following a discussion at the Management Board it was agreed not to make a response on behalf of the WYLLN. It was noted that the LAs have made their own response and Michelle **AGREED** to circulate the Leeds response to the group.

MN

Minute 4.1 Jonathan queried if the LAs have noticed any effect of the withdrawal of diploma funding on the take up by learners, Paul noted that the schools are stepping back from diplomas and in Wakefield they will only be delivered by the colleges. Michelle and Jan agreed this was the case for Leeds and Calderdale. There were no new diploma starters in 2010 in Calderdale. In Leeds overall there were quite a few new diploma learners in Leeds in Sept 2010 and there are *some* level 3 learners, but only a handful in comparison to the other levels, particularly level 2.

4. Update on 14-19 Progression Agreement Activities

4.1 Advanced Apprenticeships, The WYLLN has been working with the West Yorkshire Learning Providers (WYLP) to look at apprenticeships and what hinders their progression. There have been staff development sessions held and the progression agreements can be found on the WYLLN website. The National Training Academy has been set up at Leeds City College, which the Creative Sector group led by Julia has been involved with. The WYLLN are holding an Apprenticeship event on Friday 11th February to raise awareness about apprenticeships in the Construction, Creative and general sectors at the University of Huddersfield.

At the Leeds City College campus in Keighley a health event is being held also on Friday 11th Feb. It was noted the framework for higher level apprenticeships is now available.

Paul reported that there seems to be a lot of interest in apprenticeships with many young people seeing it as an option.

Jan reported that in Calderdale there are no natural feeders for apprenticeships in some sectors for example there are only 2 places for hospitality, so there is a gap in provision. Michelle reported on a similar picture in Leeds and that finding an employer placement was also an issue.

Colleagues from HEIs reported that there is an issue for tutors and admissions tutors in HEIs because they do not know enough about apprenticeships to know if apprentices have achieved the entry requirements. Understanding the UCAS points required is an issue as the apprenticeship framework does not have a UCAS tariff. It was noted that the WYLLN and Aimhigher West Yorkshire will be holding a joint event in May and it was agreed that part of the programme should include advice on apprenticeships.

JB/JH

4.2 Level 1/2 to level 3 progression, The East Leeds schools project involves the Catholic schools and colleges in Leeds and considers how learners progress and the issues. A Strategic level agreement on working together on the progression has been developed and the project leaders at Leeds Trinity University College are working on progression agreements. One of the progression agreements developed so far was tabled for the group. Following this the WYLLN will then consider progression from Notre Dame 6th Form College to Leeds Trinity and Leeds City College. The final report will be circulated to the group.

4.3 Sector group activities, Copies of the level 1/2 – 3 progression agreements developed by the construction sector group were tabled. Christine noted that clarity is an important issue in progression and understanding the qualifications required to progress. At the back of the progression agreement is information about progressing to the next stage.

Alison reported that 3 progression agreements have been agreed and that work taking place on another 3. These all lead into FDs.

Julia reported that she has been raising awareness of practical issues of working with the creative sector; the sector group is looking at different models to engage with apprentices.

4.4 A levels in FE project This was a joint project between WYLLN and Aimhigher West Yorkshire. There have been 2 meetings, which Jonathan has chaired to look at the progression of A level students in FE into HE. Initial work undertaken by Neelam at the by University of Leeds looking at applications of these students and then the conversion rates into places suggests there is lower conversion rate for these student than A levels from 6th forms colleges and schools . There had been interest in the project by Wakefield College, Bradford College and Leeds City College. The outcome of the first meeting was action points on data collection and sharing. The difficulty for colleges is to disaggregate the UCAS data reports between BTEC and A level students. Research has been carried out into the data model used by Kent and Medway Aimhigher and the costs involved. It has been beneficial to be able to see where applications come from and the conversion rates and the FE colleges understanding about their learners. Level 3 progression will be looked at more by the colleges. The Progression Task group will be meeting on 24th February and will be chaired by Judith Foreman from Wakefield College. Judith and Neelam will provide an update on the project to the group. Jo noted that it was interesting for the group to learn that in some cases learners have been offered a place on to a selective course and have then rejected the offer. Members considered that this could be about aspirations or perceptions of a course at one institution to another.

It was noted that understanding why a student turns down a place would be interesting for the network but would be difficult to capture. IAG was also noted as an issue and the guidance tutor's knowledge of course content.

5 Local Authority District updates

Calderdale, Jan reported that the 14-19 agenda in Calderdale is not a priority and the Local Authority will be going through a re-structuring soon, which will lead to a lot of change.

Wakefield, Paul noted that Wakefield has already gone through a re-structuring and there are still roles focused on 14-19 activities. The authority is keen to find out the findings of the Wolfe report, which keeps getting delayed. The schools do not know their budgets yet so there is a lot on hold and the schools will not commit to activity yet. There is a lot of pressure and uncertainty, a KS4 event was held for learners progressing and only 90 students from 4 schools attended, which is a lot lower than last year. In the long term learners may have fewer options. Progression agreements have started to be worked out. There are too many learners progressing horizontally which needs addressing.

Leeds, Michelle noted that this was a similar picture for Leeds. At the moment they do not know if the schools will carry on funding. The EBAC outcome was also an issue, and the authority is aware that it needs to look at apprenticeships.

6 Widening participation activities through partnership beyond July 2011

Steve reported that Aimhigher and WYLLN funding is due to discontinue in July 2011. The circulated paper was discussed at the Strategic Advisory Forum and will be discussed at the Board on Monday 7th February. The Board have asked WYLLN to consider activities for partnership activity beyond July.

Jonathan reported that Aimhigher are hoping to build on a legacy and the team are working on access agreements for HEIs for selective courses. Jonathan has surveyed schools and colleges to gauge the demand and the funding issues for continuing activity.

Aimhigher are currently producing a myth buster leaflet regarding the new fee arrangements which will be going out to all schools and colleges in West Yorkshire and will also be giving tips on starting in professions such as, law, pharmacy and medicine. Jonathan will be meeting with Simon Hughes, Advocate for Access to Education to inform him about networks and infrastructures already in place.

7. Any Other Business

There were none

8. Date and time of the next meeting, members were in support of having another meeting it was **AGREED** that a date will be circulated with the minutes.

JP